

THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF
EXODUS

In those days: Moses rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, 'The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.'

And Moses quickly bowed his head towards the earth and worshipped. And he said, 'If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.'

The word of the Lord

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors.

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

Blessed is your glorious and holy name,

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

Blessed are you who look into the depths, seated upon the cherubim,

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven.

To be praised and highly exalted for ever!

THE SECOND READING IS FROM THE SECOND
LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY AT CORINTH

Brothers and Sisters: Rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
the God who is and who was and who is to come.

Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING
JOHN'

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S GOSPEL.

You can be ordinary to be a Saint. St Augustine was content to live in a monastery in Rome on one of the seven hills when he was told by the Pope to convert the people of Angleland, the English, as the Pope had seen some pagan Angles in the marketplace and said they were Angels according to the legend. Augustine got as far as the French coast meaning to cross when the French told him such unpleasant things about the English he turned back and went back to Rome. "Do I have to go?" Yes, said the Pope. Augustine came by boat, scrambled onto the shore and said he had to see the Queen, speaking Latin as the general European language. The Queen, a French Christian, expected him and had built a monastery for him. Augustine now got started and his people eventually met the Celts who had been converted by St Patrick's people to convert all these isles.

They brought the belief in the Trinity, using St Patrick's 3 leafed clover to show 3 persons, one God. The Father gives everything to the son who returns everything transformed with the help of the Holy Spirit.

It is done lovingly, a love which overflows to include us, each person valued and unique, capable of growing with a resilient integrity despite the worries we might realistically feel in our lives.

This selfless giving, intimate, generous and loving is echoed in good relationships. Pope John Paul II explained the intimacy of marriage as reflecting the Trinity, a joyful giving without fear, hoping for the genuinely best and open in trust.

Like St Augustine each of us can be brave in recognising and overcoming our fears, seeing the presence of God in our world and never failing to trust.

In Paris the most moving moment for me was in the Sacre Coeur Church high on Montmartre hill, everyone in the Church quietly prayerful, I realised I did not trust enough and could almost hear a voice saying why don't you trust me, what's holding you back?