

The Feast of **Our Lady of Ransom** commemorates the foundation of the Mercedarians. (A mendicant order established in 1218 by St. Peter Nolasco for ransoming the Christian slaves under the patronage of our Lady of Ransom) Today's feast is a memorial of the strength she puts forth for the deliverance of her people.



**First Reading: (Eccl 1:2-11)** Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains for ever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes round to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again. All things are full of weariness; a man cannot utter it; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; and there is nothing new under the

sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has been already, in the ages before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of later things yet to happen among those who come after.

**Ps 89:3-6, 12-14, 17**

**R./ O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.**

**Gospel: (Lk 9:7-9)** Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the old prophets had risen. Herod said, "John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he sought to see him.

**Reflection:** In the Gospels we find various persons asking who Jesus is. In Lk 8:25 the disciples ask "Who then is this that command the sea..." In Lk 5: 21 The Pharisees ask, "Who is this that speaks...". Jesus' true identity remained a mystery to them. People's opinion of Jesus is insufficient as he is beyond all their opinion. **Only a faith filled desire will enable us to know Jesus personally. When we do not have deep faith in Jesus we are inclined to go by the opinions of others.** Am I still relying on the opinions of others about Jesus or have I found my personal answer to who Jesus is to me personally? When Herod heard about all that was done by Jesus, he was perplexed. The final result of all our ministries must be that, everything we do, should point to Jesus. We should be in the background. Knowing me for a follower of Jesus, do the people around me get perplexed by the way I live and work and arise in them a wanting to know Jesus?