



*Light and
Love in the
darkness*

27 July (*Optional Memorial*) **BLESSED TITUS BRANDSMA**

Priest and Martyr

Born in Bolsward (The Netherlands) in 1881, Blessed Titus Brandsma joined the Carmelite Order as a young man. Ordained a priest in 1905, he earned a doctorate in philosophy in Rome.

He then taught in various schools in Holland and was named professor of philosophy and of the history of mysticism in the Catholic University of Nijmegen, where he also served as Rector Magnificus. He was noted for his constant availability to everyone.

He was a professional journalist, and in 1935 he was appointed ecclesiastical advisor to Catholic journalists. Both before and during the Nazi occupation of The Netherlands he fought, faithful to the Gospel, against the spread of Nazi ideology and for the freedom of Catholic education and of the Catholic press. For this he was arrested and sent to a succession of prisons and concentration camps where he brought comfort and peace to his fellow prisoners and did good even to his tormentors.

In 1942, after much suffering and humiliation, he was killed at Dachau. He was beatified Pope Saint John Paul II on 3rd November, 1985.



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Entrance Antiphon

Greater love has no one than to lay down his life
for his friends, says the Lord. *Jn 15: 13*

*Alternative: The salvation of the just comes from the
Lord. He is their strength in time of need. *Ps 36:39*

Collect

Lord our God, source and giver of life,
you gave to Blessed Titus
the Spirit of courage to proclaim human dignity
and the freedom of the Church even in the
throes of degrading persecution and death.
Grant us that same Spirit so that in the coming
of your kingdom of justice and peace
we might never be ashamed of the Gospel
but be enabled to recognise your loving-kindness
in all the events of our lives.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading (2 Timothy 2:3-13)

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

Put up with your share of difficulties, like a good
soldier of Christ Jesus. In the army, no soldier
gets himself mixed up in civilian life, because he
must be at the disposal of the man who enlisted
him; or take an athlete—he cannot win any crown
unless he has kept all the rules of the contest; and
again, it is the working farmer who has the first
claim on any crop that is harvested. Think over
what I have said, and the Lord will show you
how to understand it all.

Remember the Good News that I carry, Jesus
Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race
; it is on account of this that I have my
own hardships to bear, even to being chained
like a criminal—but they cannot chain up God's
news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are

chosen, so that in the end they may have the
salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal
glory that comes with it.

Here is a saying that you can rely on:
If we have died with him,
then we shall live with him.
If we hold firm, then we shall reign with him.
If we disown him, then he will disown us.
We may be unfaithful, but he is always
faithful for he cannot disown his own self.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps. 17:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 (R.2 Mc. 1:17)

R Blessed in all things be our God.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. R

The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. R

The waves of death rose about me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
the snares of the grave entangled me;
the traps of death confronted me. R

In my anguish I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came to his ears. R

Gospel Acclamation (1 Cor 1:18)

Alleluia, Alleluia!

The language of the cross may be illogical
to those who are not on the way to salvation,
but those of us who are on the way
see it as God's power to save.

Alleluia!

Gospel

(Luke 6:27-36)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Jesus said to his disciples: I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify our offerings by your blessing, O Lord, we pray, and by your grace may we be set afire with that flame of your love through which Blessed Titus overcame every bodily torment. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Alternative:* Lord, accept these gifts we present in memory of Blessed Titus, for no temptation could turn him away from you. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord. *cf. Mt 16:24*

**Alternative:* I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; he who lives in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit. *Jn 15:5*

Prayer after Communion

May the sacred mysteries of which we have partaken, O Lord, we pray, give us that determination which made your blessed Martyr Titus faithful in your service and victorious in suffering. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Alternative:* Lord, we are renewed by the mystery of the Eucharist. By imitating the fidelity of Blessed Titus and by our patience may we come to share the eternal life you have promised. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.

A Eucharistic Meditation

In the school of Carmel the mystical contemplative life is the fruit of the Eucharistic life.

The miraculous bread ministered to [Elijah] is a perfect image of that Eucharistic food, in the strength of which we walk in life's journey here below. The special cult of the Holy Sacrament has not been confined to Carmel, but we can say that it has always been a constant and important part of our Carmelite tradition.

This in outline is the Eucharistic tradition of Carmel. With Elijah we walk in the strength of that divine bread and since we would draw near to the life of God in prayer, we must be ever mindful of the Saviour's command, 'Unless you eat the Flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood you cannot have life in you.' Just as the communion of Elijah in the miraculous bread of the desert led him in his journey to the contemplation of God on Horeb, so too, the Holy Eucharist must lead us to the contemplation of His Holy Face. In the caves of Horeb God spoke to the Prophet by the voice of the gentle, whispering wind. The Lord was not in the storm nor in the earthquake, but in the gentle wind. So, after Communion we must contemplate under the Eucharistic species and in the depths of our spirit, for now God passes.

(Titus Brandsma, The Beauty of Carmel, Dublin: Clonmore and Reynolds, 1955, pp. 3-312)

**Study text, The Carmelite Sacramentary, North American Carmelite conference.*