

## Reading for the Memorial of St Teilo

9<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### First reading

**1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13**

**'They brought the ark of the covenant into the Most Holy Place and a cloud filled the house of the Lord.'**

In those days: Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of the City of David, which is Sion. And all the men of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the feast in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. And they brought up the ark of the Lord, the Tent of Meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. And King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Then Solomon said, 'The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness. I have indeed built you an exalted house, a place for you to dwell in for ever.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 132(131):6-7. 8-10. R8a**

*Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest.*

We heard of it at Ephrata;

we found it in the plains of Yearim.

'Let us go to the place of his dwelling;  
let us bow down at his footstool.'

Go up, Lord, to the place of your rest,  
you and the ark of your strength.

Your priests shall be clothed with justice;  
your faithful shall ring out their joy.

For the sake of David your servant,  
do not reject your anointed.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Cf. Matthew 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom  
and healed every affliction among the people.

Alleluia.

**Gospel****Mark 6:53-56****'As many as touched it were made well.'**

At that time: When they had crossed over, Jesus and his disciples came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognised him and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the sick in the market-places and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

**Short reflection on the reading for today**

St Mark shows the great popularity of Jesus among the ordinary people of Galilee. In particular, how he attracted the sick and needy, through the healing that flowed through him. People begged to touch even the fringe of his cloak, like the woman who was healed of her bleeding. The excitement he generated was such that people were desperate to connect with him, "bringing the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was."

It is in our own times of need, also, that we seek God's help more urgently. Some illness or misfortune brings home to us our vulnerability, our weakness, our mortality. In those situations, we pray with greater urgency. It is the darker and more painful life experiences that open us to our need for God. By all means let us praise God in our churches, as king Solomon did in his temple. But the conversations with God that matter most are those we make on our sick beds or with our friends who are in hospital; and above all, when able to walk out again into God's fresh air, the prayer of thanks that we make for the gift of living.