

SOLEMNITY OF ST. VINCENT, THE MARTYR, PATRON SAINT OF THE ALGARVE

Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, mercifully pour out your Spirit upon us, so that our hearts may possess that strong love by which the Martyr St. Vincent triumphed over all bodily torments. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

1st. READING (Ecclesiasticus 51, 8-17)

"My soul has been close to death; my life had gone down to the brink of Sheol. I was completely surrounded, there was no one to help me; I looked for someone to help me, there was no one. Then I remembered your mercy, Lord, and your deeds from earliest times, how you deliver those who wait for you patiently, and save them from the clutches of their enemies. And I sent up my plea from the earth, I begged to be delivered from death. I called on the Lord, the father of my Lord, 'Do not desert me in the days of ordeal, in the days of the proud, when we are helpless. I shall praise your name unceasingly and gratefully sing its praises.' And my plea was heard, for you saved me from destruction, you delivered me from that time of evil. And therefore, I shall thank you and praise you, and bless the name of the Lord."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 91)

R. God is my refuge on the day of distress. /Rescue me from my enemies, O my God;/ from my adversaries defend me./ Rescue me from evildoers;/from bloodthirsty men save me./For behold, they lie in wait for my life;/mighty men come together against me,/Not for any offense or sin of mine, O Lord./O my strength! for you I watch;/for you, O God, are my stronghold,/As for my God, may his mercy go before me; may he show me the fall of my foes./

But I will sing of your strength/and revel at dawn in your mercy;/You have been my stronghold,/my refuge in the day of distress./O my strength! your praise will I sing;/for you, O God, are my stronghold,/my merciful God!

2nd. READING (Rom 10,8-13)

"Paul, by the will of God an apostle of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, our brother, to the church of God in Corinth and to all God's holy people in the whole of Achaia. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father and the God who gives every possible encouragement; he supports us in every hardship, so that we are able to come to the support of others, in every hardship of theirs because of the encouragement that we ourselves receive from God." For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow into our lives; so too does the encouragement we receive through Christ." "So if we have hardships to undergo, this will contribute to your encouragement and your salvation; if we receive encouragement, this is to gain for you the encouragement which enables you to bear with perseverance the same sufferings as we do. So our hope for you is secure in the knowledge that you share the encouragement we receive, no less than the sufferings we bear."

GOSPEL (Mt, 10, 17-22)

Be prepared for people to hand you over to sanhedrins and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, as evidence to them and to the gentiles. But when you are handed over, do not worry about how to speak or what to say; what you are to say will be given to you when the time comes, because it is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you. Brother will

betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will come forward against their parents and have them put to death. You will be universally hated on account of my name; but anyone who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Prayer over the Offerings

May the offerings we bring in commemoration of the blessed St. Vincent be acceptable to you, we pray, O Lord, so that they may be pleasing to your majesty just as the shedding of this Martyr's blood was precious in your sight. Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer after Communion

May the sacred mysteries of which we have partaken, O Lord, we pray, give us the determination which made your blessed Martyr St. Vincent faithful in your service and victorious in suffering. Through Christ our Lord.