

Commentary on the Gospel for Fri, Jun 1st 2012

There was a feast of Dedication of the Temple, which was in fact a rededication or cleansing of it after its Gentile defilement under Antiochus Epiphanes (2 Mac 10:5). Jesus now cleanses the Temple in a different way: expelling the buyers and sellers from the court of the Gentiles. (We Gentiles remember that for him!) The story of his cleansing of the Temple is sandwiched between two halves of the story of the barren fig-tree. The significance is this: like the fig-tree, which is all leaves and no fruit, the Temple worship is more show than reality. He never said by their leaves you shall know them!

Bible Diary - CMF