



St Vincent Strambi (1745- 1824) was the son of a pharmacist, and was born at Civitavecchia, Italy. He resisted his parents' wish that he become a diocesan priest, but joined the Passionists in 1768 after attending a retreat given by St. Paul of the Cross. Vincent became a professor of theology, was made provincial in 1781, and in 1801, was appointed bishop of Macera and Tolentino.

First Reading: (Eccl 3:1-11) For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its

time; also he has put eternity into man's mind, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Ps 143:1-4

R./ Blessed be the Lord, my rock.

Gospel: (Lk 9:18-22) It happened that as he was praying alone the disciples were with him; and he asked them, "Who do the people say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; but others say, Elijah; and others, that one of the old prophets has risen." And he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God." But he charged and commanded them to tell this to no one, saying, "The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

Reflection: Already the people were giving their opinion as to who Jesus is. He was an exceptional person but they could not see the Messiah in Him. But Jesus asks from His disciples their personal opinion about Him. After having lived with him and having been taught by him, and having seen his works, how do they see Jesus? It is not enough to know what others say about Jesus. We may have read and studied all that others have written about Jesus, but that knowledge is incomplete. Have I discovered Him personally? St. Paul in his letter to Timothy says "I know in whom I have believed." **Those who have to carry on his mission should have the right understanding and personal experience of him. Who is Jesus for me?**