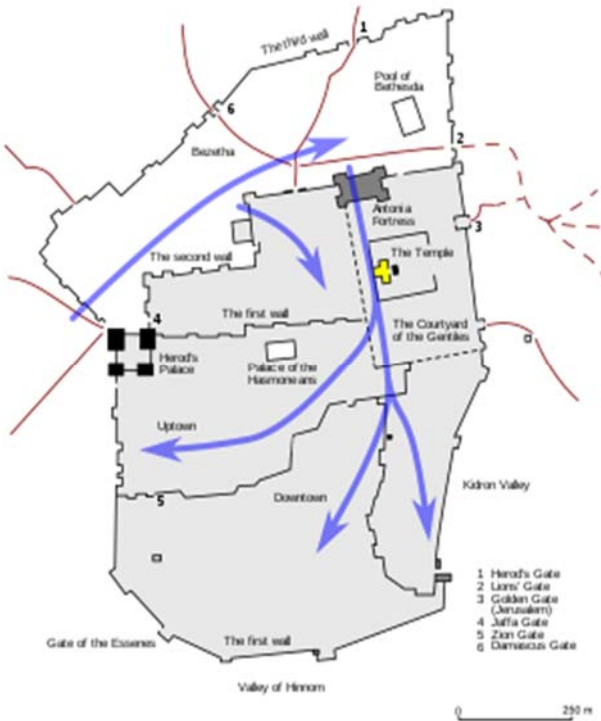


Dear Brothers and Sisters



"Not one stone will be left....

By your perseverance you will secure your lives." Lk 21: 5-19

In the year 70 AD the Roman Army surrounded Jerusalem, and systematically dismantled the Temple, stone by stone (see map)

Jesus had predicted this, as we hear in the Gospel at Mass today.

He also predicts all kinds of upheavals and calamities – wars, earthquakes, floods, fires, and on a personal level, opposition and hardships for his disciples – that is, you and me.

But he also prophesied that "Not one hair on your head will be harmed."
Hair is the first thing to get singed if there is a fire. It can easily catch alight.

Christians live in the midst of flames, e.g..... Hardship, Opposition, Difficulty, Persecution, Misunderstanding, Frustrations, Disappointments....

And yet remain unharmed. How come? It is not that there are no calamities in life. It is the fact that these calamities are unable to harm them.

The world may be falling apart, the Temple destroyed, but those who are in Christ are unharmed.

Christians already experience that death has been overcome. They carry within them the guarantee of Eternal Life. Nothing is able to harm them.

Neither death nor life, the present nor the future, the heights or the depths, nakedness or the sword, can separate us from the Love of God, shown to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Is this your experience? Sincerely? If not, there is Good News awaiting you at Mass today.

Fr. Sean