

Constantius, was sympathetic to Arianism and it was not until the accession of Theodosius I in 379 AD that Arianism was again condemned in the Eastern church following the Second General Council in 381, thanks in no small part to St Athanasius.

Arianism was still not a spent force. Many of the Goths and Vandals had become Arians and when in 493 Theodoric the Goth was victorious in taking control of Italy and ruled over a vast expanse of the former Roman Empire, he re-introduced Arianism, though apparently in peaceful co-existence with orthodox Catholics. Ravenna became the Ostrogothic capital until Justinian the Great, the Byzantine Emperor, reconquered it in 540. Theodoric built the Basilica of St Apollinaris as an Arian palace chapel. It remains one of a number of breath-taking religious buildings of this period still to be found in all their glory in Ravenna. After Justinian retook the city, all heretical Arian churches had to conform to Catholic doctrine and some features from the original mosaics were eliminated and replaced. Although vestiges of the Arian heresy remained in parts of Italy, Spain and North Africa, it had more or less completely died out by the 8<sup>th</sup> century.

St Augustine summarised the true doctrine when he said: *“There is one essence of the Father and Son and Holy Ghost...although the Father is one person, the Son another, and the Holy Ghost another”*.  
**-Stephen S**

**Entrance antiphon: The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.**

**Reading: Proverbs:31: 10-13, 19-20,30-31**

**Responsorial Psalm: 127: O blessed are those who fear the Lord /R**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6**

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew: 25: 14-30**

**Memorial Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.**

**Communion Antiphon: To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.**



## Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A, 2023

### Weekly Reflection: Heresies 3:

**Arianism:** Last week we considered the Docetists who believed that Jesus was true God, but not true man. The Arian heresy was the converse, teaching that

Jesus was true man but not true God. The Arian heresy was much more troublesome and long-lasting than Docetism, most particularly in the early Eastern church. Its origins can probably be traced to the third century Paul of Samosata who became Bishop of Antioch in 260 and was deposed in 269. He taught that Jesus was a man who became infused with the divine Logos which enabled Him to succeed in *“perfecting himself and was through his moral excellence united with God”*. Paul was excommunicated as was his pupil, Lucian (c240-312) who is reputed to have influenced Arius (256 – 336), the eponymous founder of Arianism. Arianism denied that Jesus, as Son, was of one essence, nature or substance with God. It maintained that God alone was without beginning and that the Son had once not existed and was thus created by God. As a result the Son was not equal to the Father. Arianism had a substantial following, particularly among Bishops of Syria and Asia Minor. The dispute in the Eastern Church continued for many years until Constantine, after his imposition of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire, assembled the Council of Nicea (Iznik in modern Turkey) in 325. As we know from the Nicene creed, the orthodox belief was there reaffirmed in clear language that forms a central part of the Mass: *“I believe ...in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.”*. The emphasis in the words underlined manifests Jesus’ Godhead; He is not a creature; He is of one substance with the Father. Arius and some of his followers were exiled after Nicea, as they refused to accept this truth. Nevertheless, the controversy continued and Constantine eventually permitted Arius to return home. It is even said that he was baptised by an Arian Bishop on his deathbed. Constantine’s successor,