

Thursday 33rd in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Lk 19,41-44): When Jesus had come in sight of the city, He wept over it and said, ‘If only today you knew the ways of peace! But now your eyes are held from seeing. Yet days will come upon you when your enemies will surround you (...) and leave not a stone within you, for you did not recognize the time and the visitation of your God».

Announcement of the destruction of Jerusalem

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Jesus Christ, crying for Jerusalem, announces its dramatic end, which would happen in the year 70. With the expulsion of the Procurator Gessius Florus and the successful resistance to the Roman counterattack, in the year 66 started the Jewish war. This was not merely a war of Jews against Romans: in broader terms it was also a civil war between rival Jewish factions and their ringleaders. This was what accounted for the full horror for the fight for Jerusalem.

Jesus’ words reveal above all His deep love for Jerusalem, its passionate fight to attain the "Yes" from the Holy City to the message that He is to deliver. But the core of His words does not point out to the external actions and destruction of the war but, in the end, to the historical-salvific sense of the Temple, which turns into a house that "becomes empty": that ceases to be the place of God's presence.

—O Jesus, new Temple of God, I beg Your forgiveness for the many times I have failed to receive You.