

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9 November



About this Feast Day

The Lateran Basilica was built by the Emperor Constantine on the Lateran Hill in Rome in about the year 324. Lateran was the name of the family who owned the land on which Constantine built this basilica. He was going to dedicate the Basilica to Saint John the Baptist, but the name Lateran remained associated with it, and hence the name San Giovanni Laterano (Saint John Lateran) stuck. The feast of its dedication has been celebrated in Rome on this day since the twelfth century. **The Lateran Basilica is the cathedral church of the diocese of Rome, that is, the Pope's Cathedra as the Bishop of Rome is in this Church, not Saint Peter's Basilica. This feast honours the local Church of Rome as a link with the earliest Christian tradition and as a sign of our Communion in Christ.**

What can we learn from this Feast Day?

We have (and should have) great respect for a church building, and our hearts sink when we hear that one has been vandalized. In the same way, we should be horrified when one of our fellow **brothers or sisters is assaulted. The Christian community is God's temple, built on the foundation of Jesus Christ.** Our respect for the dwelling place of Christ (as the Church building) is just as important as our respect and reverence for all who make up the Body of Christ on earth. **The dismissal formula: "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life", takes on a whole new meaning on today's feast. For when we are dismissed from the Mass, our service of the Lord continues, but is glorified when we serve our neighbour with a willing heart.**

Collect

O God, who from living and chosen stones
prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty,
increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed,
so that by new growth your faithful people
may build up the heavenly Jerusalem.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

John 2:13-22

Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there.

Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, **scattered the money changers' coins,** knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, **'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.'**

Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture:

Zeal for your house will devour me.

The Jews intervened and said,

'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?'

Jesus answered,

'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.'

The Jews replied,

'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?'

But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body,

and when Jesus rose from the dead,

his disciples remembered that he had said this,

and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

Antiphon

Be built up like living stones,
into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.

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Hymn for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

We gather in this house, O God,
to glorify Your Holy Name.
You chose and sanctified this house
and your goodness we will acclaim.

From these living and chosen stones,
a holy dwelling you prepare,
a house for your great majesty,
ever for us a house of prayer.

We are God's building here on earth,
upon Jesus we have been laid.
On this foundation we are safe,
so we will never be afraid.

From these living and chosen stones,
a holy dwelling you prepare,
a house for your great majesty,
ever for us a house of prayer.

We are many, but we are one;
for God made us: sacred are we.
God's Spirit dwells in our neighbours,
we are to serve them faithfully.

Outside these living, chosen stones,
we will show that our faith is real,
our hearts ablaze throughout the earth,
preaching the Gospel with great zeal.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono

Other Music Suggestion

[How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place](#) (Randall DeBruyn)

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