

**St Agnes** (291-304) was a Roman girl who was only thirteen years old when she suffered martyrdom for her Faith. Agnes had made a promise to God never to stain her purity. The name Agnes is derived from the feminine Greek adjective "hagne" meaning "chaste or sacred". She is the patron saint of young girls.



**First Reading:** (Heb 7:25 - 8:6) Jesus is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever. Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary; for when Moses was about to

erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain." But as it is, Christ has obtained a ministry which is as much more excellent than the old as the covenant he mediates is better, since it is enacted on better promises.

**Ps 39:7-10, 17**

**R. / Behold, Lord, I come to do your will.**

**Gospel:** (Mk 3:7-12) Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed; also from Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from about Tyre and Sidon a great multitude, hearing all that he did, came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they should crush him; for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. And whenever the unclean spirits beheld him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

## REFLECTION

Jesus became an immediate sensation in the town. People were rushing to him, wanting to touch him, wanting to be touched by him, wanting to be healed. Innovative friends would even open up the roof to lower their sick friend in front of Jesus. The more popularity he gained, the more he was marked by the religious authorities. The irony in all this is that, the unclean spirits pronounced him as Son of God, whereas the religious authorities were busy trying to find fault with him.

**Am I ready to accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour? If we do so, our whole life changes, our perspective changes and we become bearers of his light wherever we are.**