

FIFTH TUESDAY OF EASTERTIDE

12TH MAY 2020



Saint Pancras, Martyr, a Roman martyr is buried on the Aurelian Way just outside Rome. Some legends say that he was born in the East, orphaned, brought to Rome by an uncle, and martyred at the age of fourteen, but there is no particular reason to believe them. The cult of St Pancras spread widely in the sixth century: in England, the first church that St Augustine built in Canterbury was dedicated to him.

In England today, St Pancras is not much revered, and people no longer name their children after him as they still do, for instance, in Poland and Italy. This is perhaps St Pancras gave his name to a parish in central London, and the parish gave its name to a major railway terminus next to King's Cross. And who, apart from Paddington, would want to be named after a railway station?

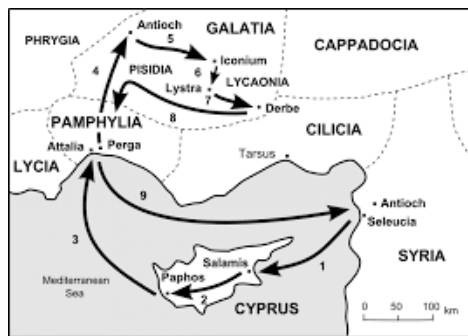
Reflection on the First Reading: *The reading below is slightly longer than the one you will hear at Mass. The one you will hear is in italics.*

Paul & Barnabus are great travellers. They used the routes open to them & tell us how much movement there was amongst parts of the Roman Empire then. They spend time in Cyprus & Turkey amongst other areas. As the new Christian community expands & people convert there are tensions, just as there are between different Christians today. The Good News is being shared by people who don't know much about Judaism & there are some who feel that traditions that go back hundreds or thousands of years should not be easily given up. Paul & Barnabus decide to defer to a larger group in Jerusalem to help make a decision. In discussion & prayer they find the way forward.

A Reading From the Acts of the Apostles 14: 19 – 15:4

*Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium, and turned the people against the apostles. They stoned **Paul** and dragged him outside the town, thinking he was dead. The disciples came crowding round him but, as they did so, he stood up and went back to the town. The next day **Paul** and **Barnabas** went off to Derbe.*

*Having preached the Good News in that town and made a considerable number of disciples, they went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. **'We all have to experience many hardships'** they said **'before we enter the kingdom of God.'** In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.*



They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans. They stayed there with the disciples for some time.

Then some men came down from Judaea and taught the brothers, **'Unless you have yourselves circumcised in the tradition of Moses you cannot be saved.'** This led to disagreement, and after **Paul** and **Barnabas** had had a long argument with these men it was arranged that **Paul** and **Barnabas** and others of the church should go up to Jerusalem and discuss the problem with the apostles and elders.

All the members of the church saw them off, and as they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria they told how the pagans had been converted, and this news was received with the greatest satisfaction by the brothers. When they arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the church and by the apostles and elders, and gave an account of all that God had done with them.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

PSALM 114 (115)

(Pictures from the Meanwood Valley Trail in Leeds)



**All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
And your friends shall repeat their blessing.**

**They shall speak of the glory of your reign
And declare your might, O God,**

**To make known to men your mighty deeds
And the glorious splendour of your reign.**

**Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
Your rule lasts from age to age.**

**Let me speak the praise of the Lord,
Let all the people bless his holy name
For ever, for ages unending.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!
It was ordained that the Christ
should suffer
And rise from the dead,
And so enter into his glory.
Alleluia!**



Reading From the Holy Gospel

According to Saint John 14: 27 - 31

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you,
A peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to
the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it happens,
So that when it does happen you may believe.
I shall not talk with you any longer,
Because the prince of this world is on his way.
He has no power over me,
But the world must be brought to know
That I love the Father
And that I am doing exactly what the Father told me.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Gospel Reflection: Our Gospel today is a continuation of the teaching that Jesus gave his closest companions in the Upper Room at the Last Supper. As ever, we are reminded that it is the Second Subject of the Trinity who is speaking. The clue is that we are told not to be afraid. Do not be afraid is what the Lord has been saying since the encounter with Moses at the Burning Bush.