

14th

Week in Ordinary Time



BE STILL

Take a moment to allow whatever is in your heart to rise and offer your thoughts to the loving care of the Lord today.

THIS WEEK

- Wednesday 11 July: St Benedict, abbot (Memorial)

Gathering Prayer

Loving God,
Draw near to us as we sit, think and reflect upon your word.
Open our hearts in order that we can hear your voice.
Bless us with the wisdom of St Benedict who sought out the
'habit of holy living'. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

from the Feast of St Benedict

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (10:1-7):

Jesus summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Ponder

Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice *Lectio Divina* – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change by this text?

- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect

It is good for us to remember that the work of proclaiming the Gospel is a team project. The gospel for the Feast of St Benedict reminds us that Jesus chose people to work with him. His vision for the work was clear – to find the lost, to proclaim the news that God is near. This is a God who accompanies us on our journey and is available to us at every moment and in every event of our lives. It's as simple and difficult as that.

PRAY

Prayer attributed to St Benedict:

Gracious and Holy Father,
Please give me:
intellect to understand you,
reason to discern you,
diligence to seek you,
wisdom to find you,
a spirit to know you,
a heart to meditate upon you,
ears to hear you,
eyes to see you,
a tongue to proclaim you,
a way of life pleasing to you,
patience to wait for you
and perseverance to look for you.
Grant me a perfect end,
your holy presence,
a blessed resurrection
and life everlasting.

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IMAGE:

Saint Benedict admitting Saints into the Order by Lorenzo Monaco (1370-1425)