

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

John 2:13-22

He was speaking about the temple of his body.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Reflection

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral church of the Pope in Rome and the mother church of all Christians. This feast reminds us that the Church is not just a building, but the living temple of God that is made up of His people.

In today's Gospel, Jesus drives out the money-changers from the Temple, declaring, "Do not make my Father's house a house of trade." He is not only speaking about the physical Temple but also about His own body, showing that God's presence is sacred and must be honoured.

For St. Vincent de Paul, serving the poor was serving God. Every act of charity is a moment where we encounter Christ Himself. St. Louise de Marillac and Rosalie Rendu lived this truth, showing respect and compassion for the dignity of those they served, ensuring their work reflected God's love.

This Gospel challenges us to ask: do our actions honour God and the people we serve? We are called to care for God's house, protecting the sacred in our service.

Materials needed

Paper and pens

Activity

- Ask the group to list barriers that can creep into service — e.g. pride, judgement, rushing, gossip, indifference.
- On cards or scraps of paper, write each piece of "clutter" and place them on a table.
- As a group, physically clear the table - each person removes one, naming how they can tackle it in real life (e.g. "I'll stop judging someone's choices before I listen to them").
- In the Gospel, it said: "Do not make my Father's house a house of trade" How can we keep our service a house of love, not transaction?

Call to Action

St Vincent said: *"It is not enough for me to love God, if my neighbour does not love Him."*

This week, make it your mission to share God's love through what you say and do. Bring kindness, respect, and calm wherever you go, so that others can experience God's love through you. Remember that God's house isn't a place of trade or self-interest, but a place of love and service.

