

St Bartholomew | Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 August

This weekend is Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August. The Feast of St Bartholomew the Apostle, beginning the Twenty First Week of Ordinary Time.

The nuns of Mary, Queen of Apostles, sing Victoria's setting of Duo Seraphim. Two Seraphim cried one to another, and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts, the whole world is full of your glory."

This weekend's reading is from the Book of Revelation.

This passage offers a vision that is meant to give courage to Christians who are experiencing persecution at the hands of the most powerful empire in the world, and who are perhaps feeling that there is no way to escape. Do you ever feel like that?

Do you know people like St Bartholomew in your own life? People who anonymously suffer and hand on the Christian message to other people

Are there people who have quietly influenced you by the way they lived? People who will not be in the newspapers or the history books? If so, quietly give thanks to God for them.

Now listen again to the reading. It is a vision of the "holy city of Jerusalem", called "the bride of the Lamb". What makes it so beautiful? And what about its twelve foundations? Who are they, and why are we to be encouraged by them?

Finally, try to gather all your thoughts and especially all your feelings, into a prayer to God, who is speaking to you today.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.