

Feast of St John Henry Newman (Roman Calendar)

Reader 1 From the Gospel according to St Luke

11.14-23

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, 'He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.' Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

Reflection & Prayers

Reader 1 Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful; most sure in all His ways!

Reader 2 O wisest love! that flesh and blood, which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against their foe, should strive and should prevail.

Reader 1 And that a higher gift than grace should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and His very Self, and Essence all-divine.

Reader 2 O my God, I confess that Thou canst enlighten my darkness. I confess that Thou alone canst. I wish my darkness to be enlightened. I do not know whether Thou wilt: but that Thou canst and that I wish, are sufficient reasons for me to ask, what Thou at least hast not forbidden my asking.

Reader 1 May He support us all the day long, till the shades lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in His mercy may He give us a safe lodging, and a holy rest and peace at the last.

Reader 2 Praise to the Holiest in the height, and in the depth be praise;
In all His words most wonderful; most sure in all His ways!

Lord's Prayer & Blessing

Leader Let us bless the Lord **Reader 2** Thanks be to God