

In our Gospel for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent this year [March 7<sup>th</sup>] Jesus cleanses the Temple in Jerusalem – he drives out those who are using it as a market - and with this gesture he restores the sacredness of God’s house. Jesus then takes the discussion a step further by declaring that He is God’s Temple – “the sanctuary that is his body”. Christians have understood from the beginning that they are “the body of Christ”, “the temple of the Holy Spirit”: this fundamental truth is proclaimed in a variety of ways throughout the New Testament.

I invite you to read this Gospel in a personal way. Our lives, our souls, our hearts, our experience are the “Temple” into which Jesus comes. He purifies, changes and transforms us into “sanctuaries that are his body”. His presence within us changes everything – how we see ourselves, and how we see the other person and the whole world. Jesus knows us from within and wants to live in us – wherever a Christian is present, Jesus is present; the believer is the Temple of Jesus, the Temple of the Holy Spirit. In addition Jesus works in and through the person in whom He dwells, for the good of all people.

### ***For Reflection***

“The temple of God has no common ground with idols, and that is what we are – the temple of the living God”. [2Cor 6:15]

“They [disciples] worshipped Him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and were continually in the Temple praising God”. [Luke 24:53]

“Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father, neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.....the hour will come when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth: that is the kind of worshipper the father wants”. [John 4:22/23]

“If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him”. [John 14:23]

“Our soul is like a castle made out of diamond or of very clear crystal, in which there are many rooms, just as in heaven there are many dwelling places....the

soul of the just person is nothing else but a paradise where the Lord says He finds his delight". [St. Teresa of Avila]

"Contemplation is nothing else than a secret and peaceful and loving inflow of God, which, if not hampered, fires the soul in the spirit of love". [St. John of the Cross]

"It should be known that God dwells secretly in all souls and is hidden in their substance, for otherwise they would not last. Yet there is a difference, a great difference, in his dwelling in them. Abiding in some He is pleased; in others He is displeased. He lives in some as though in his own house, commanding and ruling everything; and in others as though a stranger in a strange house where they do not permit him to give orders or do anything". [St. John of the Cross]