



*St Cornelius* was elected Pope in 251 and was exiled by the emperor Gallus and died of the hardships he endured in exile. *St Cyprian* of Carthage was a close friend of Pope Cornelius, and supported him both against the anti-pope Novatian and in his views concerning the re-admittance of apostates into the Church.

**First Reading:** (1 Cor 12:31 - 13:13)

Earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends; as for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophecy is imperfect; but when the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like

a child; when I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall understand fully, even as I have been fully understood. So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

**Ps 32:2-5, 12, 22**

**R./ They are happy, the people whom the Lord has chosen as his own.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 7:31-35) Jesus said to the crowds, "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the market place and calling to one another, 'We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

**Reflection:** 'Incomparable generation' is the explicit expression of Jesus about the people. He is aware of their hard heartedness and unwillingness to accept the message. Jesus confronts their attitude by saying that they have believed neither John nor Jesus because they don't want to believe. The people gave excuses for their unbelief in Jesus. But they failed to recognise the presence of God. Here is a call to be childlike and not to be childish. **Let us not accuse, criticize, denounce and judge others based on our standards.**