

# SUNDAY *Plus*

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week IV** Year A

**E&W: Week of Prayer for Prisoners & their Dependents**

## Prisoner for Christ



Image:  
Bl Rupert  
Mayer ©  
Society  
of Jesus

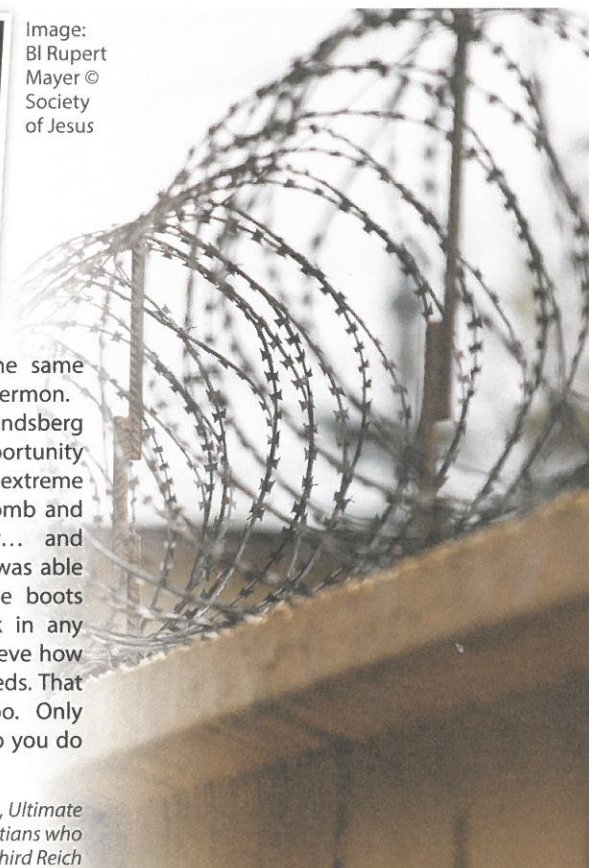
Known as the "apostle of Munich," [Fr Rupert Mayer's] grave draws up to three thousand people a day to the crypt of the Bürgesaal church in downtown Munich... A decorated war veteran and amputee, he had been known for his tireless pastoral and charitable work among the city's poorest and his courage to speak the truth in a kindly straightforward and stubbornly unrelenting way. "They can gun me down," he once said, "but the truth must be told." The truth he proclaimed from Munich's pulpits and chancels, on mission tours in Bavaria and

at public gatherings objected to the regime's forceful secularising of Catholic schools on the Nazi's slur campaign against Catholic clergy and the church. Restricted first and eventually forbidden to preach altogether, he was pressured into breaking the confessional's secrecy and refused; arrested repeatedly, he was deported to a concentration camp [Sachsenhausen-Orienburg] and put in solitary confinement, released again, and finally banned to years in isolation at a Benedictine monastery [Ettal] from where, at war's end, he returned to Munich

and where he died the same year while delivering a sermon.

[He wrote from the Landsberg Prison], "I have the opportunity here to practise extreme poverty. Toothbrush, comb and soap, rosary, breviary... and were the only things I was able to rescue. Yes, also the boots because I cannot walk in any others. It is hard to believe how little a person really needs. That goes for the food too. Only because I promised it to you do I force myself to eat."

Blessed Rupert Mayer SJ, *Ultimate Price: testimonies of Christians who resisted the Third Reich*



Jesus, you invite everyone to experience and celebrate your incredible love. Let my heart dance for joy at your goodness.  Amen.

### Let it be so

Lord, what you will, let it be so.  
Where you will, there we will go.  
What is your will, help us to know.  
Lord, when you will, the time is right.  
In you, there's joy in strife.  
For your will, I'll give my life.  
To ease your burden brings no pain  
To forego all for you is gain  
As long as I, in you, remain

*Bl Rupert Mayer SJ*

[Jesus] presented himself to the world  
not only as a poor Messiah, but also as  
the Messiah of and for the poor.

Pope Leo XIV

### Feast of the week Sunday 11 October

### St John XXIII

Today we remember St John XXIII, a humble pope whose heart was open to the Spirit and whose vision reshaped the Church. Known as "Good Pope John," he radiated warmth, simplicity and pastoral care. His most enduring legacy, the Second Vatican Council, was born not of ambition, but of prayerful discernment and trust in God's renewing grace.

St John XXIII believed the Church must not retreat from the world, but engage it with mercy, truth and hope. He called for *aggiornamento* – a bringing up to date – not to dilute the Gospel, but to make it shine more clearly in modern times. His life reminds us that holiness is found in listening, in courage and in joyful service. May we, like him, be open to the Spirit's promptings, ready to build bridges, and eager to share Christ's love with a world longing for peace.



### READINGS

**Today:**  
Isaiah 25:6-10  
Philippians 4:12-14.  
19-20  
Matthew 22:1-14

**Monday:**  
Galatians 4:22-24.  
26-27. 31 – 5:1  
Luke 11:29-32

**Tuesday:**  
Galatians 5:1-6  
Luke 11:37-41

**Wednesday:**  
Galatians 5:18-25  
Luke 11:42-46

**Thursday:**  
Ephesians 1:1-10  
Luke 11:47-54

**Friday:**  
Ephesians 1:11-14  
Luke 12:1-7

**Saturday:**  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 12:8-12

**Next Sunday:**  
Isaiah 45:1. 4-6  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5  
Matthew 22:15-21