

SEPTEMBER 30 2025 MSGR DAVID REILANDER

Today, we celebrate the great doctor and translator of Scripture, St. Jerome.

He lived about the same time as the great other doctor of the Church, St. Augustine. And though they respected each other, they certainly had their own mind about things.

When we listen to the Scriptures today, what we are finding is they show us one who can lead us out of chaos.

In our first reading, we find that the Jews are looking for someone who is going to be able to lead them in the way of the Lord. And they will put their hand on him and follow him, a man who is of God.

In the Gospel, of course, Jesus is not of God. That might sound a little strange. Why do I say that? Because Jesus is God. Jesus is the source of the divine. We are of him. We want to put our hand on his sleeve and have him lead us, because he is going to the place of salvation. His face is set towards Jerusalem to bring the final act of salvation.

Today, we also celebrate Truth and Reconciliation.

When I was a missionary in the Diocese of Whitehorse, all of the stakeholders of the agreement on Truth and Reconciliation to the residential schools—the Catholics, Baptists, Anglicans and United Church, the leaders of the churches—all got together, and we were trying to fulfil one of the action points of the summary of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was, in each

capital of the country, to erect a memorial to deceased and missing children from the residential schools.

Many of the children were taken, sometimes against their will, or against the will of their parents, and go some distance to these schools. And some of the children escaped and tried to find their way back to their parents, and either simply disappeared and therefore are missing, or they died on the way. These would have been young children. We remember them today

But we think about reconciliation. Who is the great reconciler? Of course, it is Jesus Christ, who, going to Jerusalem, is going to die; is going to give his life for our sake.

We remember there is no true reconciliation without forgiveness. Forgiveness must come first before the relationship can be re-established, for if you re-establish a relationship without it being healed, it is not going to survive.

We need one who can lead us into truth, out of chaos and into order. And that's what we're trying to do now in Canada, is to bring order to the sin of the past of these residential schools. We're also trying to bring order into our own lives. It's a difficult process. But something that is a guide to us is Scripture.

Here we come back to St. Jerome. St. Jerome wrote what is called the *Vulgate* or the Latin translation of the New Testament, which was written in Greek.

Why Greek? Because it was the language of the time. Even though Jesus spoke Aramaic, he most likely also knew Greek,

because we have it recorded in Scripture that he read from the Scriptures in the synagogue, and the Scriptures for the time, the Tanakh, would have been written in Greek.

And so, we have Greek New Testament and we have Hebrew Old Testament, or what is truly the Jewish Scriptures, which were also translated into Greek. And so, he had these various resources and was now translating them into the language of the Church, which of course was Latin

And so, St. Jerome gave to the Church a Scripture that the people could understand. And in understanding the Scripture, they can come out of chaos. They can come to see that Jesus is the Christ and that he revealed the Father to us.

And through his resurrection, he and the Father gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church so that we may be baptized and confirmed in the Spirit and come to faith, for these are what give us the gift of faith

And in faith, we turn to the Scriptures in order to find a way of life that is leading us to eternal life.

How can we be happy? How can we be fulfilled? How can we flourish?

And of course, St. Augustine told us that to flourish is to contemplate the triune God. And we can only do that by being given the gift of grace. The man of God gives us the gift of grace, God's help, to seek God himself. Otherwise, we are lost to the chaos.

So, let us be thankful to the Lord for St. Jerome, who gave us this great and beautiful gift of the Word of God.