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26 Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF YEAR  
Ss Cosmas & Damian

Esdra 9: 5-9  
Psalm: Tobit 13:2-5,8  
Luke 9: 1-6

It's unusual that the Responsory Psalm today doesn't come from one of the 150 Psalms of the Bible but from one of the smaller, rather obscure Books of the Old Testament, the Book of Tobit. This is a family story, with a lesson about God's providence in our lives each day, God's kindness mostly hidden but finally revealed in the person of His messenger and agent, the angel Raphael who has been the companion of Tobit and his son. After Raphael reveals his true identity, Tobit sings a song of thanksgiving, praise and blessing to God for all His greatness. Though Tobit is an exile from his homeland, he's full of hope and a sense of mission to tell people about God's greatness and how He has been at work in Tobit's own life. We sometimes call people "angels" because they are or have been kind and thoughtful and helpful to us. Maybe there's more truth in that name 'angel' than we realise, for the Lord's providence does work through the people and happenings of our lives, usually in ways we don't recognise at the time. Like with Raphael's disappearance from the presence of Tobit and his son, it's often only after the event that we see how truly blessed we've been and can then give thanks and praise, even in 'exile' (any trouble, difficulty, loneliness etc.) to the Lord who's been with us but unrecognised.

Give your kind blessing, Lord, your joy and peace, to all the people who travel even a short part of our life's journey with us, especially those who help, inspire, encourage us in ways we haven't yet understood or appreciated, or thanked them for.

[ Text word-count: 281 ]