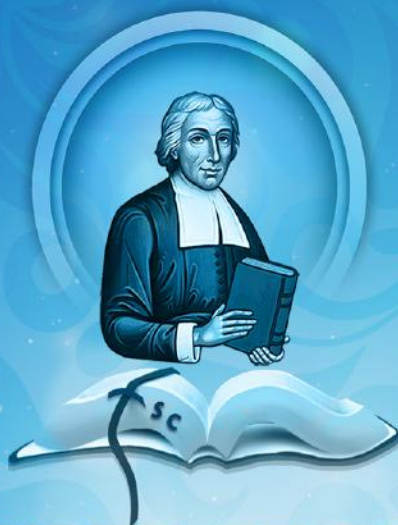




Brothers of
the Christian
Schools

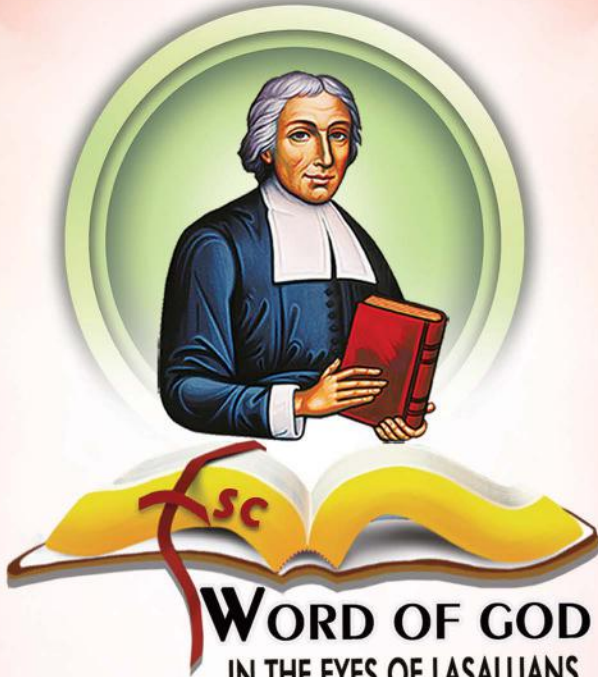
La  Salle



WORD OF GOD
IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

2024

BIBLE DIARY

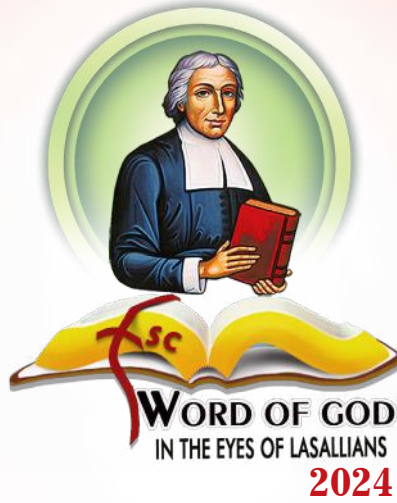


WORD OF GOD
IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS
2024

- ❖ Daily Readings ❖ Psalms–Acclamation
- ❖ Lasallian Prayers ❖ Saint of the Day
- ❖ Lasallian Reflections



De La Salle
BROTHERS
OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE (1651-1719)

Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools,
Patron Saint of Christian teachers.

WORD OF GOD

IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS

Published by the Communication Commission - LASAD, Indian Sector

Biblical texts are taken from the *LECTIONARY* published by the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) in 2023.



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SUPERIOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

If you wish to be filled with the mind of God and entirely fit for your work, make the sacred books of Scripture your special study, and particularly the New Testament, so that it serves as a rule of conduct for yourselves and for those whom you instruct.

— De La Salle's Meditation for the Feast of St. Jerome

The 46th General Chapter enjoins every Lasallian to return to the Gospel so we can be touched by God. We are invited to rediscover God's Word—living and active discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart (Hebrews 4:12). Let us begin this exciting journey into the heart of God with the Bible Diary 2024 as our guide through 366 days of our Lasallian pilgrimage.

Make the Word of God your special study. We can break open the Sacred Scriptures and explore the meaning and context of the passage. We can learn much from those who have spent countless hours investigating with a faith seeking understanding. We can ask difficult questions that could bring new insights into a familiar passage.

Allow the living Word to test the intentions of your heart. We can recreate the scene of the biblical passage in our imagination and experience the power of the good news even today. We can bring the challenge of the Gospel to enlighten life's dilemmas. We can savor in our hearts the aspirations and sentiments that come as a fruit of our meditation on the Word of God.

Let God's Word transform your life and recreate the world. We can draw guidance from the sacred writings to enlighten and strengthen us in our work for the day. We can take inspiration from the Lord's commands knowing that the yoke is easy and the burden light. We can claim what is proclaimed in the Gospel and be the change we want to see in the world.

May the Holy Spirit who prays in us and draws us into the heart of God also give us the power to recreate our world.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Armin A. Luistro".

BR. ARMIN A. LUISTRO FSC
Superior General,

Brothers of the Christian Schools, Rome, Italy.

PROVINCIAL VISITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

At the core of our being a Brother and a Lasallian is recognizing the presence of God wherever we are and in whatever we do and experience. The notion of the presence of God in our lives is at the core of Lasallian Spirituality. The presence of God is manifested and ignited by our Faith. Faith is not a noun but a verb. St. Paul says that faith without action is useless.

The Brothers' Rule - Article 64 expresses beautifully the connection between the word of God and the spirit of Faith; "In this pluralistic and secularized world, the Brothers feel the need for daily contact with the word of God. It is what nourishes their whole life and helps them to understand people, events and the world, about God's Plan."

To emphasize further the importance of the word of God in the life of a Brother and Lasallian I refer to Article 67 of the Rule; "The Brothers find the principal source of their prayer in the Word of God, in the liturgy and in the calls that comes from their ministry, the Church and the world."

So, dear Brothers & Lasallians, let's reserve a space in our daily routine to read and reflect on the relevant daily reading that comes to us in this "Diary" and consequently be enlightened and energized by the Power of the Word to share the Good News with Joy.

My heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the dynamic Communication Team for bringing us the Lasallian Diary this year too.

A precious gift indeed to those who realize it's intrinsic value.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Br. Bertram Perera". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

BR. BERTRAM PERERA FSC

Provincial Visitor

Provincialate Secretariate

Lasallian South Asia District (LASAD)

Mutwal, Colombo-01500, Sri Lanka.

AUXILIARY VISITOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Ps.119:105

Most human beings are wounded and need healing. Hence, put God first each and every day, and you will never be last. By your words I can see where I'm going; they throw a beam of light on my dark path.

Did you know the verse “it's easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than a rich man to enter heaven,” (Mt. 19:24). It does not mean a sewing needle. In ancient times gates had two large leaves and a smaller door called the eye of the needle, intended only for the passage of pedestrians. When the large gates were closed, getting a camel through the eye of the needle, required the camel to shed its load and bend its legs and neck. It was a difficult task that often left scratches. Jesus' teaching was that it was not impossible for a rich man to get into heaven but a reminder that whether you are rich or poor you must shed your burdens, bend your necks in obedience, kneel before God and acknowledge that He is the only way to salvation. On this journey you will get scratches along the way. Let the New Year 2024 be a year of entering through the eye of a needle.

“The Brothers find the principal source of their prayer in the Word of God, in the liturgy and in the calls that come from their ministry, the Church and the world” (The FSC Rule Art. 67). The Lasallian Bible Diary 2024 will be a source of inspiration and will encourage one to be more proactive.

My sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Communication Commission for their generous efforts to make this Bible Diary a reality. God bless you abundantly.

BR. T. AMALAN FSC

Auxiliary Visitor

Lasallian South Asia District (LASAD)

Madurai-625 019, Tamil Nādu, India.

EDITOR'S WORD

... from the Communication Commission.



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Communication Commission, LASAD-Indian Sector,

The WORD OF GOD in the eyes of Lasallians - Bible Diary 2024 is the second pastoral project of the De La Salle Brothers of LASAD by the Communication Commission, and we are ecstatic to present it to you so that you can encounter God through the spirit of prayer and the scripture by reflecting and praying the Word of God daily.

The De La Salle Brothers from India and Srilanka have provided thought provoking information for us. The complete liturgical and content of Lasallian spirituality is encompassed in this.

The Lasallian reflections will better enable us to deepen our understanding of a specific theme "Where is your focus?" related to our identity and our commitment to Leavening Project.

The Lasallian view is that the Word of God, as depicted in the characteristics below, can be used to serve us.

- ◆ The Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Eucharistic Prayers.
- ◆ Lasallian prayers with a brief citation of the Blessed and Venerable Lasallian Saints.
- ◆ The day's complete liturgical information.
- ◆ The entire text of the reflections from the Lasallian Mass.
- ◆ Psalms of response and applause. ◆ Today's patron saint.

We thank Rev.Br. Armin Luistro FSC, the Superior General, Rev.Br. Bertram Perera FSC, the Provincial Visitor and Rev. Br. T. Amalan FSC, the Auxiliary Visitor and their teams for their thought-provoking messages and encouragement in this work. We want to thank the brothers of Lasallian South Asia District who provided reflections for this edition that make it successful. I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Thomas O' Neill, a Lasallian Teacher from Ireland for accompanying us in editing the reflections.

Great thanks to the members of the Communication Commission for their excellent job. I sincerely hope that everyone who reads this will be inspired to follow in the path of St. John Baptist De La Salle, our beloved Founder and father.

God bless us all.

BR. ARUL JEEVAGAR FSC

Chairman,

The Communication Commission,

Boys Town, Madurai-625019, Tamil Nadu, South India.

WORD OF GOD
IN THE EYES OF LASALLIANS 2024

CONTRIBUTORS – DAILY REFLECTIONS



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Br. **ANTONY SEKAR** FSC, INDIA



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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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AUGUST

Br. **HELDON FERNANDO** FSC, INDIA



SEPTEMBER

Br. **CHRISTY CROOS** FSC, SRI LANKA

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Br. **JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN** FSC, SRI LANKA



NOVEMBER

Br. **ROBERT PROVING** FSC, INDIA

DECEMBER

Br. **THARSHAN PERIES** FSC, SRI LANKA



LASALLIAN SAINTS, BLESSEDS, VENERABLES & SERVANTS OF GOD

14 LASALLIAN SAINTS

Saint John Baptist De La Salle, (1651-1719) (Feast day: April 7),
Our Holy Founder.

Saint Benildus Romançon, FSC, 1805-1862 (Feast day: August 13)

Saint Miguel Febres Cordero, FSC, 1854-1910 (Feast day: February 9)

Saint Mutien-Marie Wiaux, FSC, 1841-1917 (Feast day: January 30)

Saint Jaime Hilario Barbal, FSC, 1898-1937 (Feast day: October 9)

Saint Martyrs of Turón, 1934 (Feast day: October 9)

(St. Marciano Jose , St. Victoriano Pío ,St. Julian Alfredo, St. Benjamin
Julian St. Augusto Andres, St. Ancieto Adolfo ,St. Benito de Jesus,
St. Cirilo Bertan)

Saint Solomon Le Clercq, FSC, 1745-1792 (Feast day: September 2)

151 LASALLIAN BLESSED BROTHERS

Blessed James Miller, FSC, 1944-1982 (Feast day: February 13)

Blessed Arnold Rèche, FSC, 1838-1890 (Feast day: October 23)

Blessed Scubilion Rousseau, FSC, 1797-1867 (Feast day: September 27)

Blessed Raphael Louis Rafiringa, FSC, 1856-1919 (Feast day: May 19)

3 Blessed Martyrs of the Rochefort, 1794 (Feast day: September 2)

7 Blessed Martyrs of Almeria, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

5 Blessed Martyrs of Valencia, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

44 Blessed Brothers of Barcelona, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

5 Blessed Brothers of Santa Cruz de Múdela,
1936 (Feast day: November 6)

4 Blessed Brothers of Consuegra, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

5 Blessed Brothers of Lorca, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

39 Blessed Brothers of Tarragona, 1936 (Feast day: November 6)

19 Blessed Brothers of the Madrid –Grinon,
1936 (Feast day: November 6)

16 Blessed Brothers of the Madrid - Sagrado Corazón,
1936 (Feast day: November 6)

09 LASALLIAN VENERABLES & SERVANTS OF GOD

Brother Exuperien Mas (1829 - 1905)

Brother Teodoro Garberoglio (1871 - 1954)

Brother Gregorio Buhl (1896 - 1973)

Brother Alpert Motch (1849 - 1898)

Brother Adlophe Chatillon (1871 - 1929)

Brother Juan Fromental Cayroche (1895 - 1978)

Brother Nymphas - Victorian Arnaud (1885 - 1966)

Brother Andres Hibernon (1880 - 1969)

Brother Adolfo Lanzuela (1894 - 1976)



Signum Fidei is the motto and official Seal of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Signum Fidei is Latin for “Sign of Faith”.



Relics of John Baptist De La Salle in the Casa Generaliza in Rome, Italy.

SAINT JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE (1651 - 1719)



Founder of the Institute of the brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers), Patron of Christian teachers, Educational Reformer and Father of Modern Pedagogy.

John Baptist De La Salle was born into a world that was very different from our own. He was the first son of wealthy parents living in France over 300 years ago. Born at Rheims, John Baptist De La Salle received the tonsure at the age of eleven and became canon of the Rheims Cathedral at sixteen. Though he had to assume the administration of family affairs after his parents died, he completed his theological studies and was ordained a priest on April 9, 1678. Two years later he received a doctorate in theology. Meanwhile he became tentatively involved with a group of rough and barely literate young men in order to establish schools for poor boys.

At that time, a few people lived in luxury, but most of the people were extremely poor peasants in the country, and slum dwellers in the towns. Only a few could send their children to school; most children had little hope for the future. Moved by the plight of the poor who seemed so "far from salvation" either in this world or the next, he was determined to put his own talents and advanced education at the service of the children "often left to themselves and badly brought up." To be more effective, he abandoned his home, moved in with the teachers, renounced his position as Canon and his wealth, and formed the community that came to be known as the Brothers of the Christian schools".

His enterprise met opposition from the ecclesiastical authorities who resisted the creation of a new form of religious life and a community of consecrated laymen to conduct gratuitous schools “together and by association.” The educational establishment resented his innovative methods and his insistence on gratuity for all, regardless of whether they could afford to pay or not. Nevertheless, De La Salle and his Brothers succeeded in creating a network of quality schools throughout France that featured instruction in the vernacular. Students were grouped according to their ability and achievements. Integration of religious instruction with secular subjects, well-prepared teachers with a sense of vocation and mission, and the involvement of parents were at the core of the new enterprise. In addition, De La Salle pioneered programs for training lay teachers, Sunday courses for working young men, and founded one of the first institutions in France for the care of delinquents. Worn out by austerities and exhausting labours, he died at Saint Yon near Rouen early in 1719 on Good Friday, only weeks before his sixty-eighth birthday.

John Baptist De La Salle was a pioneer in founding training colleges for teachers, reform schools for delinquents, technical schools and secondary schools for modern languages, arts, and sciences. His work quickly spread throughout France and, after his death, continued to spread across the globe. In 1900, John Baptist De La Salle was declared a Saint. In 1950, because of his life and inspirational writings, he was made “Patron Saint” of all those who work in the field of education. John Baptist De La Salle inspired others to teach and care for young people, to meet failure and frailty with compassion, to affirm, strengthen and heal. Presently, there are De La Salle Institutions in 80 different countries around the globe.

Born at Rheims, France, April 30, 1651

Ordained a priest on April 9, 1678

Died on April 7, 1719

Beatified on February 19, 1888

Canonized on May 24, 1900

Proclaimed Patron of Christian Teachers on May 15, 1950

LASALLIAN PRAYERS

PRAYERS FOR LASALLIAN VOCATIONS

(For the use of Monthly Novena)

DAY : 1

Eternal God, bless our Institute with holy and faithful Lasallian brothers and sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as vowed religious in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that, in him, with him and through him, we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, and always be faithful to the Lasallian mission entrusted to all of us. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY: 2

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call many members of the Church to be generous workers for your people and to gather in your harvest. Send them to share the Good News of Jesus with all the people on earth. Father, we ask this prayer Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAY : 3

Lord Jesus, you chose the apostles to propagate the faith and establish your holy Church in the world. We earnestly beseech you to bless our Institute with many more Lasallian brothers and sisters who will love you with their whole strength and will gladly spend their entire lives in making you known and loved by all men. Amen.

DAY: 4

O God, you sent your Son, Jesus, to bring eternal life to those who believe in Him. We join Him in praying for laborers for your harvest. May your holy Spirit inspire men and women to continue his mission through religious life and lay ministry. May this same Spirit make known your will to every one of us. This we ask through Christ our Brother. Amen.

DAY: 5

Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world, we humbly beg of you to revive in your Church that Spirit which you did so abundantly bestow on the Apostles. Call, we pray you, very many to be the witnesses of the Lasallian mission in the world. May the zeal for your glory and the salvation of souls inflame those whom you have chosen. May they be saints in your likeness, and may your Spirit strengthen them. O Jesus, give us more Lasallians after your own Heart! Amen.

DAY: 6

Lord, in your love for your people, you provide inspired men and women as shepherds for your people, and you call them to leave all things to serve you joyfully. May those whom you have chosen as servants and ministers of the Gospel, show forth dedication and compassion. May they provide, by their way of life, a convincing sign of your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world. Amen

DAY: 7

Almighty and eternal God, in your unfailing love, you provide ministers for your Church. We pray for those whom you call to serve the Church as religious. Inspire in them a generous response. Grant them courage and vision to serve your people. May their lives and service call your people to respond to the presence of your Spirit among us. Being faithful to the Gospel and hope of Jesus the Christ, may they announce glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, set prisoners free and renew the face of the earth. This we ask through Christ our Lord Amen.

DAY: 8

O God, Father of all mercies, provider of a bountiful harvest, send your graces upon those you have called to gather the fruits of your labor. Preserve and strengthen them in their lifelong service of you. Open the hearts of your children that they may discern your holy will; inspire in them a love and desire to surrender themselves to serving others in the name of your son, Jesus Christ. Teach all your faithful to follow their respective paths in life, guided by your divine word and truth. Through the intercession of the most Blessed Virgin Mary, all the angels, and saints, humbly hear our prayers and grant your Church's needs, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DAY: 9

Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, give to our young people the generosity necessary to follow your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give to parents, that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God's service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to serve you. May your example and that of your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let your grace sustain them. Amen.

LASALLIAN PRAYER TO MOTHER MARY

Oh Holy Mary my Sovereign Queen, I humbly commend my soul and body to you and to your special protection, now, everyday of me life and at the hour of my death. To you I commit all my hopes and consolation, to you I fly in all my wretchedness

and trouble, To you I entrust my life and the end thereof, so that through your holy intercessions and through your merits, all my actions may be directed and disposed according to your will and that of your Divine Son. Amen.

LASALLIAN PRAYER TO THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Help us to be Brothers who are visible signs of hope, as Your Holy Presence enlivens our world today. Give us compassionate hearts as we face those Brothers and Sisters who experience the challenges of human Poverty. Inspire us in word and deed when we meet those who are alone and vulnerable. Make us welcoming and available persons to all those who feel excluded and depressed. May your church on earth be a true community of truth and love, the symbol of freedom and justice, so that all people may find in it abundant reasons for faith, hope and love.

May we, Brothers of the Christian Schools be genuine ambassadors and ministers of your Gospel to all those entrusted to our care.

We ask all these things, Oh loving God of the Universe, in the name of Jesus our Brother, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and with the intercession of Saint John Baptist De La Salle and all our saintly Brothers. Amen.

LASALLIAN PRAYER

O God, who for the Christian education of the poor and for the preservation of youth in the way of truth, did raise up St. John Baptist, Confessor, and did form by him a new religious family in the Church, mercifully grant that, through his intercession and example, we may be animated with zeal for your glory in saving souls, and merit to share his crown in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF A LASALLIAN TEACHER

This prayer echoes the spirituality of St. John Baptist De La Salle, who was proclaimed by the Catholic Church on May 15, 1950, to be the Patron Saint of Teachers.

You, O Lord, are my strength, my patience, my light, and my counsel. It is you who touch the hearts of the children entrusted to my care. Abandon me not to myself for one moment.

For my own guidance and that of my students, grant me the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and piety, the spirit of a holy fear of you and an ardent zeal to procure your glory.

I unite my efforts to those of Jesus Christ, and I beg the Most Blessed Virgin, Saint Joseph, the Guardian Angels and Saint John Baptist De La Salle to protect me this day in the performance of my duties. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

The Entrance Procession and Song

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All : Amen.

Greeting

C : The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with You all.

All : And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

C : Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. (a brief silence)

All : I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (and, striking their breast, they say:) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault, therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God

C : May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All : Amen.

C : Lord, have mercy.

All : Lord, have mercy.

C : Christ, have mercy.

All : Christ, have mercy.

C : Lord, have mercy.

All : Lord, have mercy.

THE HYMN "GLORIA"

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore You, We glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

The Responsorial Psalm

The Second Reading (When prescribed).

The Acclamation before the Gospel

The Gospel

The Homily

The Profession of Faith (when prescribed)

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, (At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

The offertory procession and song Presenting the bread:

C : Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All : Blessed be God for ever.

Presenting the Chalice:

C : Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, It will become our spiritual drink.

All : Blessed be God for ever.

C : Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All : May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands / for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER - II

C : The Lord be with you.

All : And with your spirit.

C : Lift up your hearts

All : We lift them up to the Lord.

C : Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All** : It is right and just.

C : It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, your Word through whom you made all things, whom you sent as our Saviour and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the Resurrection. And so, with the Angels and all the Saints we declare your glory, as with one voice we acclaim:

All : Holy, Holy, Holy....

C : You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

CC : Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, So that they may become for us the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: **TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying: **TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

C : The mystery of faith.

All : **A** – We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and Profess Your Resurrection until you come again.

B – When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.]

C – Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.

CC : Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks

that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you. Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

C1 : Remember, Lord, Your Church, Spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N.our Pope and N.Our Bishop and all the clergy.

In Masses for the Dead, The following may be added : Remember your servant N., Whom you have called (today) from this world to yourself. Grant that he (she) who was united with your Son in a death like his, may also be one with him in his Resurrection.

C2 : Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

CC : Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All : Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C : At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All : Our Father, who art in heaven, / hallowed be thy name; / thy Kingdom come, / thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, / Give us this day our daily bread, / and forgive us our trespasses, / as we forgive those who trespass against us; / and lead us not into temptation, / but deliver us from evil.

C : Deliver us, Lord, We Pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All : For the kingdom / the power and the glory are yours / now and for ever.

THE RITE OF PEACE

C : Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will who live and reign for ever and ever.

All : Amen.

C : The peace of the lord be with you always.

All : And with your spirit.

C : Then the deacon (or the priest) adds: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All : Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The Priest, with hands joined, says the following prayer in a low voice:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood, Lord Jesus Christ, not bring me to judgement and condemnation, but through your loving mercy be for me protection in mind and body and a healing remedy.

The Priest genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice, says:

C : Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All : Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE DISMISSAL

C : The Lord be with you.

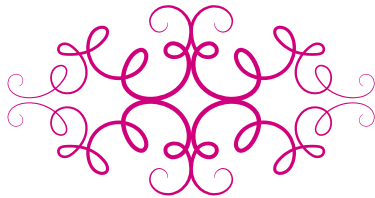
All : And with your Spirit.

C : May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All : Amen.

C : Go forth, the Mass is ended.

All : Thanks be to God.



THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

OPENING PRAYER

First, make the sign of the Cross. Touch the forehead, then chest, then left Shoulder, then the right shoulder, whilesaying:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Recite this opening prayer once:

You expired, O Jesus but the Source of life gushed forth for souls and the Ocean of Mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

Recite the following prayer three times:

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in you.

Then recite one Our Father, one Hail Mary and the Apostles' Creed:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, The Father Almighty Creator of heaven and earth. I Believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under

Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE DECADES OF THE CHAPLET

After the Opening prayers, the next prayers are said in sets of ten, called 'decades' A set of five decades is called a 'Chaplet'. The Prayers are said using ordinary Rosary beads.

On the single large bead (before each set of ten smaller beads) recite:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

Then, on each of the ten smaller beads, recite:

For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Alternate version of this prayer:

For the sake of Jesus Christ's sorrowful Passion and death on the Cross, have mercy on us and on the whole world.)

After each set of ten prayers, many persons add:

O Blood And Water, Which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you.

Repeat the above set of prayers, called a decade, five times to complete one Divine Mercy Chaplet.

CLOSING PRAYERS

Recite the following prayer three times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal one, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Then recite this closing prayer:

Eternal God, your Mercy is endless, and Your treasury of compassion is inexhaustible. Look with kindness upon us and increase Your Mercy within us, so that, in difficult moments, we may not despair, nor become despondent, but may, with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your Holy Will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

Finally, make the sign of the Cross again:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE LASALLIAN HOLY ROSARY SIX DECADES



"How fortunate you are to have for your purpose to teach children their religion and to do so by teaching them catechism every day! One of the best means you can use to succeed in your work is to have a very special devotion to the Most Blessed Virgin and to communicate this devotion to the hearts of those entrusted to you. Do you recite the rosary every day? Do you lead your students to do the same?"

With what piety do you recite it and have them recite it? Do you offer this prayer as a tribute that we in our Institute pay to the Most Blessed Virgin and as a powerful way to draw down her help and protection on our Institute and on your work?"

- ST. JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE [MEDITATIONS 150.3]

St. La Salle was famed as the "priest of the rosary". He used to refer to himself proudly as the Servant of Mary. His devotion was warm and heartfelt: "Through the Most Blessed Virgin, he obtained abundant graces. He threw himself into Mary's arms on every occasion, as a child into the arms of its Mother. As is well known, the present form of the Six Decade rosary is credited to St. Dominic and then St. Bridget of Ireland developed it still more.

We know that La Salle had the six-decade rosary recited, sometimes known as Saint Bridget's rosary and also the Crown of Our Lady. This Crown of Our Lady, ascribed to Saint John Capistrano, has a total of 63 Hail Marys intending to honour the supposed sixty-three years of Mary's life on earth.

After 1600, as we approached the lifetime of John Baptist de La Salle is mentioned as using and spreading devotion to the six-decade rosary rather than the more common five-decade one. Certainly the six-decade rosary was widely used in various religious orders in seventeenth and eighteenth century France. Therefore, La Salle was in no way unique when he prescribed the use of the six-decade rosary for his first Brothers as well as the pupils in the Christian schools. The custom was begun by Olier at the Society of St. Sulpice, which was attended by Jean Baptiste de La Salle. The Sulpicians honoured six "aspects" (not "mysteries" as such) of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with a decade representing each aspect.

The official rosary of the Christian Brothers consists of six decades of beads, not the usual five. With the Church we pray the Glorious, Luminous, Sorrowful and Joyful mysteries and we Brothers add a sixth decade, inspired by De La Salle, to honour the Immaculate Conception, to pray for the Church, the Pope, for good vocations, for all our Brothers living here and in heaven.

The rosary is prayed the same as the Common Way of Praying the Rosary, only using these mysteries:

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

(Monday and Saturday)

1. The Annunciation:

And angel said to her, "Do not fear, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus. (Lk 1:30-31)

2. The Visitation:

And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Lk 1: 41)

3. The Birth of Jesus:

And while they were there, time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the inn. (Lk 2:6-7)

4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple:

And when time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (Lk 2:22)

5. Finding Jesus in the temple:

And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not

understand the saying which he spoke to them. (Lk 2:49- 50)

6th Lasallian Mystery:

The Immaculate Conception.

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

(Thursday)

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan:

When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from water, and behold, heavens were opened, and [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove alighting on him. (Mt 3:16)

2. The Miracle at the wedding of Cana:

This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory; and his disciples believed in him. (Jn 2:11)

3. Jesus proclaims the Kingdom of God:

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God and saying "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:14)

4. The Transfiguration of Jesus:

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light, (Mt 17:2)

5. Institution of the Eucharist:

While they were waiting, Jesus took bread and said the blessing, broke it and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf for the forgiveness of sins." (Mt 26: 17-35)

6th Lasallian Mystery:

To pray for the Church and the Pope.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

(Tuesday and Friday)

1. Jesus' Agony in the Garden:

Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me (Mt 26:38).

2. Jesus is Scourged:

They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barrabbas!" Now Barrabbas was a robber, Then Pilate took Jesus and Scourged him. (Jn 18:40, 19:1)

3. Jesus is Crowned with Thorns:

And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. (M 27:29b-30)

4. Jesus Carries His Cross:

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross to the place called the place of the skull, which is called in Hebrew Golgotha. (Jn 19:17)

5. Jesus Dies on the Cross:

And when they came to the place which is called The skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Lk 23:32-33)

6th Lasallian Mystery:

For good vocations

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

(Wednesday and Sunday)

1. The Resurrection of Jesus:

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. (Mt 28:5-6)

2. The Ascension of Jesus:

Then he led them as far as Bethany, raised his hands and blessed them. As he blessed them, he departed from them and was taken up heaven. (Lk 44-53)

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit:

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim. (Acts 2:1-13)

4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven:

A great sign appeared in the sky, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars (Rev 12:1-6)

5. Mary is Crowned Queen of Heaven:

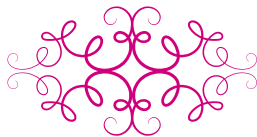
My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low state of his handmaide. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. (Lk 1:46-48)

6th Lasallian Mystery:

For the brothers here on earth and those who have died

After each decade may be said the Fatima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy. Amen.



THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Lord have mercy,

℟ Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy,

℟ Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy,

℟ Lord have mercy.

Christ hear us,

℟ Christ hear us.

Christ graciously hear us,

℟ Christ graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven,

℟ have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

℟ have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

℟ have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God,

℟ have mercy on us.

Holy Mary,

℟ pray for us.

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Mother of Christ,

Mother of the Church,

Mother of mercy,

Mother of divine grace,

Mother of hope

Mother most pure,

Mother most chaste,

Mother inviolate,

Mother undefiled,

Mother most amiable,

Mother admirable,

Mother of good counsel,

Mother of our Creator,

Mother of our Saviour,

Mother of mercy,

Virgin most prudent,

Virgin most venerable,

Virgin most renowned,

Virgin most powerful,

Virgin most merciful,

Virgin most faithful,

Mirror of justice,

Seat of wisdom,

Cause of our joy,

Spiritual vessel,

Vessel of honour,

Singular vessel of devotion,

Mystical rose,

Tower of David,

Tower of ivory,

House of gold,

Ark of the covenant,

Gate of heaven,

Morning star,

Health of the sick,

Refuge of sinners,

Solace of migrants,

Comfort of the afflicted,
 Help of Christians,
 Queen of Angels,
 Queen of Patriarchs,
 Queen of Prophets,
 Queen of Apostles,
 Queen of Martyrs,
 Queen of Confessors,
 Queen of Virgins,
 Queen of all Saints,
 Queen conceived without original sin,
 Queen assumed into heaven,
 Queen of the most holy Rosary,
 Queen of families,
 Queen of peace.

Lamb of God, who takest
 away the sins of the world,
 ✠ spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest
 away the sins of the world,
 ✠ graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest
 away the sins of the world,
 ✠ have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

✠ That we may be made worthy of
 the promises of Christ.

Let us pray - Grant, we beseech thee, O
 Lord God, that we, your servants, may
 enjoy perpetual health of mind and body;
 and by the intercession of the Blessed
 Mary, ever Virgin, may be delivered from
 present sorrow, and obtain eternal joy.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SALVE, REGINA

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae;
 Vita, dulcedo et spes nostra salve.
 Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevae.
 Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
 in hac lacrimarum valle.
 Eia ergo, advocata nostra,
 illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.
 Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
 nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
 O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.



1

JAN

MONDAY

Before
Epiphany
WHITE

SOLEMNITY



MARY,
MOTHER OF GOD

The feast invites us to celebrate Mary's motherhood of Jesus and her part in the mystery of salvation.

The title, "Mother of God" dates back to third or fourth century, when in the Greek form, "theotokos" (God bearer) became the pivotal point of the Church's teaching about the incarnation against the heresy Nestorianism. The title was dogmatically adopted at the first council of Ephesus (431).

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27 ...*(please see appendix Page 444)*

Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6 and 8

℟ God, be gracious and bless us.

Second Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ...*(please see appendix Page 444)*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets: but in these last days he has spoken to us by a son.

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

℟ The New Year has just begun! The fullness of time has arrived! Let us join together in the proclamation of the Psalmist "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad to it". [Psalm 118:24]. The New Year has brought for us the Lord's promise, that he will let his face shine upon us and render us peace and prosperity in our precious lives. It is a great honour for humanity to meet God face to face. God presents to us the gift of his saving presence. Jesus is the face of God for us. Let us joyfully receive him with gratitude. Jesus, the human face of God is with us now. By shining his face upon us he gives us his unconditional love which washes away all of our iniquities and malice. Jesus the human face of God leads us to claim ourselves as his children and to cry out to him as "Abba" Father! How fortunate we are to have this privilege! Like Mother Mary we ponder over the goodness the Lord has bestowed upon us, preserve the good deeds the Lord has enabled us to do in our lives and help us to preserve them in the bottom of our hearts. We must constantly prove ourselves to be true heirs of her Son. Like Mary, we could say "yes" to his holy will and make him feel proud of us by fulfilling his will forever. "How right it was that she who was destined to form a man-God should have been entirely the work of God himself and the most perfect of pure creatures. If Mary received an abundance of grace, it was to share it with all those who have recourse to her." [De La Salle -Meditations for Sundays and Feasts]

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 John 2:22-28

Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, ...*(please see appendix Page 444)*

Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

✠ *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The word became flesh and dwelt among us to all who received him he gave power to become children of God.

Gospel: John 1:19-28

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

✠ Emmanuel, the Lord is with us. God wishes to encounter us in all the walks of our lives as an ordinary human being. Whoever has the purity of heart can easily recognize him and put their whole being under his care. John the Baptist, the voice of the wilderness, stresses that we need to convert our hearts to receive His encounter in our daily lives. Every day his voice echoes into the dryness of our hearts when he tells us that repentance is the only means to reach him, the only way our dry hearts can be filled with the water of life. God wishes to make his home in the humble and contrite heart. Let us faithfully turn ourselves towards Christ who can wipe away the inordinate barriers which are blocking our welcome of him. He can cleanse all our evils away by the spirit of fire and enhance our path straight towards him. So, we repent and acknowledge that the kingdom of God is near at hand. "We seek to please God who is the only one in whom we are to find all our pleasure and all our satisfaction. In fact, we have our being, movement and life only because God is in us and communicates them to us. So that if God were to cease for one moment to be within us or failed to give us being, we would instantly fall into nothingness". [De La Salle - Mental Prayer]

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



Before
Epiphany
WHITE



St. Basil was born at Caesarea in Asia Minor (modern Turkey).

He comes from a remarkable holy family, for the church honours as saints his parents, brothers and sisters. He is also the father of eastern monasticism. He fought against Arian heresy. His guidelines in the form of community living, liturgical prayer and manual labour is practised worldwide in the seminaries and monasteries.

He was born into a family of saints in Cappadocia. Because of his profound knowledge of the scripture, outstanding eloquence and teaching, was called 'the theologian'. By his great sanctity, learning and eloquence, he brought about a genuine rebirth of the true faith.



Before
Epiphany
WHITE



**HOLY NAME OF
JESUS**

The Most Holy Name of Jesus. The Church reveals to us the wonders of the Incarnate Word by singing the glories of His name. The name of Jesus means Savior; it had been shown in a dream to Joseph together with its meaning and to Our Lady at the annunciation by the Archangel Gabriel.

First Reading: 1 John 2:29-3:6

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who does right has been born of him. See what love the Father has given us, ...*(please see appendix Page 444)*

Psalm 98: 1, 3cd-4, 5-6

℟ All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, The word became flesh and dwelt among us to all who received him he gave power to become children of God.

Gospel: John 1:29-34

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit'. And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God!"

℟ John the Baptist reveals the identity of Jesus by declaring that he is the Lamb of God who comes to take away the sins of the world. He testifies without doubt that Jesus is the son of God when he witnesses the unusual sign of the spirit of the Lord descending from heaven like a dove upon him. Unlike John the Baptist, Jesus had the authority to perform Baptism with the power of the Holy Spirit. Here the name of Jesus is glorified and God's mighty deeds for humanity are proclaimed by John. By baptizing Jesus Christ, the meaning of his name the "Saviour, the Anointed One" is ensured. Jesus comes to us to purify our entire being with water and the Spirit, in order to restore us back to being true heirs of God. Whoever receive him into their hearts and verbally declare that he is the Messiah will gain eternal life. When John encountered Jesus at the River Jordan, he didn't make much of the fact that he was preparing the path for Jesus. He actually humbled himself before him and made himself invisible in order to increase the holy name of Jesus. Like John the Baptist let us be humble before the Lord, procure his holy will in order to proclaim God's kingdom and strive always to glorify his name. "Jesus means Saviour. It was quite proper that, when Jesus began to suffer and to shed his blood for our sins, this name should be given him, the name so admirably suited to the ministry he had been assigned. Is it only in vain that you have the name of Christian and minister of Jesus Christ in the work you do?" [De La Salle - Meditation for Sundays and Feasts].

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 John 3:7-10 ...*(please see appendix Page 444)*

Psalms 98:1, 7-9ab, 9cd

✠ All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel Acclamation

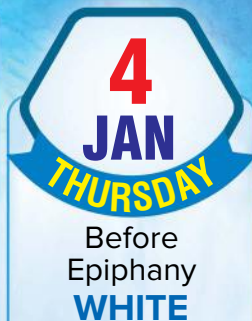
Alleluia, A hallowed day dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Gospel: John 1:35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

R Today St. John's Gospel speaks about the call of Christians to have personal encounters with Jesus. John the Baptist declared Jesus the Messiah. His disciples John and Andrew are strongly convinced by Jesus and follow him closely. When they encounter Jesus a short dialogue ensues. As the result of their meeting, they are given a special invitation to "come and see" his life. They remain with him the whole day. The joy of their experience in staying with Jesus leads them to introduce Simon to him. The three of them decide to accept Jesus as their source of eternal life and decide to follow him wholeheartedly. As Christians we are called to have our personal encounter with Jesus in our daily lives. To do this we have to open our minds and hearts to him with strong conviction. We have to make an effort to come closer to him and view his purpose clearly with clear sight. This is the process of our encounter with him. One could easily recognize the Lord's invitation to remain with him forever in this process. John the Baptist says that we have to be born again in Spirit to remain fully with Christ. The Spirit will make a home in our heart to enable him remain with us. "Detach yourself from creatures and love God alone. Whoever is attached to the world and its goods is not capable of receiving the Spirit of God. To receive the Spirit is to keep God's commandments faithfully and to strive to do his holy will in all things. Jesus assures us that our heavenly Father will give his Spirit to all who ask him." [De La Salle - Meditations for Sundays and Feasts]

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



Saint Elizabeth was a convert to Roman Catholicism. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity and established the first American Catholic orphanage. She is also the first person born in the United States to be canonized a saint by Pope Paul VI on 14 September, 1975. The virtues of St. Elizabeth are courage, temperance, faith, love and service to others. She is the patron saint of seafarers and widows.

5

JAN

FRIDAY

Before
Epiphany
WHITEJOHN
NEUMANN

(1811 - 1860)

BISHOP

St. John Neumann was a Catholic priest from Bohemia belonging to the Redemptorist order. While Bishop of Philadelphia, Neumann founded the first Catholic diocesan school system in the United States. He also introduced the School Sisters of Notre Dame to assist in religious instruction and staffing the orphanage. He is known for his holiness and promotor of parochial schools. He was canonized by Pope Paul VI on June 19, 1977.

First Reading: 1 John:3: 11-21 ...*(please see appendix Page 445)*

Psalm 100:1-2, 3,4,5

☩ *Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, A hallowed day dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Gospel: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth!" Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man!"

Ⓜ As usual, we do not take seriously the heavenly matters which are mysterious to our poor minds. We reluctantly accept certain spiritual aspects in our lives and very often we fail to be strongly convinced because they challenge us in our present situation. It becomes complicated for us to tackle difficult or bad situations in the manner we would like to. Here in today's Gospel reading there are two meetings taking place with Jesus. The first one is where Nathaniel meets Jesus. When he comes to hear about Jesus, he reluctantly accepts him as Messiah. He doesn't doubt the person of Jesus but he raises his eye brows when Nazareth the place where Jesus lived is mentioned. Nathaniel mistrusts this place Nazareth and is sure that nothing good will come out of it. When Jesus and Nathaniel meet face to face, Nathaniel changes his opinion of him. His conviction concerning the spiritual aspects of Jesus grow considerably. The result of their contact gives us a great message "**By being open to God's word, we come to know the truth**". The second one is when Nicodemus meets Jesus. This meeting outlines that the purpose of Jesus coming into the world was to save humanity a fact clearly declared by God the Father. Those who trust the son of God will obtain eternal life. Let us build our strong trust in Jesus Christ in order to see and understand the greater things in life and put them into practice so that we will attain life after death. "How good it is to give oneself to God! The Lord rewards us even in this life and fills with tangible consolations the soul that consecrates itself to him. The more you give to him, the more he will bless you." [De La Salle - Meditations for Sundays and Feasts.]

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 John 5:5-13

Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these three agree. If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in ...*(please see appendix Page 445)*

Psalms 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

℟ *O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A great prophet has risen among us. God has visited his people.

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit!" In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

℞ When we are desperate and left alone and have no one to turn to that would help us at the appropriate time, God is at hand and is there to give us assistance. Here in this Gospel reading, a man who lives in Bethzatha outside Jerusalem suffers from his illness for thirty-eight years. As he was unable to move around and make the necessary arrangement for his recovery, he loses all hope that he will ever be healed. Out of mercy, Jesus takes pity on the poor man and his condition and comes forward to heal him. When the sick man gets God's proper assistance he is healed. Jesus is a good healer who heals our sicknesses not by medicine but by our faith in him. By trusting in him he will cure any sort of illness even that which we may carry over a long period of time. Our weaknesses prevents us to genuinely take care of our sickness. We have to arrange all the necessary elements to be cured. When we are in need and ask for God's help he can heal our wounds in a mysterious way. The Gospel invites us to call on Jesus the healer, in times of trouble, and recognize his saving presence as he comes forward to assist us. Be a witness to proclaim loudly his good deeds.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



Before
Epiphany
WHITE



**ANDRÉ
BESSETTE**
1845 - 1937
RELIGIOUS

St. André Bessette was a lay brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross and was credited with thousands of reported miraculous oil healings associated with his pious devotion to Saint Joseph. On his many visits to the sick in their homes, he would heal them and recommend them in prayer to Saint Joseph. Pope Benedict XVI approved the decree of sainthood for Blessed André on 19 February 2010, and canonized him on 17 October 2010.



Epiphany of The Lord

White

Year B

Psalter Varies, End of Christmas Season

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midi-an and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

Rx All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgment to the king,
to a king's son your justice, that he,
may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgment. *Rx*

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the
Great River to earth's bounds. *Rx*

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts

shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings
shall fall prostrate,

all nations shall serve him. *Rx*

For he shall save the poor when they
cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak

and save the lives of the poor. *Rx*

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

For surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

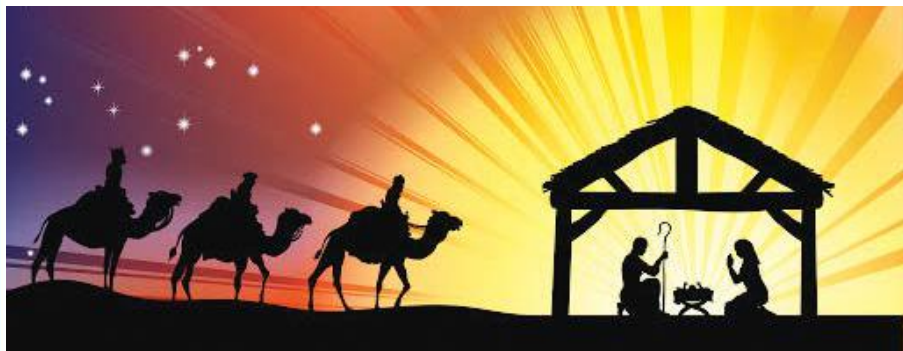
Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, We have seen his star in the East and have come to worship the Lord.

Sunday

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the ruler of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star has stopped, they were over-whelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



☞ Surprisingly, the entry of Jesus into the world is very ordinary. Though the Son of God has been the long expected king of Israel, he embraces simplicity and poverty during his entire life. These two dynamic virtues are central to the saving of humanity. St. John Baptist De La Salle reflects on these virtues as "The Magi proceeded to the poor village of Bethlehem to find there the king whom they were seeking. They entered the stable and found a little child wrapped in poor swaddling clothes in the company of his mother, Mary. At this sight how could the Magi not fear to have been deceived; are these the marks of a king? Asks St. Bernard where is his palace; his throne; his court? The stable is his palace; the crib serves as his throne and his court is the company of the Most Blessed Virgin and St. Joseph. This stable does not appear to them deserving of disdain; these poor swaddling clothes are not shocking in their eyes; they feel no disappointment to see a poor child being nursed by his mother." [Meditations on Sundays and Feasts]

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

8

JAN

MONDAY

1st Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE



**BAPTISM
OF THE LORD**

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end to the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. *...(please see appendix Page 445)*

Isaiah: 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)

✠ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Ⓜ Today the first reading tells us that Jesus came to us to give us abundant life and invites us to enter a life far better than we could ever imagine. God is the life giver and the creator of everything on this planet. He wishes to bestow his graces freely upon us. It is our choice whether we listen to him carefully or not. If we do we can receive the living source of eternal life. We are expected to consume what is good and healthy for our souls. We are raised up by him, by making a loving covenant with him, which shouldn't be broken. Our fidelity to the covenant can help us to find him in time of need. The second reading gives us a solid witness that Jesus is our Master. Through his act of receiving Baptism he becomes for us the way, the truth and the life. Baptism is a sacrament by which we are invited to be reborn in Christ with water and the Spirit. It calls us to strip off our old ways of sinful life and create a new and healthy spiritual life. This new way calls us to worship our Master in Spirit and Truth and to travel with him in order to reach the destination of eternal life.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:9-20

In those days: After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. ...*(please see appendix Page 445)*

Psalm 1 Samuel 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd

Rx My heart exults in the Lord, my Saviour.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Accept the word of God, not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

[In the city of Capernaum,] On the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

R God always lends his ears to the awful misery of his servant. Here in today's reading, Hannah expresses her deep anguish to the Lord for not being able to have a child even though she was married for a long period of time. She laments bitterly in the shrine of the Lord and prays for a son whom she promises to dedicate to God when the right time comes if he fulfills her plea. When we are in distress and we pray deeply God opens his heart and ears to listen to us. Our petition should be a right one and our intention should be honest. He alone can know our inner desires. Our unshaking trust in God will melt his heart and he will bestow immense blessings on us. God alone can raise up the poor from the dust. In the Gospel reading, Jesus is again revealed as the son of God who starts to preach a new message, one he teaches with authority. His teaching astonishes those who hear him. The unclean spirit obeys his order and declares him to be the Son of God whose words are life giving. If we listen, his teaching will heal our deep wounds. Those who listen to and believe in the word of the Lord will receive life after death.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



1st Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

FEAST



ADRIAN OF CANTERBURY
(635 - 710)
ABBOT

St. Adrian of Canterbury was African by birth, became a Benedictine monk and while still a young man, was made abbot of the monastery of Nerida. Outstanding for his learning, sanctity and virtues, he was offered the archbishopric of Canterbury but he considered himself unworthy and declined. He established schools to spread the education and to establish faith and to revive the church in England. He died on 9th January 710.

JULIAN AND BASILISSA

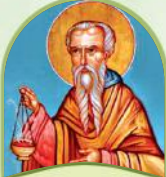
**10
JAN**

WEDNESDAY

1st Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**WILLIAM OF
BOURGES**

b. 12th Century- d.1209
CISTERCIAN BISHOP

St William of Bourges was the Archbishop of Bourges from 1200 until 1209. He was a descendant of the family of the ancient Counts of Nevers.

He had a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and loved to spend much of his time at the foot of the altar. Witnesses claimed that he performed eighteen miracles during his saintly life and that he performed another eighteen miracles after his death. He was canonized by pope Honorius on May 17, 1217.

**AGATHO
THAUMATURGUS**

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20

In those days: The boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun ...*(please see appendix Page 446)*

Psalm 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10

℟ See, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

At that time: Jesu left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening at sunset they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. And the whole city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is what I came for." And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

℟ God speaks to Samuel at the sundown, when there is a quiet atmosphere in the town and everyone sleeps peacefully. However God is alive and awake. He calls Samuel several times. After receiving proper guidance from his Master Eli Samuel finally recognizes the voice of the Lord. He is ready to listen to the Lord's voice by saying "Here I am, your servant is listening" and then God speaks to him clearly. God's intervention with us happens sometimes in an uncomprehensive manner. The noisiness and restlessness within us stand as a stumbling block preventing us from listening. We fail to recognize it by focusing our entire attention on the worldly matters which are enslaving us strongly and making us trust in inordinate attachments. We need to maintain silence within us for a while and sit quietly to listen to the voice of the Lord and note what it is telling to us today, at this moment in time. Though we are used to noises and distractions sometimes it can be very difficult to fill our hearts with silence. Remember that God speaks with us when our hearts are filled with silence. The inner silence opens the door of the soul and shuts the door of the outer world. When the door of the soul is opened, we can hear the voice of the Lord clearly and thus many of our wounds are healed and our sins cleansed and we can also see clearly what we are supposed to do.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 4:1-11

It happened that in those days, Israel went out to battle against the Philistines. They encamped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines encamped at Aphek. The Philistines drew up in line against Israel, and when the battle spread, Israel was defeated before the Philistines, who killed about four thousand men on the field of battle. And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said, "Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies." So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. *...(please see appendix Page 446)*

Psalms 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25

R: Redeem us, O Lord, with your merciful love!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Jesus was proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

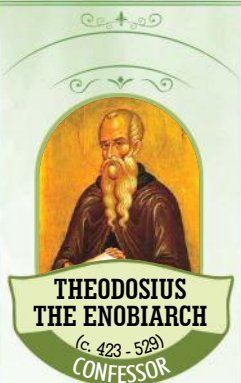
At that time: A leper came to Jesus, imploring him, and kneeling said to him, "If you will, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. And Jesus sternly charged him and sent him away at once, and said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, for a proof to them." But he went out and began to talk freely about it, and to spread the news, so that Jesus could no longer openly enter a town, but was out in desolate places, and people were coming to him from every quarter.

R In the first reading, the Ark of the Lord is misused by the warriors of Israel in the battle field to gain victory against the Philistines. As it is used only for their own profit and to prove their might against the Philistines, the presence of the Lord disappears from the ark and it becomes powerless to the Israelites. God brings down the pride of Israel when they suffer a terrible defeat. This incident tells us that we can't use God's name for our own benefit, and if we do, it won't give us any immediate help in our lives. God should approve our intention which should be worthy to his sight. In the Gospel reading, a leper comes to Jesus begging him to be cleansed. Jesus is moved by his situation, his isolation and exclusion. He acts with pity and cures his leprosy. In return the leper glorified Jesus in public, in order to express his gratitude. Let us place our entire trust in Jesus whenever we need to clean ourselves. Let Jesus firstly approve our wishes whatever they may be and then the healing wished for will take place in our lives. Don't forget to share your witness in public when you are healed.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



1st Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



St. Theodosius was the founder and organizer of the cenobitic way of monastic life. When he was younger, he felt a desire to imitate Abraham by leaving his parents, friends, relatives and everything else for the love of God. Theodosius formed a small community of monks near Bethlehem that became very well known for its work with the sick, elderly, and mentally impaired. While dwelling in the cave he performed great feats of asceticism.

12
JAN

FRIDAY

1st Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



**BERNARD OF
CORLEONE**

(1605 - 1667)

RELIGIOUS

St. Bernard of Corleone, O.F.M. Cap., whose name was Filippo Latino before becoming a friar. Bernard had a strong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and encouraged others in this devotion. His biographers claim that Mary appeared to him and placed Jesus, as an infant, in his arms. It is also claimed that she gave him knowledge of the day of his death four months in advance. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 10, 2001.

TARSIANA

First Reading: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a

In those days: All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to Judge us like all the nations." But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to Judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, ...*(please see appendix Page 447)*

Psalm 89:16-17, 18-19

℟ I will sign forever of your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A great prophet has arisen among us! and God has visited his people!

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ...*(please see appendix Page 447)*

℟ The Israelites refuse to accept God as their sole king and try to seek for themselves a new human king that can be seen and govern as is the situation in other nations. But the Prophet Samuel warns against their ungrateful desire. He tells them that their human king would use them for his own benefit, that they would be subservient to him as slaves and that their voices would not be heard any more. Unlike a human king, God is our Creator and Master who would never set a price for his good deeds. He never forsakes anyone and he takes care of everybody under his providential care. He always sets us free from the things that chain us tightly and make us captives in our daily lives. It is because of our blindness in seeing and doing the right things in the right way that we fail to realize his unconditional love. In the Gospel reading, the elders of Israel refused to accept Jesus as the Son of God. They questioned his good deeds by quoting the law. They criticized his authority over the forgiveness of sins and healing. Jesus had to prove himself as the Son of God by healing the paralytic man. He admires the trust of this very ordinary man who had strong trust in him, which was in stark contrast to the learned elders. Let the ordinary mind and heart accept with strong trust that God alone is our only Master, and is the only one who has authority over the cleansing of our sins and making us an image of himself.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1a

There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." And he passed through the hill country of Ephraim and passed through the land of Shalishah, ...*(please see appendix Page 447)*

Psalms 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

℟ In your strength, O Lord, the king rejoices.

Gospel Acclamation:

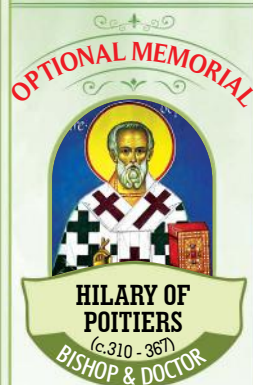
Alleluia, The Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Gospel: Mark 2:13-17

At that time: Jesus went out again beside the lake, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he reclined at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were reclining with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciple, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners!"

Ⓜ Though the Israelites refuse to accept God as their sole king and constantly appeal for a human king, God never forsakes their demand. He moves with pity and honestly listens to their voices. He selects Saul as their king and makes provision for him to be anointed by Samuel. God's unconditional love for his people is honestly revealed here. He is the Lord who hears his people's voices by fulfilling their appeals. In the Gospel reading, God sends his only Son Jesus, to be the eternal king of all nations. He anoints Jesus and sends him to mankind as the chosen one. He commissions him to save mankind from all sorts of evil. Jesus becomes the king of the ordinary people, those who are sinners, physically challenged, poor or sick. As a leader he acts completely differently to the way a worldly leader is supposed to act. His view of humanity is entirely different to that of the elite in his society. As a result his behaviour and deeds are questioned and criticized. However Jesus clearly states his purpose of coming to earth. No one can understand God's ways. His ways are completely different and beyond our expectation. Let us submit ourselves totally to God who is capable of hearing our voices and solving our problems with unconditional love and compassion.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



St. Hilary, also known as "Hammer of the Arians", fought against the Arian heresy. This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man and devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity. Raised as a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his God of nature in the Scriptures. He was declared as Doctor of the Church because of his intrepid defending of the faith.



2nd Sunday In Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

And Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.

Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)

℟ See, *I have come, Lord, to do your will.*

He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure. ℟

Happy are those who make the LORD their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods. ℟

Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
I delight to do your will, O my God. ℟

Your law is within my heart.
I have told the glad news of
deliverance in the great congregation. ℟

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love
and your faithfulness from the great congregation. ℟

Sunday

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body. .

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, we have found the Messiah, which means Christ; grace and truth came through him.

Gospel: John 1:35-42

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

® Every day, God knocks at the door of our heart until we open it. Our worldly attachment and our inclination towards temporary matters won't allow us to hear the sound of his knocking. Our egotistical attitudes blocks our minds from recognizing the voice of the Lord that always echoes within us. Today's reading invites us to be ready to hear God's knock within us just as Samuel did. We are asked to prepare our whole being for that. We are expected to shut the outer door of our being, in order to keep calm our inner part, where God wants to talk to us. When we feel his presence within us we say, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening". In order to experience God's presence in our midst, seeing and staying are the important acts. In the Gospel reading, John and Andrew come closer to Jesus and see him clearly as the Lamb of God. They construct a strong faith by bringing Jesus closed to them and by following him with clear sight. The invitation is given to them by Jesus to stay with him longer. Now they are able to experience Jesus' loving care and compassion. They become one with him. Let us see Jesus with clear sight as our Master, by coming closer to him in our daily lives. In order to experience his loving care and compassion let us open our hearts to him so that he will stay with us. When he stays with us, we make union with him, and that itself is a divine experience for us.

15
JAN

MONDAY

2nd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREENARNOLD
JANSSEN SVD(1837 - 1909)
PRIEST & FOUNDER

St. Arnold Janssen was a German Catholic priest who founded the Society of the Divine Word, SVD a Catholic missionary religious congregation. He also founded two Congregations for women; Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) and Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (SSpSAP). Being an ardent devotee of the Holy Spirit, he worked tirelessly to build a mission house during the time of Kulturkampf. He was canonized on 5 October 2003, by Pope John Paul II.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 15:16-23

In those days: Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! I will tell you what the LORD said to me this night." And he said to him, "Speak." And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. And the LORD sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against the them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?" And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction. ...*(please see appendix Page 448)*

Psalm 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23

℟. To one whose way is blameless, I will show the salvation of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Gospel: Mark 2:18-22

At that time: John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. And people came and said to Jesus, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in that day. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.

℟. Obeying God's voice is greater than giving a burnt offering to him. The word of the Lord is a life-giving source for us. Those who hear it and believe it with trust and will inherit eternal life. The purpose of our life is to do what God wants us to do. He speaks to us every day but it is our responsibility to receive into our hearts what he wants to tell us. He has plans that need to be executed by us, plans that are focused on the establishment of his kingdom in our midst. Prophet Samuel makes himself available to listen to what God wants to tell him. His readiness indicates to us that he is faithful when listening to God's word. As his humble servants it is our core duty to be alert in listening to our Master's word. We should learn and possess the art of listening which can lead us to the way of truth and show us what is necessary for life. Good listening purifies our soul and enables us to accept others whole heartedly as they are and see our society with an unblinkered eye.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. ...*(please see appendix Page 448)*

Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 27-28

℟️ I have found my servant David.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us.

Gospel: Mark 2:23-28

One Sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields, and as they made their way, his disciples began to pluck ears of corn. And the Pharisees were saying to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?" And he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."


℟️ King Saul becomes unsuccessful in ruling his kingdom. He becomes an incompetent ruler to his kingdom. His taste of power and position never allow him to give up his kingship to someone else. He rules his people in an unjust way. His weaknesses blind him to recognize the way he was appointed by God. He forgets his past. God now forsakes him and replaces David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem, to the position of king, in a secret act. God's choice is always different from the human choice which can be very difficult for us to understand. Unlike humans, God never looks at the outer appearance or the height or stature of a person. Instead he pierces through the heart of the person. He examined the heart of David and deemed that he would be a suitable king for the Israelites. In the Gospel reading, Jesus's view on the law of the Sabbath is different from the view of the elders at that time. They could not understand the way Jesus cares for the ordinary people. For them the fidelity to the law is more important than being human. The law does not allow them to see what is essential for the needy at a crucial moment. Jesus acts beyond the law and he gives much importance to what is necessary for the needy. God's deeds are always different. Let us submit ourselves to the hand of the Lord who is our Master and who knows all our needs. So let us look upon Jesus with steadfast love and hope.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

16
JAN
TUESDAY

2nd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

MEMORIAL (INDIA)



JOSEPH VAZ
(1651 - 1711)
CONFESSOR

St. Joseph Vaz was born on April 21, 1651 in Goa, India. As a priest in Sri Lanka, He disguised himself as a coolie wearing a loin cloth around his waist as part of his mission since no priest was allowed on the island. He built the first Church in Sri Lanka and dedicated it to Mother Mary. He was canonized on 14 January 2015 by Pope Francis. He is the first saint from Goa.

17
JAN

WEDNESDAY

2nd Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL

ANTHONY
THE GREAT(251-356)
ABBOT CONFESSOR

Saint Anthony is one of the Desert Fathers who was known for his powerful preaching and undying love and devotion to the poor and the sick. Though he himself did not create a monastery, a community grew around him based on his example of living an ascetic and isolated life. His intercession is sought in cases of epilepsy, pestilence and skin diseases. He is revered as Patron Saint of hospital workers, butchers and basket makers.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51

In those days: David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him. Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!" Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. ...*(please see appendix Page 448)*

Psalms 144:1, 2, 9-10*Rx* **Blest be the Lord, my rock.****Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Jesus was proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Gospel: Mark 3:1-6

At that time: Jesus entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. And he looked round at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out, and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

R God reveals his mighty deed through David, a Shepard boy, who kills Goliath, chief commander of the Philistine army. Poor little David faces the hardest challenge in his life but he has an unshakable trust in the Lord before facing his trial. God intervenes and helps David defeat the giant of a man standing before him. This event shows that with the help of the Lord everything is possible for the human. God is omnipotent. Everything has to bow down before him because he is the author of all in the universe. Like David, let us place our steadfast trust upon the Lord who is the author of our lives. We often face massive troubles and trials in life which weaken our spirit to conquer them. Trust in the Lord who is our only rescue, and permit God's mighty deeds to act in our daily lives. "Always remember these words, "The just by faith" [Rom 1:17]. Let your first care be to act by the spirit of faith and not by caprice, inclination, or whim. Do not let yourself be governed by human customs or those of the world. Or by mere reason, but solely by faith and the words of Jesus Christ, making these the rule of conduct." [De La Salle - Collection]

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7

In those days: When David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with songs of joy, and with musical instruments. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands." And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the Kingdom?" And Saul kept an eye on David from that day on. And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David. ...*(please see appendix Page 449)*

Psalms 56:2-3, 9-10ab, 10c-11, 12-13

Rx In God I trust; I shall not fear.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel: Mark 3:7-12

At that time: Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the sea, and a great crowd followed from Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from around Tyre and Sidon. When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him. And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God!" And he strictly ordered them not to make him known.

R No one can keep down someone's talent. Sooner or later it will be recognized and cherished in public. Being jealous of a person because they are famous is not at all a healthy. Power and position are only temporary. No one can possess them eternally. In the first reading David's talent is recognized and cherished in public before King Saul. Saul gets annoyed when David is highly praised and acclaimed by his own subjects. He doesn't like David's popularity and tries to crush him because he is jealous of him. Saul fails to realize his own inadequacy and fails to realize that it is his destiny that one day he too will have to step down from his throne. In the Gospel reading, Jesus is getting popular among the ordinary people. The people from different parts of the country assemble before him. However this popularity doesn't change his mind-set or cause him to become possessive. He purposely does not take the praise of people to heart. He is clear about the purpose of his coming into the world and he keeps his focus on that. Let us try to be simple and ordinary. Do not long for popularity because it won't give you eternal peace and joy. Do not be jealous of someone's growth, power or position because it will destroy your spiritual growth. Be mindful of fulfilling the will of God.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

18 JAN

THURSDAY

2nd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



**MARGARET OF
HUNGARY**
(1242 - 1271)
VIRGIN

St. Margaret was a Dominican nun and the daughter of king Bela IV of Hungary.

According to the history, Margaret chastised herself from early childhood, wore an iron girdle and shoes spiked with nails. She performed simple tasks in the monastery. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII on November 19, 1943.

19

JAN

FRIDAY

2nd Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



CANUTE IV

(c. 1042 – 1086)

KING & MARTYR

St. Canute was born in Denmark in 1043.

He was deeply a spiritual man, frugal and austere in his habits. As a king, he worked for the welfare of all and propagation of the faith. In temporal matters, Canute attempted just administrative reforms. On 10th July 1086, Canute was slewed during mass by the rebellions, at the foot of altar with arms outstretched. He was canonized by Pope Paschal II on 19th April 1101.

First Reading: 1 Samuel 24:2-20

In those days: Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the wild goats' Rocks. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, ...*(please see appendix Page 449)*

Psalm 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11

℟ *Have mercy on me, God, have mercy.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Gospel: Mark 3:13-19

At that time: Jesus went up on the mountain and called to him those whom he desired, and they came to him. And he appointed twelve (whom he also named apostles) so that they might be with him, and he might send them out to preach and have authority to cast out demons. He appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder); Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Ⓜ People sometimes criticize, blame us unnecessarily or create trouble for us even though there is no valid reason for doing this. Sometimes people with strong negative attitudes, work against us to destroy our gradual growth in life. When we learn that such wrong things are being done to us by the people that are closest to us we become very depressed, so much so, that it leads us to ask the question, "why". Why inflict these evil and unfair deeds upon us. Very often we are unable to deal adequately with these intolerable occurrences. The people that act in this manner are jealous of the fact that we are getting on well in life, they become very irritated and subsequently act negatively towards us. People that act in this manner, sometimes secretly, have a psychological problem and very often pose a real challenge to us. When we come across such people in our life, we should understand their illness or problem and try to ignore them as best we can. We should be positive and develop a strong conviction, that no matter what they do to us, they will never hinder the growth that constantly takes place in our lives. Counter action or revenge is definitely not the answer. Here in this reading, Saul acts very strongly against David. One could say that he abuses his power to crush David. Although maligned by Saul, David acts in a mature manner and faces all the challenges posed positively. Finally, Saul loses his throne and, David becomes king and he flourishes because he puts himself in the arms of the Lord.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27

In those days: After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." And David said to him "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening of Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. [And David said:] "Your glory, *...(please see appendix Page 450)*

Psalms 80:2-3, 5-7

℟️ *Let your face shine on us, Lord, and we shall be saved.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Gospel: Mark 3:20-21

At that time: Jesus went home with his disciples, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind!"

℟️ In the first reading the love and reverence of the Lord's chosen one is revealed by the acts of David especially the fact that he mourned the death of Saul. Even though Saul hated David and sought various means to crush him, he was highly respected by David as "the anointed One". God put Saul at the right hand of David. David did not inflict any harm on him because he trusted God's choice, He left everything in the hands of the Lord and gave high respect to Saul, even after his death. Sometimes we bitterly criticize and spread rumors against priests and religious. We use various means to spoil their names without verifying the truth. The chosen ones may be wrong in our sight but God's choice won't be wrong. We should trust and respect God's choices by showing patience and reverence. In the second reading Jesus is highly criticized by the elders of Israel as the agent of Beelzebub. They accused him of getting help from Beelzebub when performing miracles and good deeds. They spread false news about Jesus that he got power from the greatest demon to cast demons out. But Jesus doesn't argue with them about the criticism made by them. He simply enlightens their minds by raising a question "How can Satan cast out Satan? If Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come." Let us refresh our minds before we make any false judgement on others.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



2nd Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN / RED

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



SEBASTIAN & FABIAN

(d.c. 288)

MARTYR & POPE

St. Sebastian as an early Christian saint and martyr. King Diocletian tied to turn Sebastian from the faith of Christ. Sebastian was firm in his faith. The king ordered him to be tied to a post and pierced with arrows but he survived and later was scourged until he died.

St. Fabian was the Bishop of Rome from January 10, 236 to his death in 250. He is known for his miraculous nature of his election, in which a dove is said to have descended on his head to mark him as the Holy Spirit's unexpected choice to become the next Pope.



First Reading: John 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Psalms 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)

R. O Lord, make me know your ways.

Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long. *R.*

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD,
and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD! *R.*

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way. *R.*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel.

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.



R Today's first reading invites us to go back deeper to our inner self and quietly reflect on our past deeds, especially where we had done wrong against God. God wants us to change our way of life, especially if it is baseless and meaningless and more concerned with material things and all sorts of inordinate attachments. He wants us to prioritize our choices in life. He wishes that our union with the Holy Trinity be the topmost priority in our lives. God detests the sinful lives of the people of Nineveh. He sends his faithful servant Jonah to speak to them. The people listen to him and do what he tell them to do. He preaches austerity to them and asks them to fast and pray so that they will heal their corrupted lives that were not pleasing to God. Let us practice austerity for some time, examine our lives and renew ourselves totally so that we are in union with the Lord. God alone should be our top priority in life because we live, move and have our being from him. In the second reading St. Paul also proclaim to us that our old way of life should be discarded and we should embrace the new way of life that unites us with Jesus. In the gospel reading Jesus selects his disciples from ordinary men, to proclaim the new life, which is, "God is with us forever".

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

22

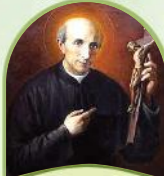
JAN

MONDAY

3rd Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



VINCENT PALLOTTI

(1795 - 1850)
PRIEST & FOUNDER

St. Vincent was born in Rome on 21 April 1795. He is the founder of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate (Pallottines) and the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate.

He established guilds for workers, agricultural schools, loan associations and orphanages and homes for girls. He had an intense devotion to Most Blessed Trinity and to the Virgin Mary. He is considered the forerunner of Catholic Action. He was canonized in 1963 by Pope John XXIII.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10

In those days: All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, "Behold, we are your bone and flesh. In times past, when Saul was king over us, it was you who led out and brought in Israel. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall be shepherd of my people Israel, and you shall be prince over Israel.'" ...*(please see appendix Page 450)*

Psalm 89:20, 21-22, 25-26

✠ *My mercy and my faithfulness shall be with him.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel: Mark 3:22-30

At that time: The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying. "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons." And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit!"

Ⓜ Good leadership is God's gift. A leader should have God's blessing while serving in his position. He must win over the hearts of those whom he leads. In today's first reading God selects David to be the shepherd of Israel. He receives God's blessing to lead his people. The tribes of Israel anoint David to be their ruler and he wins over their hearts. By God's grace and the support of the people he reigns successfully in Israel for 30 years. In the Gospel reading Jesus comes as the leader of Israel to deliver people from their sins and to establish the kingdom of God on earth. His ways and deeds are entirely different from the other leaders on earth. He declares himself to be the way, the truth and the light that will guide us to eternal life. His leadership is meant for heaven where one gets everlasting life. Although criticized and condemned by the elders of Israel because his ways are different from the law, he nevertheless gains the support of the ordinary people. Here, Jesus condemns the elders for criticizing the acts of the Holy Spirit. Parents are leaders of their families and they need to mould them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They may sometimes face criticism and oppositions from their own loved ones. At those crucial moments they should earnestly ask for God's blessing and have the courage to be the way, life and truth for their family.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 6: 12-15, 17-19

It was told King David, "The Lord has blessed the household of O'bed-e'dom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'bed-e'dom to the city of David with rejoicing; and when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. David danced before the Lord with all his might; David was girded with a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet. They brought in the ark of the Lord, and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it; and David offered burnt offerings and offerings of well-being before the Lord. *...(please see appendix Page 451)*

Psalm 24: 7, 8, 9, 10

℟ Who is the king of glory? It is the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Gospel: Mark 3:31-35

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you?" And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

℞ David brought the ark of the Lord from the house of Obed-Edom to Jerusalem. He shows his delight before the Lord for choosing him and appointing him King of Israel. He gives due respect and honour to the Lord by giving a burnt offering and peace offering and shares his joy with the people by distributing offerings to them. The passages ask us to give due respect and honor to the Lord who is our sole Master. He gives us the opportunity to do marvelous things with our lives. He has chosen us as his heirs and appointed us to build the kingdom of God in our midst. Let us rejoice and be glad that the Lord has become a part of us and that we can taste and see his goodness. No matter what position we hold, wealth and status shouldn't be a hindrance to us to give him due respect and honour. The Gospel reading asks us to accomplish the will of God for which we have been commissioned. Jesus here doesn't dishonour his mother and brethren who come to meet him. Instead Jesus refers to how they have developed a close relationship with the Lord. Let us make an effort to fulfill God's will so that we can develop a close union with Jesus, just like his mother and brethren did.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



3rd Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

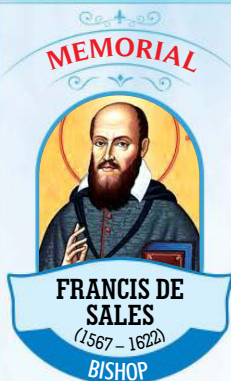


EMERENTIANA
(d. c. 304)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

St. Emerentiana was the foster sister of St. Agnes. A few days after Agnes' death, Emerentiana, who was a catechumen still learning about Christianity before being officially baptized, went to the tomb to pray and was suddenly attacked by the pagans, stoned to death by the crowd, thus receiving the baptism of blood. She is represented as a young girl who either has stones in her lap and lilies in her hand.



3rd Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE



St. Francis de Sales was born on 21 August 1567 in France. He was known for his deep faith and gentle approach to the religious divisions in his land resulting from the protestant reformation. In 1610, he founded The Order of Visitation. He is known for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction and spiritual formation, particularly the Introduction to the Devout Life and the Treatise on the Love of God.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4-17 ...*(please see appendix Page 451)*

Psalm 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30

✠ I will keep my faithfull Love for him always.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! You shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life.

Gospel: Mark 4:1-20

Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold!" And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, *... (please see appendix Page 451)*

Ⓜ God wants to dwell in a house. He speaks to Nathan and asks him to deliver his desire to his father, King David. Nathan reminds David of all the blessings God has bestowed on him, the fact that his good deeds helped form a nation, Israel, where everyone could live and flourish. It was not his plan for David to build a house for him. Instead God promised David that he would build him a house. God promises David that his steadfast love, would be always with Israel, and that he would keep them safe from all sorts of enemies. He makes a covenant with David that he would be a father to Israel and its people. The reading invites us to make a home for God within our hearts and permit Him to dwell in us. It is not an easy task for us. We need to prepare for it. We have to get rid of all the things which are enslaving us and keeping us apart from Him. When God becomes our topmost priority and is placed at the center of our hearts, we can indeed make our home for Him. In the Gospel reading, God expects us to prepare the ground where the seed of His word will be received nicely, will not be choked and will bear good and plentiful fruit. To prepare the ground for the seed of His word and bring it to maturity we have to clear away the unwanted aspects which are not pleasing to Him. Getting rid of inordinate attachments, observing sternly the virtues of simplicity, humility and poverty and placing Him first in our lives, would certainly be helpful for us, to receive his words joyfully, accept them faithfully and allow them to bear abundant fruit.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 22:3-16

In those days: Paul said to the people, "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed towards Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' ...*(please see appendix Page 452)*

Psalm 117:1, 2

✠ Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-18

At that time: [Appearing to the Eleven] Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents with their hands; and if they drink and deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

℞ Today the readings invite us to see the Lord's true light. They encourage us to develop clear sight, to believe the Lord with a steadfast spirit, accept Him as our Master and commit ourselves entirely to work for Him. St. Paul gives his testimony to us and gives us a clear picture of how his past life had been before he encountered Christ. Now the Lord has chosen him to be with Him forever, and see clearly the true light, in order to know the Lord's divine will, to see the just One and to hear his voice. By doing these he will be a witness for Christ to all men of all that he has seen and heard. As Christians, chosen by Jesus, and having the privilege to claim ourselves as His children, we are expected to receive new sight, to see the Lord clearly and enthusiastically work for him as Saint Paul did. When we show to others the Lord's good deeds happening in our own daily lives, we bear His true light for the salvation of ours and of others. We spread the Good News to all believers that the Lord is with us and that we should accept him with a steadfast spirit. As our Lord promised that they will cast out demons, speak in new tongues, pick up serpents and lay their hands upon the sick to be recovered. Let us go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation by our authentic life witness.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

**25
JAN**

THURSDAY

3rd Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

FEAST



**CONVERSION OF
ST. PAUL**

APOSTLE

St. Paul was born at Tarsus, of Jewish parents with the name Saul at the circumcision. He was an ardent follower of law and a violent persecutor of the Christians. While on the way to Damascus to arrest Christians, he was called to be the apostle to the gentiles. His call marked the new beginning of the church. Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out the message of the cross.

26
JAN

FRIDAY

3rd Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL

TIMOTHY
& TITUSc.32 – c.97 & c.2 – c.96
BISHOPS

Timothy and Titus were two of Paul's most faithful and loyal disciples and assistants in the mission. Timothy became the bishop of Ephesus and Titus for the church in Crete. Timothy worked with Paul and Silas and helped Paul found churches, notably in Corinth, Thessalonica, and Philippi. Titus was believed to have been sent to Jerusalem to gather reports on our Lord's miracles. Timothy is the patron of intestinal disorders and stomach.

REPUBLIC DAY
(India)**First Reading: 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17**

It happened that, in the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David send Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. And David sent and enquired about the woman. ...*(please see appendix Page 452)*

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 10-11

✠ *Have mercy, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries of the kingdom. .

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants, and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

✠ St. Paul gives a reminder to the people of the church leader Titus, who have been faithful in following Christ with clear conscience. He reminds them that sincere faith dwells in them. He enkindles in them the gift of God that is within them, through the laying of his hands upon them for God. He strengthens them to live with a spirit of power, love and self-control. He asks them to bear their suffering for the Gospel. This reminder is applicable for us too. We are assigned to follow Christ with a clear conscience. We have to strengthen the faith which strongly dwells in our hearts in order to bear the sufferings which engulf us, when we face issues that challenge our faith in Christ. Saint Paul reminds us to take these sufferings for the sake of the Gospel. We are asked to spread the kingdom of God like a farmer scattering seed in his cultivated field. Our daily life in Christ should be like a mature seed, one which can be scattered into hearts of those whoever come across it. The witness values that we attain by encountering Christ should be planted into the hearts of people to sprout and grow well, just like the banyan tree where multiple lives can joyfully make their shelter.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17

In those days: The LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds, but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. ...*(please see appendix Page 453)*

Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

✠ Create a pure heart for me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

℞ David commits sin against God and his most faithful servant Uriah the Hittite. He secretly takes away Uriah's wife for him and destroys Uriah on the battle field. So, he bitterly earns God's wrath. God sends Nathan to David to reveal his secret evil deed by narrating a story. David realizes his mistake and asks for pardon for it, God utters punishment for David's intolerable mistake. We sometimes make a sever blunder by plotting against someone without analyzing the pros and cons of it. When we act emotionally we are blinded in discerning what is true and right. Because of our strong egos and greediness, we fall into a pit that we may never be able to get out of. Nothing will save us then. Let us always stick to what is right and pay attention to the wisdom relating to this issue and abide by it. In the Gospel reading Jesus by his strong word calms the wind and roaring sea. When we face troubles and tribulations in our life, we should seek assistance from the Lord who is always with us and who bestows peace and calmness upon us. Let us trust Jesus during the time of our restlessness and hold him tightly without any fear.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

27
JAN
SATURDAY

3rd Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



ANGELA MERICI
(1474 - 1540)
VIRGIN

St. Thomas was a profound philosopher and theologian. He is also called as Angelic Doctor and Prince of Catholic theologians. He belonged to the Dominican Order. He was the foremost classical proponent of natural theology and the father of Thomism. He is noted for his famous book, Summa Theologiae. He also composed two famous hymns of the Church's liturgy i.e. Tantum Ergo and O Salutaris Hostia. Pope John XXII canonized him on 18 July 1323.



First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)

℟️ O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! *℟️*

O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand. *℟️*

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me, and put me to the proof,
though they had seen my work. *℟️*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; but the married man is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman and the virgin are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, so that they may be holy in body and spirit; but the married woman is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.



Ⓜ God's word is always dynamic, sharp and purposeful. He speaks to us in many ways to develop his loving relationship with us. We are asked to discern his words to us during the time of prayer and meditation. We have to open our minds to him and possess a strong courage to listen to him. In today's reading God raises up Prophets for Israel to speak on behalf of him. He puts his words in their mouths and commands them to speak these words to the people. It is their duty to speak not their own words but His words. God warns them if they speak his words in the name of other gods they will perish. In the Gospel reading, Jesus speaks with authority to the elders of Israel in the synagogue. The ordinary people are astonished at his way of speaking. In reality he speaks the words of his Father who puts the words into His mouth. His words are powerful and therefore silence the unclean spirits. His words are sharp when they demand the unclean spirit to come out from the possessed person. Let us act ourselves as the instrument of God who puts his words into our mouth to destroy the unwanted elements which are not pleasing to Him.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

29
JAN

MONDAY

4th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREENST. JOSEPH
FREINADEMETZ

(1852 - 1908)

St. Joseph or Fu Shenfu (Lucky Priest) was a diocesan priest who joined the Society of Divine Word to work at the frontier missions.

A true model of inculturation, he changed his lifestyle to that of a Chinese and dedicated his life to proclaim the gospel message of God's love for all peoples, and to embodying this love in the formation of Chinese Christian Communities.

Pope John Paul II canonised him on 5th October 2003

First Reading: 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13a ...*(please see appendix Page 453)*

Psalm 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

℟ *Arise, Lord, save me.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A great prophet has arisen among us, and God has visited his people.

Gospel: Mark 5:1-20

They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him. He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him anymore, even with a chain; for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him; and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me!" For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding; and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them." ...*(please see appendix Page 454)*

℟ Absalom, the son of King David stands against his father and mobilizes his own army to destroy his father. David expresses his grief and disappointment at his son's act and weeps over it. Shimei, the son of Gera when he reached Bahurim curses David continuously and throws stones at him for taking revenge on his own people. To retain our position and fame we try to take revenge on those who compete against us. Some times our own closest family turn against us because we do wrong things but this need not be permanent. Building up healthy relationships is essential for us if we are to have wellness and peace in life. In the Gospel reading Jesus casts away the unclean spirits from a man at Gerasene. Jesus heals him completely. Unfortunately Jesus is not accepted by the people of Gerasene because they fail to recognize him as the Son of God and he is requested to leave the town. We too sometimes fail to recognize the good deeds of the Lord in our lives. Very often we take them for granted, refuse to accept the unconditional love of Christ and fail to trust Him. We unknowingly push Jesus out of our hearts. Let us pray to Jesus to cleanse our gloomy hearts and by our trust and love let him come to dwell in us.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3

...(please see appendix Page 454)

Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

℟ Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ took our illnesses and bore our disease.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

At that time: When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about him, and he was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." And he went with him. And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my garments?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing around you, and yet you say, 'Who touched me?'" And he looked round to see who had done it. *...(please see appendix Page 454)*

℞ Absalom, King David's Son is slaughtered by the army of David. Absalom had a wrong perception on his father and turned against him. He is motivated by his bad companions and mobilizes his own army to destroy his father. However it is Absalom that is destroyed. David wept over the demise of his son. No one should turn against the authentic love of ones parents, a love that is always unconditional, secure, healthy and everlasting. Unfortunately in today's world we often see that parental unconditional love is misused and abused by sons and daughters. This is done out of selfishness and very often leads to enormous trouble in the family. Love should be cherished and should not be misused or abused for selfish motives. Good signs and miracles glorify God's wonderful deeds in our lives and confirm how strong our human faith is on our creator. Our steadfast faith works miracles for us and heals our entire being. Jesus performs miracles on two ladies. A woman with strong faith that suffers a hemorrhage touches Jesus's garment and is completely cured. She is highly praised for her strong faith. Jesus raises up a twelve year-old daughter of a synagogue ruler from death. Again, the miracle takes place because of the ruler's strong faith in Jesus. Let us trust in the Lord and experience miracles in our lives.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.



4th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

LASALLIAN SAINT



ST. MUTIEN-MARIE WIAUX
(1841-1917)
LA SALLE BROTHER

St. Mutien-Marie Wiaux was declared a saint on December 10, 1989. Born in Belgium in 1841, where his father was a blacksmith and his mother helped run a café, Louis Wiaux joined the De La Salle Brothers, took the name Bro. Mutien-Marie, and became a grade school music and art teacher. He spent 58 years at the same school. Hewas known and loved for his patience and religious spirit. Indeed, his reputation spread throughout Belgium. He died in 1917.

31

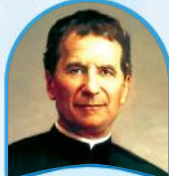
JAN

WEDNESDAY

4th Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



JOHN BOSCO

(1815 - 1888)

CONFESSOR

St. John Bosco, popularly known as Don Bosco, was an Italian Catholic priest, reformer and educator. He dedicated his life for the betterment of the street children, juvenile delinquents and other abandoned youth of his time.

He established night schools for the homeless children.

He founded the Salesian Fathers, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesian Brothers for the education of the youth. He was canonised by Pope Pius XI on April 1, 1934

First Reading: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17

So the king said to Joab and the commanders of the army, who were with him, "Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, and take a census of the people, so that I may know how many there are." Joab reported to the king the number of those who had been recorded: in Israel there were eight hundred thousand soldiers able to draw the sword, and those of Judah were five hundred thousand. But afterward, David was stricken to the heart because he had numbered the people. David said to the LORD, *...(please see appendix Page 455)*

Psalm 31:1-2, 5, 6, 7

R *Forgive, Lord, the guilt of my sin.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Your precepts, O Lord, are all of them sure; they stand firm for ever and ever.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

R The mistakes that we commit often create major problems for us and prove very costly because we do not realize the consequences they bring. Our foolish mistakes sometime change the whole setting of our life and destroys our beautiful relationship with our dearest and nearest. No matter how many times we ask pardon for our wrong doing or misdeed it does not wipe out the act, and leaves an incurable wound in our memories. We have to think twice before we leap! Here the chosen and anointed King David commits unbearable mistakes against his own people by misusing his power. He acts unjustly for his own selfish reasons. He is opposed by his people and God who crowned him King. Though David realizes his iniquities and begs pardon from God so that he can bring about change in himself, God never stops to send his punishment upon him. He pays a huge penalty for his wrong doing. In the Gospel, Jesus preaches the word of God in his own country town. Though his preaching has astonished the people in the synagogue, they don't accept Jesus as learned. They criticize him by pointing out his family background. Jesus marvels at their unbelief and feels sad that they dishonour him. Let us not judge the book by cover. Let us honestly cherish wisdom wherever and whomever it comes from.

Reflection: Br. JOHN XAVIER RAJA FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 King 2:1-4, 10-12

When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.' Then David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David. And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years. He reigned for seven years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of David his father, and his kingdom was firmly established.

1 Chronicles 29:10b, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd

✠ *O Lord, you rule over all.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The kingdom of God is at hand;repent and believe in the gospel.

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

At that time: Jesus called the twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts—but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, When you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

✠ We can understand from today's first reading that David who was not always true to the Lord, called Solomon, to walk faithfully before the Lord, to abide in Truth, and to ensure that his children did likewise. When parents know Christ personally and seek His forgiveness, they can turn away from their shortcomings, as David did. From the Gospel today Jesus gave his apostles both the power and the authority to speak and act in his name. He commanded them to do the works which he did, to heal the sick, to cast out evil spirits, and to speak the word of God, the good news of the Gospel which they received from Him. When Jesus spoke of power and authority, he did something unheard of. He wedded power and authority with self-sacrificing love and humility. The "world" and the "flesh" seek power for selfish gain. Jesus teaches us to use it for the good of our neighbour. What kind of authority and power does the Lord wanted you to exercise on his behalf?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



4th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



HENRY MORSE

(1595 - 1645)

MARTYR

Henry was born in 1595 at Brome in England. He was brought up in Protestant faith and later became Catholic. After becoming priest, he worked with plague victims catching the plague himself and was healed later. He was arrested and convicted for the crime of Catholicism. He was canonised on 25 October 1970 by Pope Paul VI, and was named as one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales.

2

FEB

FRIDAY

4th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

FEAST



PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

The feast is celebrated 40 days after Christmas. It came to be called as 'Candlemass' when in 8th century, Pope Sergius introduced the solemn procession of clergy and laity carrying blessed candles as a reminder of the light to the gentiles and entry of the son of God into the temple. The feast highlights the protective Joseph, faith of Simeon, prayerful fidelity of Anna and availability of Mary.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4 ...*(please see appendix Page 455)*

Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10

℟ The Lord of hosts, he is the king of Glory!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18 ...*(please see appendix Page 456)*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to ...*(please see appendix Page 456)*

℟ From Today's first reading, the prophecy goes on to warn that the coming Messiah will be a real challenge, he will be "like the refiner's fire". He will refine the sons of Levi, "refining them like gold or silver, that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord". For those who welcome his message and his call, Jesus is good news but for those who will reject his call it will mean death and the end of life. The Second Reading is from the Letter to Hebrews. It speaks of the meaning of God's Son coming to live among us as one of us, which, of course, is the theme of today's feast. For the Son of God came to share our flesh and blood and all that goes with it. It was in this way that he would "destroy the one who has power of death, that is, the devil". On the contrary, he has come to liberate "those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life". In order to do this, the Son "had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people". And, on the cross, Jesus will be both Priest and Victim, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The reading concludes thus, "because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested". All of this is fore shadowed in the warnings that Simeon gives to Mary about the sword of sorrow which will pierce her heart. The Gospel informs us that, "They took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord'." It was a standard among the Jews that the first son in a family was to be taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. There his parents would make an offering to the Lord to show that the child belonged to the Lord. At that point Simeon favored Joseph and Mary. He likewise disclosed to Mary a portion of the things the future would hold, for her child and for herself. He advised her of the significant things her child would accomplish, but he included the distress, that would pierce her heart like a sword. This is the revelation given to Mary. What is God's revelation to you today?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 King 3:4-13

In those days: Solomon went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people? It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this....*(please see appendix Page 456)*

Psalm 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

℟️ O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me.

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

At that time: The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there of foot from all the towns, and got there ahead of them. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

℟️ Solomon asks the Lord for wisdom to rule His people and to know the difference between right and wrong. The Lord promises that He will give him the wisdom he asked for and the wealth and fame he did not ask for. We all need God's wisdom, an understanding heart as Solomon describes it. Whether it is leading people, relationships or work, we need wisdom to navigate through life. Ask for wisdom and God will give it to you. This is a Gospel story for people busy with caring for others. Jesus' desire for peace and quiet was disturbed by the crowds who needed him. This is an image of many parents and people in helping professions. We need rest and time to recharge the energy and love of the heart; but at times the needs of others will take over. Prayer can unite both - the prayer of our action and the prayer of love.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



4th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



BLAISE
(d. 316 A.D.)
BISHOP & MARTYR

Blaise was by profession a physician, and a man of outstanding in virtue, he was appointed a bishop of his native city. He was arrested and tortured and beheaded when he refused to abjure Christ. The blessing of St. Blaise is given by the priest today by touching the throats with two candles held in the form of the cross. He is the patron saint of sufferers of throat diseases.



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green
Psalter I

Year B

First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

“Do not human beings have a hard service on earth, and are not their days like the days of a laborer? Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like laborers who look for their wages, so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me. When I lie down I say, ‘When shall I rise?’ But the night is long, and I am full of tossing until dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and come to their end without hope.” Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never again see good.

Psalms 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

℟: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

How good to sing psalm to our God;
how pleasant to chant fitting praise!
The Lord builds up Jerusalem
and brings back Israel’s exiles. *℟*

He heals the broken hearted;
he binds up all their wounds.
He counts out the number of the stars;
he calls each one by its name. *℟*

Our Lord is great and almighty;
his wisdom can never be measured.
The Lord lifts up the lowly;
he casts down the wicked to the ground. *℟*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, May, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ give us a spirit of wisdom, that we may know what is the hope to which he calls us.

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.



® In today's Gospel, Jesus serves as an essential worker who ministers to peoples' needs. Like a special brand, everyone was looking for him. He recognized that His mission can only be fulfilled through service. That is why he invites us to embrace this mission of service in order to be all things to all men. Our faith is therefore our own special brand that commissions us to serve God and others without fame or shame. By so doing, we are not only useful, we are important to everyone. Our faith makes us recognize that our brand is in our service, for what is faith if it cannot serve? We are often identified by the service we render. Whenever our faith serves others, everyone will be looking for us. But the big question remains, will everyone find Jesus in your service?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

5

FEB

MONDAY

5th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED

MEMORIAL



AGATHA

(d. 251 A.D.)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

Agatha came from a rich family of Catania in Italy. Undaunted, she boldly declared that Jesus Christ was her light and salvation. As a result, she was scourged, her flesh torn with iron hooks, her breast chiselled out, but St. Peter appeared in vision and healed her. She followed Jesus in virginal purity and looked to him for protection. She is the patron saint of Sicily, breast cancer, and rape victims

First Reading: 1 King 8:1-7, 9-13

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 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 ...*(please see appendix Page 457)*

Psalm 132:6-7, 8-10

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

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Jesus was proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Gospel: Mark 6:53-56

At that time: When Jesus and his disciples had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized 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.

℟ The kingdom was strong. Solomon had been chosen by his father to rule. His rivals were killed. Peace was at hand. The new king at first remained faithful. Like David, he remembered how small a man is in comparison with God. Later Solomon consumed by power, drifted away from Yahweh, Something was missing that the people had long awaited. The house of the Lord. A place of worship. It took years and much expense. Solomon built a great temple and called humbly upon God to dwell within it. The stones given to Moses were placed under the angel's wings. Here the people gathered to pray, sacrifice, and sometimes shout for joy. The rituals recalled God's covenant and boundless love. When the temple was destroyed by their enemies, they grieved. Sick people can recognize goodness and sincerity when they see it. Maybe that's why they went in crowds to see and meet Jesus, as well as hoping for a cure. Something of the divine went out from him, something that can lift us to hope and courage in bad times. In prayer we bring that 'sick' side and weak side of ourselves to God, knowing it is never untouched by our prayer.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 King 8:22-23, 27-30 ...*(please see appendix Page 457)*

Psalm 84:3, 4, 5, and 10, 11

℟ How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Gospel Acclamation:

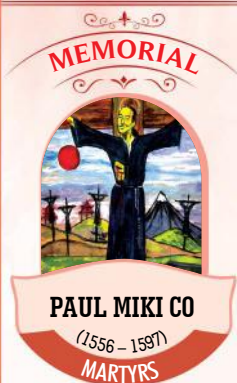
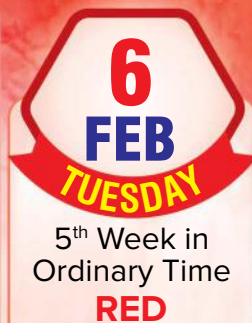
Alleluia, Bend my heart, O God, to your decrees, grant me mercy by your law.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-13

At that time: When the Pharisees gathered to Jesus, with some of the scribes, who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands properly, holding to the tradition of the elders, and when they come from the market-place, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! For Moses said, 'Honour your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother, must surely die.' But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, ...*(please see appendix Page 457)*

℟ Sometimes our traditions hinder us from seeing things clearly and from obeying the Law of God. In addition, we fail to see things from another perspective making us quick to judge just because we do not realize that others also have another way of living their lives, different from us because they have their own culture. Our cultures and traditions should not be an issue for strife between communities, rather these should be used to manifest love for our own and others. With this in mind, how might we evaluate or better our traditions through God's word? In this Gospel today, the Pharisees criticized Jesus and his disciples because they ate their meals with unclean hands. It was a custom for all Jews to carefully wash their hands and thus purify themselves before eating. They also had many other purification rituals. What is the relationship you wish to have with Jesus? Is a superficial relationship with Jesus all you want or do you desire a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him? Jesus wants all of us: mind, body, and soul! Jesus is always waiting for us to take another step towards him. He patiently and lovingly waits for us! Today take one or more steps toward Jesus. Jesus is waiting to embrace you!

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



Gonsalo Garcia was a Franciscanlay brother from Vasai, India, who died as a martyr in Japan. During the persecution in Japan, Fr. Paul Miki, Br. Gonsalo together with five other Franciscans, three Jesuits and seventy laymen were crucified on a hill near Nagasaki. They were killed simultaneously by being raised on crosses and then stabbed with spears. All were canonised on 8th June 1862 by Pope Pius IX.

7

FEB

WEDNESDAY

5th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

MEMORIAL (INDIA)

GONSALO
GRACIA

(1556 - 1557)

MARTYRS

Gonsalo Garcia, was a lay brother of the Franciscans from Portuguese Bombay and Bassein in early modern India. He died a Christian martyr in the 16th-century Shogunate of Japan, and was canonised a saint along with his companions, the Twenty-six Martyrs of Japan. He was born at Bassein (Vasai), Baçaim in the Indo-Portuguese era, an exurban town of the present-day Greater Bombay.

First Reading: 1 Kings 10:1-10

In those days: When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the LORD, there was no more breath in her. And she said to the king, "The report was true that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom, ...*(please see appendix Page 457)*

Psalm 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40

℟ *The mouth of the just man utters wisdom.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth.

Gospel: Mark 7:14-23

At that time: Jesus called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters, not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

℞ We too need to remember that all the good things we have and experience are not simply the result of our own efforts. They can disappear just as quickly as they came. We can never claim anything as absolutely our own. In the Gospel, Jesus said "Nothing that enters one from the outside can defile that person; but the things that come from the things that come out from within are what defile." Jesus is trying to tell us that impurity does not come from outside to the inside. For centuries, the Jews followed many norms and customs related to food, dress, hygiene, and contact with persons of other races and religions. They believed that these things which come from the outside affected what's inside, but Jesus is telling us that what comes in doesn't really matter. Purity is from within. How do you spiritually purify yourself?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Kings 11:4-13

When Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashteroth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded. Therefore, the LORD said to Solomon, "Since this has been your practice and you ...*(please see appendix Page 458)*

Psalm 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40

℟️ *O Lord, remember us with the favour you show to your people.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Gospel: Mark 7:24-30

At that time; Jesus arose and went away to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And he entered a house and did not want anyone to know, yet he could not be hidden. But immediately a woman, whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard of him and came and fell down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, a Syrophenician by birth. And she begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. And he said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." And he said to her, "For this statement you may go your way; the demon has left your daughter." And she went home and found the child lying in bed and the demon gone.

℞ In this sudden and ignominious end to Solomon's story, we learn that he had a huge harem and allowed them to turn his heart away to their peoples' gods. It's simple and sad (for a man who should have known better). We learn that sin has incredible consequences, but we're also reminded to be very watchful of our own weaknesses and temptations. The Gospel presents the woman with deep faith. She gives us an example on how to pray like a trusting child. Though her child is not around, it is not a hindrance for Jesus to heal her. This is one of those instances that a foreigner's faith was recognized by Jesus. Where does your faith stand?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



5th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

MEMORIAL (INDIA)



JEROME EMILIANI

(1486 - 1537)
FOUNDER

He was born in Italy. He was a humanitarian who had special concern for the orphans. He started the religious congregation for men called 'the company of the servants of the poor', known as 'somascan fathers.'

JOSEPHINE BAKHITA VIRGIN

(1869 - 1947)

Josephine Bakhita was a Sudanese - Italian Canossian sister. As a little African girl she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders, sold and resold in local slave markets and forcibly converted to Islam. In 1885, she was sold to an Italian family. On 9 January 1890, Bakhita was baptized as Josephine Margaret Bakhita. Her gentleness, calming voice, and ever-present smile earned her the title "little brown sister". She was canonised on 1 October 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

9

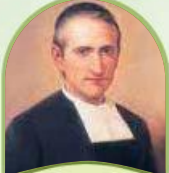
FEB

FRIDAY

5th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

LASALLIAN SAINT

ST. MIGUEL
FEBRES CODERO

(1854-1910)

LA SALLE BROTHER

St. Miguel Febres Codero was declared a saint in 1984. He was born in 1854 in Ecuador, South America. His family was prominent in politics.

Though he lived with a physical disability (he was crippled from birth), he was a good student and, later, a gifted teacher. In 1868, he became the first Ecuadorian De La Salle

Brother despite his family's desire of a different career for him. Over time, he wrote many books and was honored for his scholarship in Ecuador and Spain. His students' admired his simplicity, directness, concern for them, and prayerfulness. He died in Spain in 1910 from pneumonia. Today, throughout the U.S.A., several San Miguel Middle Schools that serve inner-city neighborhoods have been named after him as a tribute to his love for teaching and his good work with younger students.

First Reading: 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19

At that time, when Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem, the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had dressed himself in a new garment; and the two of them were alone in the open country. Then Ahijah held hold of the new garment that was on him, and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Behold, I am about to tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon, and will give you ten tribes (but he shall have one tribe, for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel). So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

Psalm 81:10-11b, 12-13, 14-15

℟ *I am the Lord your God: listen to my voice.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

At that time: Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

℞ Today's story from the Gospel of Mark really puts things into perspective. With just the touch of his hand, Jesus cures a man of his deafness and speech impediment and gives him a whole new life. The story reminds us of how much of an impact Christ can have on our lives. We may not even realize the tiny blessings that he sends us each day or the little miracles that he works in our lives. May be it's as simple as a sweet note from a friend, an unexpected promotion in work or the reward one gets through hardships. Trust in God and have faith and he will answer all our prayers.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34

In those days: Jeroboam said in his heart, "Now the kingdom will turn back to the house of David. If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the temple of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn again to their lord, to Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and return to Rehoboam king of Judah." So the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold. And he said to the people, "You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt." And he set one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. Then this thing became a sin, for the people went as far as Dan to be before one. He also made temples on high places, and appointed priests from ...*(please see appendix Page 458)*

Psalm 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22

✠ O Lord, remember me with the favour you show to your people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Gospel: Mark 8:1-10

In those days, when again a great crowd had gathered, and they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said to them, "I have compassion on the crowd, because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat. And if I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way. And some of them have come from far away." And his disciples answered him, "How can one feed these people with bread here in this desolate place?" And he asked them, "How many loaves do you have?" They said, "Seven." And he directed the crowd to sit down on the ground. And he took the seven loaves, and having given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few small fish. And having blessed them, he said that these also should be set before them. And they ate and were satisfied. And they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. And there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

✠ The first reading tells us that if you cannot trust God in the dark, it simply shows, you don't trust Him at all! But when difficulties come our way, our "trust" level is questioned. This is Faith! This is Trust! All of us are invited to have this dependence and reliance... on the Lord! In the Gospel, Jesus said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd..." Can we also say this especially when we see people who are already worn-out? Do we care that many people are troubled emotionally because of our rigidity? Have we experienced a situation where someone has shown compassion on us when we are sick? Have we acknowledged the need for God's compassion?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

10
FEB
SATURDAY

5th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE / GREEN

MEMORIAL



SCHOLASTICA
(480 – 543)
VIRGIN

Scholastica was the twin sister of St. Benedict of Nursia. Dedicated to God from infancy, she chose to renounce family and wealth and follow Christ fully. She is the foundress of the women's branch of Benedictine Monasticism. She is the patron saint of nuns, education, book fairs, and convulsive children, and is invoked against storms and rain.



6th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying: When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a leprous disease on the skin of his body, he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. He is leprous, he is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean; the disease is on his head. The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be dishevelled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, "Unclean, unclean." He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11

R: You are a hiding place for me; you surround me with cries of deliverance.

Blessed is the he whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is remitted.

Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
In whose spirit is no guile. *R*

To you I have acknowledged my sin;
My guilt I did not hide.

I said, "I will confess my transgression to the Lord".
And you have forgiven the guilt of my sin. *R*

Rejoice in the Lord; exult, you just!
Ring out your joy, all you upright of heart! *R*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, "If you choose, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately the

Sunday

leprosy left him, and he was made clean. After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, saying to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.



R Who are today's lepers? What are the inner struggles or wounds that may keep us from fully participating in our parish community or have left us estranged from members of our own family? Bring these before Jesus in your own words. Call a family member you have fallen out of touch with. Invite a person who has left the Church to lunch and listen with compassion. When a leper came to Jesus and begged him to be clean, Jesus didn't hesitate to stretch out his hand and touched him even though he knew that lepers should be avoided because anybody who touched him would also become impure. After healing the leper, Jesus said "See you say nothing to anybody, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing the things which Moses commanded". The man still spread the news to everyone without even thinking or knowing what the consequences were. We should be mindful of all our actions because they may affect the feelings of others. Can we be mindful of all our actions and make sure that we follow God's will?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

12
FEB

MONDAY

6th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

MEMORIAL



FEBRONIA

(284 - 304)

VIRGIN & MARTYR

She is known as Phebronia of Sebaste, was a nun at Nisibis (modern-day Nusaybin, Turkey). She suffered persecution under Diocletian, who offered her freedom if she renounced her faith and married his nephew, Lysimachus, who had been leaning towards conversion to Christianity. Febronia refused and was tortured, suffered mutilation and death. Lysimachus, witnessing her suffering, converted.

First Reading: James 1:1-11

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes in the Dispersion: Greetings. Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials, of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.

Psalm 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76

℟ Show me compassion, that I may live.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel: Mark 8:11-13

At that time: The Pharisees came and began to argue with Jesus, seeking from him a sign from heaven to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation seek a sign? Truly, I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation." And he left them, got into the boat again, and went to the other side.

℟ As individuals and as a church we must strive to have a view toward joy in the midst of an unexpected situation. We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we can trust that God will use these trials to accomplish His purposes. The Gospel tells us to trust and have a strong faith in God. We often test God's goodness by asking for signs but sometimes blame Him for some unanswered prayers. God has His own plan for us and definitely, it is a good one. Let us pray to God that we may have a heart that is able to trust in Him, and leads us, according to His plan for us. What is my attitude towards Jesus, do I often seek miracles or signs from Him when I pray?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: James 1:12-18

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God", for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempted no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ...*(please see appendix Page 458)*

Psalms 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19

℟ Blessed the man whom you discipline, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Gospel: Mark 8:14-21

At that time: The disciples had forgotten to bring bread and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And Jesus cautioned them, saying, "Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." And they began discussing with one another, the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" They said to him, "Twelve." "And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?" And they said to him, "Seven." And he said to them, "Do you not yet understand?"


Ⓡ Sometimes the trials are testing on the outside, and sometimes they are temptations on the inside. Trials may be tests sent by God, or they may be temptations sent by Satan and encouraged by our own fallen nature. It is this second aspect of trials and temptations on the inside that James dealt with in this reading. Believers are in danger of falling before the attacks and pressures of trials. But they are also subject to falling before the attractions and pleasures of temptation. Just as a wrong reaction to testing will obstruct spiritual growth and maturity, so will a wrong response to temptation. James outlined three aspects of temptation that the believer should think about: the source of temptation, the steps in temptation and the solution for temptation. The Gospel refers to how our faith in God should remain even during the darkest days of our lives, for He is there for us. Jesus provides us with everything we need. We often have little faith in God especially in the darkest moments of our life. A strong sense of faith should be developed in each of us for we have a generous and reliable God in our life. How do we put our faith in God?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

13
FEB
TUESDAY

6th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

LASALLIAN BLESSED



BL JAMES MILLER
(1944-1982)
LA SALLE BROTHER

This Brother of the Christian Schools was martyred on February 13, 1982, at the age of 37, in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

Brother James was born into a family of farmers near Stevens Point, Wisconsin, USA, on September 21, 1944. He attended grammar school and then went to Pacelli High School in the city of Stevens Point, where he met the Brothers for the first time. In September 1959 he entered the Juniorate in the state of Missouri. After three years there, he was admitted into the Postulancy program and then entered the Novitiate in August 1962, when he took the habit of the Brothers and the religious name Brother Leo William. Later, like so many other Brothers, he went back to using his baptismal name.

14
FEB

WEDNESDAY

Ash
Wednesday
VIOLET

THE LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS



**DAY OF FAST AND
ABSTINENCE**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and is a day of fasting. It occurs 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days and six Sundays).

The ashes, applied in the shape of a cross symbolizes fragility and mortality and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all baptized are called during Lent.

The Alleluia and the Gloria are suppressed until Easter.

First Reading: Joel 2: 12-18 ...*(please see appendix Page 458)*

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17

℟ *Have mercy, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:2 ...*(please see appendix Page 459)*

Verse before the Gospel:

A pure heart create for me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help.

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ...*(please see appendix Page 459)*

℞ We can see in the first reading that the divine voice is speaking to the human community, inviting them to return to God, a fitting invitation as we enter into the Lenten season. The response to this invitation is to be shown in the human body- fasting, weeping and mourning and in the rending of hearts and not clothing. This is accompanied by a gathering of the human community, identified specifically with the aged, the children, even infants at the breast -the least powerful in the community. It is this vulnerable group whose plight cries out to God to restore justice or right relationships. Lent is a time when we listen to these cries and endeavor to respond. In today’s second reading we see that Christ’s ambassadors, continue to implore all who will hear it around the world, be reconciled to God by having their sins forgiven through faith in Christ’s death. God is not holding the sins of those who come to Him through faith against them. That’s what the world should hear from those who are in Christ. Today’s Gospel teaches about the value of prayer, giving alms and fasting, especially in this Lenten season. These will help us focus our lives on God rather than ourselves. What God wants is that we do these practices with good intention, not because we want to impress others. How can these Lenten practices help us live the life we received from God?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6

✠ *Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 9:22-25

“The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.” Then he said to them all, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?”

✠ Let's look at our own hearts and realize that today and every day, the same choice is before us; life or death, blessing or curse, obedience to God, walking in the promises of God, the worship of God, or disobedience to God. The Gospel today is about recognizing the Lord as the true God and Savior, wherein people must surrender their lives on His hands and let Him lead their paths. This is discipleship. Rejections, failures and disappointments are inevitable. However, we must learn how to overcome them and seek for the guidance of the Lord. We have to do things according to His will. How are you as a disciple?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

**15
FEB**

THURSDAY

After
Ash Wednesday
VIOLET



**FAUSTINUS
& JOVITA**
(d. c. 120)
MARTYRS

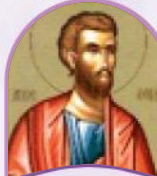
The priest St. Faustinus and his brother, St. Jovita, a deacon, preached the Word of God with such fearlessness and zeal in Italy, even during Trajan's bloody persecution, that the heathens were exasperated by their success. They were subjected to frightful torments. When persuasions and arguments proved equally fruitless, they were condemned to die by the sword. St. Faustinus and Jovita have been the chief Patrons of Brescia.

16

FEB

FRIDAY

After
Ash Wednesday
VIOLET

**ONESIMUS**

(d. c.90)

MARTYR

Onesimus, a pagan, was a slave in the house hold of the wealthy Philemon. Onesimus offended Philemon and fled. When he met Paul, he was baptized later tortured cruelly for infuriating the governor by his preaching on the merit of celibacy. Before he was stoned to death his legs were broken.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, ...*(please see appendix Page 459)*

Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19

℟ *A broken and humbled heart, O God, you will not spurn.*

Verse before the Gospel:

My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Gospel: Matthew 9:14-15

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, [c] but your disciples do not fast?" 15 And Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."

℟ In today's first reading, the Israelites fasted by giving up food, not technology. However, just like I could not go through 24 hours without cheating, they struggled with their fasting, too. They often could not do it perfectly. Isaiah calls attention to their inability to perfectly keep the fast in Isaiah. He said, "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists". Having to give up something that you are used to having around can really take its toll, and the Israelites felt that in their fast. The Gospel today shows us how Jesus wants to have a deep relationship with his disciples. He uses the metaphor of the bridegroom to illustrate how deep his relationship with them really is. Jesus maximizes all His time, spending important moments with His loved ones and people He cherished the most, just like the bridegroom to his guest. How do we spend our precious time with God in this new normal?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests, or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Psalms 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

✠ Teach me, O Lord, your way, so that I may walk in your truth.

Verse before the Gospel:

Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.

Gospel: Luke 5:27-32

After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up, left everything, and followed him. Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."

R If we call on the Lord for help, he will hear us, but there are conditions. We must be rid of any form of oppression, false accusations or malicious speech. We need to share our bread with the hungry and console the afflicted. Then light will shine in our lives and "the gloom shall become for you like midday". We will become like "a watered garden, like a spring whose water never fails". This Gospel teaches us that God is the God of sinners as well. Sinners need God's salvation badly and so Jesus is seen with them most of the time. When God comes to us, let us be aware of his call for repentance or transformation. Are we allowing God to change us this Lenten season?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



After
Ash Wednesday
VIOLET

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**SEVEN FOUNDERS
OF THE ORDER OF
SERVITES**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and is a day of fasting. It occurs 46 days before Easter (40 fasting days and six Sundays). The ashes, applied in the shape of a cross symbolizes fragility and mortality and the need to be redeemed by the mercy of God. Far from being a merely external act, the Church has retained the use of ashes to symbolize that attitude of internal penance to which all the baptized are called during Lent.



1st Sunday of Lent

Violet
Psalter I

Year B

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9

℟ All your paths, O Lord, are mercy and faithfulness, for those who keep your covenant.

O Lord, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
For you are the God of my salvation. ℟

Remember your compassion, O Lord,
And your merciful love,
For they are from of old.
In your merciful love remember me,
Because of your goodness, O Lord. ℟

Good and upright is the Lord;
He shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgment;
To the humble he teaches his way. ℟

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during

Sunday

the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Verse before the Gospel:

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”



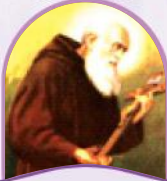
Ⓜ This is what Peter means when he says Jesus died for sins – one time, by the way. It’s not like the animal sacrifices of the Old Testament– which happened over and over again, but could never deal with sin once and for all. They simply pointed to Jesus. He died once and accomplished for all time the salvation for all those who would believe in Him. Hebrews tells us after dying once, He sat down – mission accomplished – at the right hand of the Father in heaven. So, Christ died for sins once, for all who would believe – the just for the unjust The Gospel tells us about how Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, without food or water while being tempted by the devil. The “beasts” represents our struggles, the chaos, and the obstacles that we all face in life. But even in our darkest moments in life, we are not alone as Jesus was here. He was tired because of Satan’s temptations but “the angels administered to him”. In our most difficult moment, God appears and helps us through. How do I prepare myself in solitude with God?

19
FEB

MONDAY

1st Week of
Lent

VIOLET



CONRAD

(1290 - 1351)

CONFESSOR

Conrad was a Franciscan hermit. Once while hunting, he made fire that engulfed somebody else's cornfield, for which he had to sell all his property to pay back. He entered the Franciscan Third Order and lived as a hermit. After many years of an itinerant life, he settled in a grotto and for the rest of his life spent a most austere and penitential life of solitude, working numerous miracles, and gifted with prophecy.

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18 ... (please see appendix Page 459)

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15

℟ Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Gospel Acclamation:

Behold, now is the favourable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire.. (please see appendix Page 459)

℟ From Today's first reading these words, to be holy, to love God and neighbor are not demands placed upon the people so that God would love them, but because God loved and saved them. They are a response to God's grace and love. There is a corollary to God's command. The character of a people reflects the character of its god. The Gospel talks about the judgement day. The final judgement is the end of human history and the beginning of the eternal state. There will come a time that the Messiah will gather all the people in the world and separate them into those who will be rewarded in heaven and those who will be tormented in hell. While living here on earth we should do our best to fulfil our mission to God and that is to be a good and loving brother or sister to our fellowmen. As God's children, He expects us to help everyone around us, especially the poor ones, because in our Lord's eyes we may be rich or poor, but we are all equal. Our Lord also expects us to be humble and generous to everyone, even to people who did bad things to us. We should be patient, understanding, and learn how to forgive these type of people. In the end everyone will die and we should remember that what we do here on earth, should be done not just because we want to enter heaven, but because we are willing to do it for the people around us and for God.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Psalm 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19

✠ *The Lord rescues them in all their distress.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful.

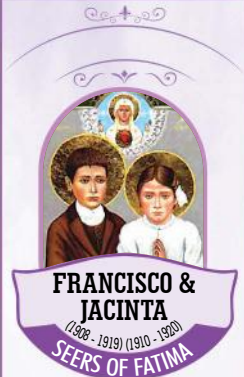
Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

✠ Today’s first reading reminds us that God’s word is nothing like a word that comes forth from our mouths, which may or may not happen. God’s **WORD** will accomplish what it was sent forth to do. Remember that Jesus will never fail to keep His promises, for He is the faithful **WORD** of God! The Gospel is all about this ancient biblical prayer taught by Jesus. When praying, we should not keep saying words for the sake of saying them, but instead we must be true to what are saying, no matter how long or short they may be. In the end, we end up praying for guidance and patience to forgive others and ourselves. What is the usual content of your prayer?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

20
FEB
TUESDAY
1st Week of Lent
VIOLET



Ten year old Lucia de Jesus and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto were the three seers and witnesses of several apparitions of virgin Mary. As a result of apparitions at Fatima, Mary was given the title of Our Lady of Fatima. They were asked by Mary to learn to read and write, to pray rosary for peace in the world and the end of war. They were canonised by Pope Francis on 13 May 2017.

21 FEB

WEDNESDAY

1st Week of
Lent
VIOLET

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



PETER DAMIAN

(1007 - 1072)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

St Peter was orphaned at early age. He was known for his life of strict austerity. Peter gave up teaching to retire from the world and become a Benedictine monk. He encouraged Pope Gregory VI to support a revitalization of Church zeal and clerical discipline. He also tried to restore primitive discipline among priests and religious who were becoming more and more worldly and strongly opposed anti-pope Benedict X.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, "Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

...(please see appendix Page 460)

Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19

R: *A broken and humbled heart, O God you will not spurn.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord will be with you.

Gospel: Luke 11: 29-32

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

R: Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. You all know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and that there is no sin in him. Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is. Why do I have to pay attention to warning signs? The Gospel talks about the deliberate blindness of the people of his generation towards the signs and miracles that He gave. The Gospel reminds us not to be ignorant and obtuse regarding the warnings and signs from God that could benefit us in the long run. We could avoid pain and suffering if we take the signs seriously.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-4

Now as an elder myself and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as one who shares in the glory to be revealed, I exhort the elders among you to tend the flock of God that is in your charge, exercising the oversight, not under compulsion but willingly, as God would have you do it—not for sordid gain but eagerly. Do not lord it over those in your charge, but be examples to the flock. And when the chief shepherd appears, you will win the crown of glory that never fades away.

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

✠ *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Verse before the Gospel:

You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

✠ When we are not following the Good Shepherd, we are not being good shepherds ourselves. We will get our lead from our desires; consequently, we will seek means to get what we want and not what God has called us to. Then, wham! The sheep are in conflict and strife because the shepherd is leading them astray. In the Gospel, Jesus told Peter, “you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.” The Lord will build His community. We are all part of that community. We shall continue His mission. We will be the ones to help those who need help. What have you contributed so far to the Church?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

22
FEB

THURSDAY

1st Week of
Lent
WHITE

FEAST



**CHAIR OF
ST. PETER**

The feast reminds the celebration of St. Peter's leadership of the church in Rome. Jesus invested Peter with the right to sit in his place as the prince of the apostles, “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church” (Mt 16:18). The Chair of Peter is a symbol of the special mission of Peter and His successors to tend Christ's flock, keeping it united in faith and in charity.

**23
FEB**

FRIDAY

1st Week of
Lent
RED



**POLYCARP OF
SMYRNA**

(69 - 155)
BISHOP & MARTYR

Polycarp was converted and instructed by St John the evangelist. When he was asked to renounce Christ and save his life, he said, "for sixty years I have served him and he has never wronged me. How can I renounce the king who has saved me? Polycarp was to be burned alive but the flames did not harm him and he was finally killed by a dagger, and his body burned.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:21-28

But if the wicked turn away from all their sins that they have committed and keep all my statutes and do what is lawful and right, they shall surely live; they shall not die. None of the transgressions that they have committed shall be remembered against them; for the righteousness that they have done they shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live? But when the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity and do the same abominable things that the wicked do, shall they live? None of the righteous deeds that they have done shall be remembered; for the treachery of which they are guilty and the sin they have committed, they shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ...*(please see appendix Page 460)*

Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6ab, 6c-8

℟: *If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?*

Verse before the Gospel:

The Lord says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Gospel: Matthew 5:20-26

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

℞ We can be consoled that, no matter what we did in the past, it will have no effect on our relationship with God provided we reach out to him here and now. On the other hand, there is no room for complacency. Our past good record can be completely undone when we turn away at anytime. The Gospel is all about the importance of having a good relationship with your neighbors and God. It teaches us that we should always consider our actions towards each other and even though they did something wrong, we should always consider the act of reconciliation and forgiveness. How often do we reconcile our hearts to God? How do we prepare ourselves in this Lenten season?

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:16-19

This very day the Lord your God is commanding you to observe these statutes and ordinances; so observe them diligently with all your heart and with all your soul. Today you have obtained the Lord's agreement: to be your God; and for you to walk in his ways, to keep his statutes, his commandments, and his ordinances, and to obey him. Today the Lord has obtained your agreement: to be his treasured people, as he promised you, and to keep his commandments; for him to set you high above all nations that he has made, in praise and in fame and in honour; and for you to be a people holy to the Lord your God, as he promised.

Psalm 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8

Blessed are those who follow the law of the Lord !

Verse before the Gospel:

Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Gospel: Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

R Today's first reading states that the wonderful blessings are for those who fulfill the covenant. It is contingent upon obedience. In our immediate context, we will think of this in terms of our spirit of giving. Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than receive.” God's blessing is greater than anything earned on earth. He will give His blessing in a multitude of unexpected ways. If we think it will mean this or that, we might be disappointed but one will not be disappointed in the end. Enemies and allies are the people who will always be in a person's life. Everyone is used of having the thought of hating an enemy but loving them which is the total opposite is a difficult thought. In this Gospel, it teaches us to love and accept our enemies. Do not hold any hatred. Pray for the people who hurt you for He knows that is the right thing to do. Treat people the way you want to be treated — whether it's an ally or an enemy. Your kindness will be rewarded for you are doing what the father desires.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



1st Week of
Lent
VIOLET



CAESARIUS

(331 - 368)

PHYSICIAN

St Caesarius was the son of St Gregory the elder, bishop of Nazianzus.

He perfected his medical studies, and became the foremost physician of his age.

Caesarius resisted all the efforts of the prince to make him abjure the faith after his baptism. After escaping from the earthquake which shook Nicaea, his brother pleaded for him to withdraw to a religious life. However, Caesarius was suddenly killed by the widespread plague which followed the earthquake.



2nd Sunday of Lent

Violet
Psalter II

Year B

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Psalm 116:10 and 15, 16-17, 18-19

℟: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said,
"I am sorely afflicted",

How precious in the eyes of the Lord
Is the death of his faithful. *℟*

You servant, Lord, your servant am I,
The son of your handmaid;
You have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the name of the Lord. *℟*

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
Before all his people,
In the courts of the house of the Lord,
In your midst, o Jerusalem. *℟*

Second Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

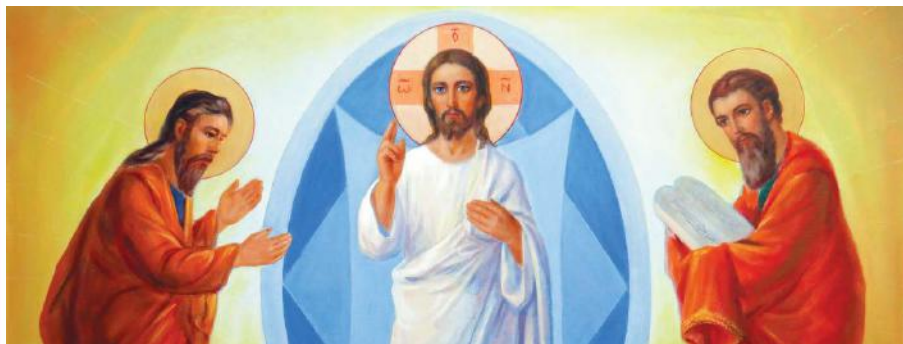
Verse before the Gospel:

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.



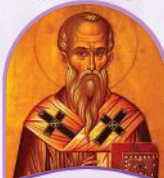
Ⓜ We come to know from today's first reading, "Fear and Trembling" is one of the best examples of what true faith is. Abraham suspended ethical requirements in order to fulfill what he regarded as his absolute duty to God. Abraham believed God, as it was counted by God as righteousness when he believed and for believing. Thus he was called the friend of God. Today's second reading tells that if God gave His Son for us, He isn't going to hold back the gift of salvation! If Christ gave His life for us, He isn't going to turn around and condemn us! He will not withhold anything we need to live for Him. The Book of Romans is more than a theological explanation of God's redeeming grace. In the Gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain and is "transfigured" before them and his clothes become a dazzling white. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Like Jesus and his companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We also need the courage and the good sense to return from the mountain and follow through, despite the pain on the path that brings life. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us and by the opposition we sometimes experience. Vaccines for Covid-19 are in the process of changing our world. They have a crucial role to play in combatting infection, in casting out fear and restoring life. We too have a role to play. We must "listen" to the underlying causes of disease and come to terms with the costs involved in maintaining the struggle for a sustainable, safe, and peace-filled world

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

26
FEB

MONDAY

2nd Week of
Lent
VIOLET



**ALEXANDER OF
ALEXANDRIA**
(d. 326 or 328)
19th POPE

Alexander I of Alexandria was the 19th Pope and Patriarch of Alexandria. During his patriarchate, he dealt with a number of issues facing the Church in that day. These included the dating of Easter, the actions of Meletius of Lycopolis, and the issue of greatest substance, Arianism. He was the leader of the opposition to Arianism at the First Council of Nicaea. He also mentored his successor, Athanasius of Alexandria, who would become one of the Church Fathers.

First Reading: Daniel 9:4b-10

I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land. "Righteousness is on your side, O Lord, but open shame, as at this day, falls on us, the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away....(please see appendix Page 460)

Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, 13

R *O Lord, do not treat us according to our sins.*

Verse before the Gospel:

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you".

Gospel: Luke 6:36-38

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

R Jesus turns our natural inclination to receive good gifts upside-down. In today's Gospel, he gives us the following commands; to be merciful, stop judging, stop condemning and forgive. Give and the gifts will be given to you. Jesus is saying that our reception of good gifts is dependent on our willingness to give such gifts to others. We need look no further than today's first reading to see this. The prophet Daniel is praising his great and awesome God, not because God has shown mercy to those who deserve it, but precisely because God has forgiven those who do not deserve it. In Daniel's words, but yours, O Lord, our God, are compassion and forgiveness! Yet we rebelled against you. The gift of praise that Daniel gives predisposes him to be receptive of all that God desires to give him. God doesn't need the praise to give the gift – but when Daniel, and we, too, give something good to another, we make room within ourselves for God and his good gifts. With this in mind, let us return to Jesus' words in today's Gospel. He teaches us that giving a gift away is precisely to receive a gift! Thus, when we refuse to give mercy and love to others, we neglect not only our neighbors, but first and foremost ourselves, for that which we measure out to others will be returned to us in the same measure. If we are in need of receiving a gift this Lent, perhaps the answer is not to sit passively until something good comes our way. Instead, we can get up, go out, and make good on the Eucharistic gift we are given today, by giving away something of ourselves; we can offer love, forgiveness, or reconciliation where it is needed. The greatest gift, after all, is simply to give.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20 ...*(please see appendix Page 460)*

Psalms 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23

℟️ *To one whose way is blameless I will show the salvation of God.*

Verse before the Gospel:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son; whoever believes in him has eternal life.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. ...*(please see appendix Page 460)*

℟️ The Lord hates their prayers and offerings because of their sins. He wants true repentance and will wash their sins clean. The Lord is always seeking reconciliation with us. He wants us to turn away from our sins and receive His blessing. In the Gospel today, there are three salient points that we must reflect profoundly on in our life. One is when he said “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice”. This kind of attitude is still common in today’s world. That is why we often hear this saying, ‘walk the talk’. With this, may we be reminded always that the word is alive when it is our actions that speak. The second one is illustrated thus, “They love places of honour at banquets, seats of honour in synagogues, greetings in market places, and the salutation Rabbi”. This is the danger of falling into the trap of popularity, power, fortune and other forms of achievements which are often referred to as a ‘maze haze attitude’. This simply means that people who are blinded or clouded by praises, in the end lose their sense of identity and become self-righteous. The third point relates to what Jesus tells his disciples, “As for you, do not be called Rabbi. You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven.” Jesus wanted to warn both his own disciples and the religious leaders about the temptation to seek honours and titles that draw attention to themselves in place of God and his word. Pride tempts us to put ourselves first above others. The message of the Gospel today teaches us to serve the people with humility and sincerity rather than with pride and self-promotion. Let our words, humility, poverty, patience and obedience be the living testimonies of Christ. We speak them when we show them to others.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

**27
FEB**

TUESDAY

2nd Week of
Lent

VIOLET



**GABRIEL OF OUR
LADY OF SORROWS**

(1838 - 1862)
CONFESSOR

At an early age, St. Gabriel gave up ambitions of a secular career to enter the Passionist congregation. He was a source of great edification and inspiration to his fellow students. He had proved himself a perfect follower of the Passionist Rule, being especially devoted to the Virgin Mary. He is the chief patron of Catholic youth, students, and those studying for the priesthood. He was canonised on May 13, 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

28
FEB

WEDNESDAY

2nd Week of
Lent

VIOLET



HILARY

(d 468)
POPE

St. Hilary was one of the papal legates for Pope Leo I, and was entrusted with the task of opposing the condemnation of St. Flavian. He rebuilt and remodeled many churches, fought Nestorianism and Arianism, and held several Councils at Rome. He maintained ecclesiastical discipline in conformity with canon law, and in settling jurisdictional disputes among the bishops of both Gaul and Spain. He erected a Lateran in honor of John the Evangelist

First Reading: Jeremiah 18:8-20

Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah—for instruction ...*(please see appendix Page 461)*

Psalm 31:5-6, 14, 15-16

Rx Save me, O Lord, in your merciful love.

Verse before the Gospel:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life. You have the words of eternal life.

Gospel: Matthew 20:17-28

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised." Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

R Today's first reading expresses the sovereign power of God over his creatures, and his usual methods of dealing with them; it threatens destruction to the Jews for their idolatry and is closed with the prophet's complaint about his persecutors. In the Gospel, Jesus also is aware that the religious leaders are planning on condemning Him and that He will end up dying as a result of their actions. He is willing to go forward with this because He knows it is part of Abba's plan. When James and John agreed that they would drink from the same cup as Jesus, they also agreed that they would face suffering and opposition in order to continue Jesus' ministry. Jesus explains to his disciples that, to get a position of honour in God's kingdom, they won't be judged by the number of people serving them but instead by the number of people they served. Being a prophet of God is not easy because God's will often ends up in earthly suffering. However that suffering will give us the chance to sit at the side of God in his kingdom. We too must serve if we are to be fit for heaven.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10 ...*(please see appendix Page 461)*

Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, and 6

R *Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.*

Verse before the Gospel:

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ...*(please see appendix Page 461)*

R Those whose hearts turn away from the Lord are cursed and those whose hearts trust the Lord are blessed, it’s as simple as that, says Jeremiah. There are just two kinds of people in the world, the cursed and the blessed and the difference is in whom they trust. In the passage from Luke, the apostles seem to be unsure of what faith is. They do think, however, that they need more of it. “Increase our faith!” But Jesus tells them that even a little faith, the size of a mustard seed, is enough faith to do incredible things. How do I see myself and other people? The Gospel is all about contrasts in our life – we witness riches and poverty, heaven and hell, compassion and indifference, belonging and distance, but these things depend on our fortune. We might be lucky today but tomorrow, is it still the same? The Gospel reminds us that we should keep our feet on the ground and never judge a person based on their status because those who embrace selfishly what they have or what they are, lose it in the end, while those who share openhandedly receive back much more than they gave away. I pray that the people who have faith in God, will generously share their blessings with the helpless ones.

Reflection: Br. ANTONY SEKAR FSC, India.



2nd Week of
Lent
VIOLET



JOHN CASSIAN

360 - 401

Saint John Cassian the Roman was born around 360, probably in Lesser Scythia (in Dacia Pontica). His pious Christian parents gave him an excellent classical education, and also instructed him in the Holy Scriptures and in the spiritual life. When Chrysostom was exiled from Constantinople in 404, Saints John Cassian and Germanus went to Rome to plead his case before Innocent I. Cassian was ordained to the holy priesthood in Rome, or perhaps later in Gaul. After Chrysostom’s death in 407, Saint John Cassian went to Massilia [Marseilles] in Gaul (now France).

1

MAR

FRIDAY

2nd Week of
Lent

VIOLET



DAVID OF WALES

(c.500 - 589)

BISHOP

St. David was a bishop. He is the patron saint of Wales.

The legend states that once while he was preaching, a dove descended to his shoulder to show he had blessings of the Spirit. He lived a simple life and practised asceticism, teaching his followers to refrain from eating meat and drinking beer. His famous words were "Do ye the little things in life".

First Reading: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a ...(please see appendix Page 461)

Psalm 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21

℟ *Remember the wonders the Lord has done.*

Verse before the Gospel:

The Lord says, "I am the resurrection and the life; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die".

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

℟ "God has chosen you to make him known to others." (Med 146.2)
The first reading covers Joseph's dreams and the resultant jealousy of his brothers, the selling of Joseph into slavery, and the brothers' deceit of their father regarding Joseph's disappearance. But He stood for truth. The parable warns against the dangers of greed and pride. It depicts the tenant farmers, who were entrusted to care for the vineyard, as refusing to honor their commitments and ultimately killing the son of the owner. Jesus knew that he would be killed, yet he stayed true to his call. He continued to preach and teach. De La Salle continued to respond to God's Will in spite of all the hardships he had to go through in all his endeavours in establishing schools for the poor. "one step led to another" was his firm experience. Standing fearlessly for right is the honorable and just thing to do. Today may we draw the strength from Joseph, Jesus and our Founder to be true to our call--whatever that might be! **PRAYER:** Father, may doing your Will be my everyday response to you.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Micah 7: 14–15, 18–20 ...*(please see appendix Page 462)*

Psalms 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12

℟ The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Verse before the Gospel:

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

Gospel: Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ...*(please see appendix Page 462)*

℟ “The miracles of God’s Providence take place every day.” (Part of the Founder’s address to the first teachers about Providence).

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” — Jeremiah (31:3). This assurance of God echoes in the readings and the responsorial Psalm. Micha experiences the God who is always faithful and upholds us with his righteous hands. The story of the prodigal son shows that God’s love for us does not depend on our faithfulness; it is unconditional. He loved us while we are still sinners. The Psalmist also affirms this by saying “the Lord is merciful and kind.” The readings invite us to experience this merciful, loving and forgiving God in our day to day life. In turn, De La Salle too invites us to be merciful, loving and forgiving to our children confided to our care. He expects us to be **“Prodigal brothers and sisters”** to all our students. **PRAYER:** May my life be a source of mercy, love and kindness to my children.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

2
MAR
SATURDAY

2nd Week of
Lent
VIOLET



CHAD OF MERCIA
(d. c. 672)
BISHOP CONFESSOR

St. Chad was well known for his humility and holiness. He founded monasteries, evangelized, travelled and preached, reformed monastic life in his diocese, and built a cathedral on land that had been the site of the martyrdom of 1,000 Christians by the pagan Mercians. He features strongly in the work of the Venerable Bede and is credited, together with Chad, with introducing Christianity to the Mercian kingdom.



3rd Sunday of Lent

Violet
Psalter III

Year B

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work-- you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11

℟: Lord, you have the words of eternal life.

The law of the Lord is perfect; It revives the soul.	The fear of the Lord is pure; Abiding forever.
The decrees of the Lord are steadfast; They give wisdom to the simple. ℟	The judgments of the Lord are true; They are, all of them, just. ℟
The precepts of the Lord are right; They gladden the heart.	They are more to be desired than gold, Than quantities of gold.
The command of the Lord is clear; It gives light to the eyes. ℟	And sweeter are they than honey, Than honey flowing from the comb. ℟

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Verse before the Gospel:

Lordsays, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Sunday

Gospel: John 2:13-25

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.



® "Wherever I go I will find you, my God." (Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer)

There is a very, very old story told about a young student who came into the office of that grand old preacher of the Second World War, Harry Emerson Fosdick. The young student was agitated and worked up, but he had prepared himself for this visit. He had come to Fosdick's office to announce a major decision in his life. After the pleasantries, the young man said, "Dr. Fosdick, I don't believe in God." Fosdick accepted the statement, then said, "Why don't you tell me about the God you don't believe in. Maybe I don't believe in Him either." There are lots of different understandings, different pictures, different versions of who and what God is. However the crucified Christ commits us to one very clear understanding of God. The sensual, the covetous, the proud and ambitious alike, see that the Gospel opposes their favourite pursuits. But those who receive the Gospel, and are enlightened by the Spirit of God, see more of God's wisdom and power in the doctrine of Christ crucified, than in all his other works. By sanitizing the temple Jesus recommends purification. Our Body, as the temple of God needs purification and the first reading gives a list for it. De La Salle summarizes the readings of today by asking us this question "How long has Jesus been knocking at the door of your heart, waiting to enter?" (Med 85.1). **PRAYER:** May I experience the hand of God in everything.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

4

MAR

MONDAY

3rd Week of
Lent

VIOLET

COMMEMORATION



CASIMIR

(1458 - 1484)

PRINCE CONFESSOR

He was born on 3 October, 1458 in Poland. He was the son of the King of Poland. He became so tenderly devoted to the Passion of Our Lord that at Mass he seemed quite rapt out of himself; his charity to the poor and afflicted knew no bounds. His love for our Blessed Lady he expressed in a long and beautiful hymn, familiar to us in English as Daily, Daily, Sing to Mary.

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ...*(please see appendix Page 462)*

Psalm 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4

R: My soul is thirsting for God, the living God. when can I enter and appear before the face of God?

Verse before the Gospel:

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Luke 4:24-30

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

R "Remembering that God is with you will help and inspire you in all that you do." (Letter 2 - to a Brother) The power of God is not for sale. It is a gift, a grace. Anyone can receive it from God when they have faith in Him. Elisha reaffirms it when Naaman offers gifts of silver to him after his cure. The humble and unlikely channels of God's power are hinted at from the beginning of the story. Naaman learns how he might be healed from a humble source, a young Israelite girl, a powerless slave. The true test of Naaman's openness to the humble and humbling ways of the LORD is the scene in front of Elisha's house. The prophet dishonors the great man at his door. Throughout the Gospel accounts, Jesus praised individuals who put their faith in God as they remembered the great and wonderful deeds he had performed, time and time again. De La Salle's invitation to look at everything with the eyes of faith and radiate that faith in Zeal for the Ministry leads us to receive the power of God in our lives as gift and grace. How can we confront the indifference and unbelief in our lives and replace with faith and zeal? **PRAYER:** God, help me to recognize your power in the gifts and graces I receive everyday.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Daniel 3:25, 34-43 ...*(please see appendix Page 463)*

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7 cd, 8-9

℟ Remember your compassion, O Lord.

Verse before the Gospel:

The Lord says, "I am the resurrection and the life; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, ...*(please see appendix Page 463)*

℟ "God's compassion for you is greater than the troubles you have." (Med 38.1) The reading from Daniel, reminds us to follow God with a contrite heart and humble spirit, and God will receive us. From the parable in the Gospel about the unforgiving servant, punished for his hardness of heart toward his fellow servant, we understand that those who are unwilling to forgive, exclude themselves from divine forgiveness. Wholeheartedly, God is ever ready to forgive. Acceptance, forgetfulness and understanding are the doses we need to take to experience a healthy forgiveness. Pope Francis tells us to "Forgive as He has forgiven us". We need the mercy of God and the healing of the Holy Spirit to root out the sin in our lives. We cannot do it on our own. We must open ourselves to a relationship with God. De La Salle recommends to us that if we dwell in His presence, we embrace His ways. His way is the forgiving way!" In his view, the spirit of faith allows one to search for God's will in order to carry out his saving plan. We must always remember to live in the image of God by doing good deeds to other people whatever the result may be. With God's grace we must also stay faithful. **PRAYER:** GOD OF COMPASSION, help me to forgive myself and others.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

5

MAR

TUESDAY

3rd Week of
Lent

VIOLET



**JOHN JOSEPH
OF THE CROSS**

(1654 - 1734)

PRIEST

As a Franciscan priest, he was the first Italian to join the reform movement of St. Peter of Alcantara who sought to make the Order more devoted to penance and austerity. He dedicated himself to hearing confessions and practising mortification, two concerns contrary to the spirit of the dawning Age of Enlightenment. Had the gifts of prophecy and healing, and would swoon into ecstasies; known to levitate and bilocate.

6

MAR

WEDNESDAY

3rd Week of
Lent

VIOLET

COLETTE OF
CORBIE

(1381 - 1447)

ABBESS & FOUNDESS

St. Colette was a French abbess and the foundress of the Colettine Poor Clares, better known as the Poor Clares. She was known for a deep devotion to Christ's Passion with an appreciation and care for animals. Colette fasted every Friday, meditating on the Passion.

After receiving Holy Communion, she would fall into ecstasies for hours. She is the patron saint of women seeking to conceive, expectant mothers, and sick children

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. See, just as the Lord my God has charged me, I now teach you statutes and ordinances for you to observe in the land that you are about to enter and occupy. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Psalm 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20

℟ *O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!*

Verse before the Gospel:

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

℟ **"Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."** (Med 99.2) Moses reminds the Israelites of the great treasure they have in their laws and customs, a treasure full of "wisdom and understanding". These laws are life-giving and will bring the people closer to their God. Deuteronomy, however, calls attention to the loving intimacy between God and the people among whom he lives. God's enduring presence was symbolized by the tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant in the centre of the Israelites' camp, and by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, which indicated God's accompanying presence with his people at all times. Jesus teaches by word and action, by saying and doing. His example of life is our guide and our encouragement. There is a link between what we say and what we do, and when this link is strong, we are strong in the kingdom of God. We are 'to walk it as we talk it'. Sincerity and integrity of life is what we are called to. De La Salle encourages us to "Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept." (Med 99.2) **PRAYER:** Lord, give me strength to walk the talk.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Jeremiah 7:23-28 ...*(please see appendix Page 463)*

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7abc, 7d-9

℟ *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

Verse before the Gospel:

The seed is the word of God, the sower is Christ; whoever finds him will have eternal life.

Gospel: Luke 11:14-23

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? — for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

℟ **"I adore the holy will of God in all my regards"** (De La Salle's last words) How would you answer if someone asked you if all is going well with you? What Jeremiah is reminding us in this verse is that God's ways are not designed to limit our desires or pleasure. Rather, they are designed to provide guidelines for optimizing all of those things. God's ways actually protect us from the severe and life-long pain that can manifest when we deviate from them. When we don't walk in His ways, we trade off permanent pleasures for temporary ones. These people had the luxury of witnessing Jesus' miracles firsthand, yet still struggled with believing He was the Messiah. According to their logic, they simply wanted more proof, but inevitably their skepticism revealed the hardness of their hearts which resisted the testimony right before their eyes. When we call evil good and good evil, we endanger our very souls. Today we tend to glorify all that is seamy and degrading in life. Many people are like the crowd in this passage. Why? Perhaps the reason is that we are so obsessed with our own selves. Perhaps we think and regard ourselves as smarter than Jesus. Perhaps that's why we don't believe. Perhaps we believe but don't follow Jesus' teachings. Through his last words "I adore the holy will of God in all my regards" De La Salle teaches us to see God's Will in all our endeavours.
PRAYER: God our Father, help me to seek your will in everything I do.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.



3rd Week of
Lent
VIOLET

COMMEMORATION



**PERPETUA &
FELICITY**
(d. 203)
MARTYRS

Sts. Perpetua and Felicity are Christian martyrs of the 3rd century. Perpetua was a married noble woman. Felicity, a slave imprisoned with Perpetua and pregnant at the time, was martyred with her. They were all condemned and ordered to be known before the wild beasts, at the garrison games festival in honour of Caesar Geta. On the day of their triumph, they were mauled by wild beasts in the amphitheatre and were beheaded by the gladiators.

8

MAR

FRIDAY

3rd Week of
Lent

VIOLET

COMMEMORATION



JOHN OF GOD

(1495 - 1550)

CONFESSOR & FOUNDER

St. John of God organized his followers into the Order of Hospitallers and founded the Brothers Hospitallers of Saint John of God, who care for the sick in countries around the world. He was canonized by Pope Alexander VIII on October 16, 1690, and later named the patron saint of hospitals and the sick. His motto was: "Labor without stopping. Do all the good works you can while you still have the time."

First Reading: Hosea 14:1-9

Thus says the Lord: Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take with you words and return to the Lord; say to him; "Take away all iniquity; accept what is good, and we will pay with bulls the vows of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride on horses; and we will say no more, ...*(please see appendix Page 464)*

Psalms 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17

℟ I am the Lord your God: Listen to my voice.

Verse before the Gospel:

A pure heart create for me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help.

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.'" When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

℟ "Teach minds, touch hearts and transform lives." (Lasallian Charism.) Hosea brought home his experience of God. He didn't leave behind his prophetic vocation when it was time to punch his timecard. "Love your neighbour as yourself" – just how do I love myself? I am not just aware of present pleasure or pain. I think ahead, protect my routines and give energy to ensuring my comfort. Lord, if you are asking me to do all that for my neighbour, I will need to try much harder than I am doing. Part of prayer is bringing our whole self in love to the one who is creating us moment by moment, day by day, in love. Loving God and loving our neighbor with our whole heart is more than just having positive emotions about them. Loving God with your heart means bringing everything to God. It is the home of caring, but also of character, commitment, and creativity. Modern Christian believers, too, can see that our calling is also meant to permeate our families, our work, our school, and our social lives. Our Lasallian Charism explains this beautifully through action, "Teach minds, touch hearts and transform lives." The universal understanding of this Charism should be understood clearly in its application where a typical Lasallian applies this not only to students but to everyone encountered.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Hosea 6:1-6

Come, let us return to the Lord; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth. "What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Psalm 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab

R. I desire steadfast love, and not sacrifice.

Verse before the Gospel:

Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord!

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

R "The more you devote yourself in prayer the more you will do well in your work." (Med 95.1) What a powerful picture of God's grace in disciplining us, and God's love in refining us. Hosea says, "Let us return to the Lord for He has torn us." Why? Why has God disciplined us in this way? So that He may heal us? God has struck us down and He will bind us up. God tears down in order to heal. The Gospel parable invites us to experience the freedom that comes with casting away our flimsy armour and throwing ourselves into the arms of God, who is already there, who has already found us, who wants more than anything to lift us up and lead us home. Once again, developing a right relationship with God and others is less a matter of who we are or what we do, than the spirit in which we do it. There is no room for self-righteousness in a Gospel way of life. We all need to admit our failings with humility, turn to God for forgiveness, and change our ways. "Do your part to build up the kingdom of God in the hearts of young people" says Our Founder. **PRAYER:** Lord, make me humble in your presence.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.



3rd Week of
Lent
VIOLET



FRANCES OF ROME
(1384 - 1440)
WIDOW

St. Frances of Rome was a Benedictine oblate who founded a religious community of oblates, who share a common life with out religious vows. She had the gift of miracles and ecstasy, as well as the bodily vision of her guardian angel, had revelations concerning Purgatory and Hell, and foretold the ending of the Western Schism. She was remarkable for her humility and detachment, her obedience and patience. She is also a patron saint of widows.



4th Sunday of Lent

Violet

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: 2 chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

All the leading priests and the people also were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the LORD that he had consecrated in Jerusalem. The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD against his people became so great that there was no remedy. They burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had made up for its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years. In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom and also declared in a written edict: "Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him! Let him go up."

Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R: O let my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not.

By the rivers of Babylon There we sat and wept,
Remembering Sion; On the poplars that grew there
We hung up our harps. *R*

For it was there they asked us, Our captors, for songs,
Our oppressors, for joy. "Sing to us," they said,
"one of Sion's songs." *R*

O how could we sing The song of the Lord On foreign soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, Let my right hand wither! *R*

O let my tongue Cleave to my palate
If I remember you not, If I prize not Jerusalem
As the first of my joys! *R*

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God- not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Sunday

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Verse before the Gospel:

God so loved the world that he gave his only son; whoever believes in him has eternal life.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal

life."Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the



world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

® "Do not have any anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you." (De La Salle - Letter 101) The readings focus on God's faithfulness in drawing us closer to him. God did three things for one purpose. He brought us to life in Christ, raised us up with him, and seated us in the heavens. The purpose is to show the immeasurable riches of God's grace. Paul contrasts what we can achieve spiritually on our own (nothing) and what God gives us as undeserved grace (everything). The action starts with God so loving the world - the whole world - without any qualifications, hesitations, exceptions or prior demands. Then the Son comes. Those who trust and bond with the Son, become part of the Son's family (being born anew from above), and thereby become heirs to the family estate; heaven, Spirit, light, truth, love, salvation and eternal life. Those who hesitate and don't bond with the Son, don't become part of the family, and don't become heirs. What is our response to the God's action? De La Salle had a strong belief in god's Providence. He experienced grace after grace in life and that made him say "one step led to another." What is our level of trust in god's Providence? **PRAYER:** Spirit of God, lead me on.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

11

MAR

MONDAY

4th Week of
Lent

VIOLET

EULOGIUS OF
CORDOBA

(c.819 – 859)

MARTYR

St. Eulogius worked to comfort and support Christian martyrs and their survivors during Islamic persecutions in Moorish occupied Spain. Arrested several times for his faith, he wrote

Exhortation to Martyrdom while during one of his imprisonments.

Eulogius boldly proposed the truths of the Gospel to the officials. But in order not to hear him, the council condemned him immediately to be decapitated. He was scourged and beheaded on 11th March 859 by the Moors.

First Reading: Isaiah 65:17-21 ...*(please see appendix Page 464)*

Psalm 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b

℟ *I will extol you, Lord, for you have rescued me up.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful.

Gospel : John 4:43-54

When the two days were over, he went from that place to Galilee (for Jesus himself had testified that a prophet has no honor in the prophet's own country). When he came to Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the festival; for they too had gone to the festival. Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe." The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my little boy dies." Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, ...*(please see appendix Page 464)*

℟ **"In the light of faith you see things quite differently."** (De La Salle - Letter 118) **"Show the great love you have for Jesus by being eager to talk with him in prayer."** (Med 144.3) The Originator and the Completer of faith. That is what Jesus has come to do -- to bestow faith and make it to grow. One version translates this, "The pioneer and perfecter of faith." This story tells us that we are in the hands of One who does not always answer our prayers the way we expect, but in doing so he lifts us to a higher awareness of who he is, of his authority and power in the world and in life. As a result our faith becomes stronger, cleaner and truer. While we have experienced the power of prayer, we have also experienced its frustration. Sometimes we wonder if God really hears our prayers, because we don't get the answers that we expect. At other times, we find ourselves trying to pray but not knowing how—or mouthing clumsy words that seem inadequate to express the longings of our hearts—or we fall asleep while trying to pray—or we want to pray for someone but forget to do so. This verse suggests that our inadequacy in prayer is no barrier to communicating with God. He is quite capable of understanding our clumsiest prayers—even the unspoken prayers of our hearts. De La Salle insists that we pray every day especially at the start of each piece of work that we do. A Lasallian is nothing without prayer. **PRAYER:** God, make me a prayerful person.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12 ...*(please see appendix Page 464)*

Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

R **The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

Verse before the Gospel:

Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord will be with you.

Gospel: John 5:1-16

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk?’” ...*(please see appendix Page 465)*

R **“Let your chief study be the Bible, that it may be the guiding rule of your life.” (Med 170.1)** In the light of the current chaotic political and social climate, when we reflect on today`s readings we feel heavy at heart but God fills us with his comfort and hope. Right now, we are going through turbulent days where we are witnessing worldwide war, crimes, ongoing protests, and demands for justice and so on. People are angry with the way the rules are laid down and worry about their future security. We are longing for a world where all broken relationships are mended. We are longing for a world that is free of racism, hatred, death and fear. We thirst for forgiveness, healing, and salvation. Where can we find the fulfillment of our longings? Do you see this? “Sin no more. Stop sinning. Healing our body is the healing of our soul. I have given you a gift. It’s free. It came first, before my command. You didn’t earn it. You weren’t good enough for it. I chose you freely. And I healed you. Now, live in this power. Let the gift of healing, the gift of my free grace, be a means to your holiness.” This is God`s assurance for us. Lasallian Pedagogy with its catechetical, moral and value based flavor, should prepare the young to take charge of tomorrow`s world. **PRAYER:** God of justice, may I create your kingdom in young people`s heart.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.



4th Week of Lent

VIOLET



SERAFINA

(1238 - 1253)

VIRGIN

As a young girl, St. Serafina developed a paralytic illness and spent the rest of her life on a bed made from a wooden pallet. She never joined an order but lived her life under Benedictine Rule. In spite of her misfortune and poverty, she thanked God and expressed a desire that her soul might separate from the body in order to meet Jesus Christ.

13

MAR

WEDNESDAY

4th Week of
Lent

VIOLET

EUPHRASIA OF
CONSTANTINOPLE

Born in the year 380, St. Euphrasia was a Constantinopolitan nun. At the age of twelve, she was commanded by Emperor Arcadius to marry a senator but received permission to give her wealth to the poor and remain a nun. Known for her humility, meekness, and charity, she used to often perform manual labor when she was burdened with temptations. As a part of these labors, she often carried heavy stones from one place to another.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:8-15 ...*(please see appendix Page 465)*

Psalm 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18

℟ *The Lord is kind and full of compassion.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Gospel: John 5:17-30

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I also am working." For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the Sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God. Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ...*(please see appendix Page 466)*

℟ **"It is impossible to please God if you do not live on friendly terms with others."** (Letter 47 - to Brother Robert in Darnetal, 1709) Jesus relationship to God was threatening to those who saw God differently. He spoke of God as a loving father with whom he related closely and confidently. Do we think of the human relationships that have helped us understand what Jesus meant? Do we relax in the presence of God who loves us deeply? This calling is linked to the compassion of God, who feels the suffering of others as keenly as a mother might feel the suffering of her children. Yahweh works, to bring the people who are far away, back into the safety and joy of a covenant relationship, and the mission of the Church is to reflect this divine effort at reconciliation in a world characterized by exile, even to this day. Jesus immediately responds to criticism by telling them that He simply is doing what His Father had instructed Him to do. To heal and free others of illness and pain is to be compassionate and caring---as God is compassionate and loving. When Jesus heals another person, he is honouring God! From our Lasallian perspective, we must constantly represent the needs of our disciples in prayer and bring graces upon them for healing and change. **PRAYER:** Healer God, purify me and my children from inner wounds.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14 ...*(please see appendix Page 466)*

Psalm 106:19-20, 21-22, 23

℟ O Lord, remember us with the favour you show to your people.

Verse before the Gospel:

The Lord says, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Gospel: John 5:31-47

"If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. "You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. ...*(please see appendix Page 466)*

℟ "God's compassion for you is greater than the troubles you have." (Med 38.1) God's love is simply a sacrificing action. He does not love us as other humans' do, where every time when we act rightly, we are rewarded with a deeper commitment and love. God's love remains, even in our disobedience. Christ died for us, while we were yet sinners, while we were disobedient. So long as we stand in Christ's righteousness, so long as we believe in His love, so long as we stand together united in His love, we are saved. Neither God's wrath nor God's love come from emotion that is reactionary. One is the natural consequence of rejecting God in favor of worshipping self; the other is the natural consequence of loving God and rejecting self. We have the witness of the Father, the witness of John the Baptist, the witness of twenty centuries of testimony about the power of Jesus to deliver men and women, to free them from their chains, turn them around, heal them and make them whole people. Hundreds of thousands of voices bear witness to that fact. If we continue to pursue the empty voices of the world and seek positions of power and influence apart from the will and the glory of God— where does that leave us? De La Salle instructs us to look upon our work as one of the most important and most necessary services in the Church, one entrusted to us by pastors, fathers and mothers. **PRAYER:** Loving god, May my actions bear witness for you.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

14
MAR
THURSDAY

4th Week of
Lent
VIOLET



St. Matilda was born in the year 894 and was the Queen of Germany. She was the wife of King Henry. She taught the ignorant, comforted the sick and visited prisoners. She founded several Benedictine abbeys. She was considered to be extremely pious, righteous and charitable. Mathilde's two hagiographical biographies and The Deeds of the Saxons serve as authoritative sources about her life and work.

15

MAR

FRIDAY

4th Week of
Lent

VIOLET

LOUISE DE
MARILLAC

(1591 - 1660)

WIDOW

St. Louise De Marillac was born in the year 1591, on August 12, in France. She was the co-foundress with St. Vincent de Paul, of the Daughters of Charity. She was a wife, mother, widow, foundress and social service worker. She encouraged her beloved nuns to treat the poor as if they were serving Christ Himself. She was canonised on March 11, 1934 by Pope Pius XI. She was declared Patroness of Christian Social Workers.

First Reading: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22

For they reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, ...*(please see appendix Page 466)*

Psalm 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23

✠ *The Lord is close to the broken – hearted.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Gospel: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He did not wish to go about in Judea because the Jews were looking for an opportunity to kill him. Now the Jewish festival of Booths was near. But after his brothers had gone to the festival, then he also went, not publicly but as it were in secret. Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, "Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from." Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me." Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come.

✠ **"Don't be discouraged by anxieties and troubles. Life is full of them."** (Letter 102). The novelist Joseph Conrad writes about a time in his youth when he was learning to steer a ship. A storm blew up very suddenly and the sea captain did not take over the steering. Instead he kept yelling to him, "Laddie, keep her pointed into the wind!" Today we live in a world where we may face hostility. Yet, through prayer and frequent reception of the Eucharist and other sacraments, we receive the strength, courage and fortitude to be examples of Christian life. In the light of the fact that we live in the midst of a storm of sickness in our world today, when we consider this Gospel and what is implied in the Wisdom writing, we see that Jesus is following these instructions as we should. For Jesus, a storm rages about him, and the winds of controversy grow violent. But Jesus doesn't alter his course. He keeps pointing into the wind. He refuses to compromise truth. In fact, in all of today's readings, we are reminded of the opposition that our faith in Christ will provoke – and of God's faithfulness to us. In the Responsorial Psalm, we hear that "many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all" (Psalm 34:19). The direction that de La Salle suggests us to go to when we and our children face trials and problems, is to go to God in prayer. **PRAYER:** Powerful God, let me feel your presence every moment of my life.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20 ...*(please see appendix Page 467)*

Psalm 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12

℟ O Lord, my God, I take refuge in you.

Verse before the Gospel:

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. .

Gospel: John 7:40-53

When they heard these words, some in the crowd said, "This is really the prophet!" Others said, "This is the Messiah." But some asked, "Surely the Messiah does not come from Galilee, does he? Has not the scripture said that the Messiah is descended from David and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?" So there was a division in the crowd because of him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. Then the temple police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, "Why did you not arrest him?" The police answered, "Never has anyone spoken like this!" Then the Pharisees replied, "Surely you have not been deceived too, have you? Has any one of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, which does not know the law—they are accursed!" Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus before, and who was one of them, asked, "Our law does not judge people without first giving them a hearing to find out what they are doing, does it?" They replied, "Surely you are not also from Galilee, are you? Search and you will see that no prophet is to arise from Galilee." Then each of them went home.

℟ "Put up with the faults of others and be generous towards them." (Letter 105) Jeremiah has tried to do what the Lord called him to do, which makes him a righteous man—but it also makes him a marked man. It is because Jeremiah acted righteously that the people of Anathoth want to kill him. Now Jeremiah is trusting that the Lord, by judging righteously, will vindicate him. Hostility and division is the fruit of making judgments about others without learning about all they do. Let us not make judgments about one another without learning his or her side of the story. May we not be quick to make judgments about others without learning all of the facts? Reflect, today, upon the ways that God has left us in awe of His message and His love. Seek out His voice of conviction and clarity. Tune into the way God is trying to communicate and pay no attention to the ridicule and criticism we may experience when we do seek to follow His Voice. A reading of *The Conduct of Schools* by De La Salle enables us to see that human relationships are at the heart of the Lasallian school. This involves pupils, teachers, parents and also, indirectly, the local church and the professional milieu. For De La Salle, there was another partner in the educational relationship, namely GOD. Is our relationship coated with criticism, judgement or God's love? **PRAYER:** God of love, may my love be free of judgements and criticisms.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

16

MAR

SATURDAY

4th Week of
Lent

VIOLET



**HERIBERT OF
COLOGNE**
(c. 970 - 1021)
BISHOP

St. Heribert was born in the year 970 and was the Archbishop of Cologne. He founded and endowed the Benedictine monastery and church of Deutz, Germany. He performed miracles, including ending a drought, he is thus invoked for beneficial rains. He died on 16th March 1021 in Cologne. He was canonised on 1075 by Pope Gregory VII



5th Sunday of Lent

Violet
Psalter I

Year B

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

Rx Create a pure heart for me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God,
According to your merciful love;
According to your great compassion,
Blot out my transgressions.
Wash me completely from my iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin. *Rx*

Create a pure heart for me, O God;
Renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence;
Take not your holy spirit from me. *Rx*

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;
Sustain in me a willing spirit.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
That sinners may return to you. *Rx*

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him..

Verse before the Gospel:

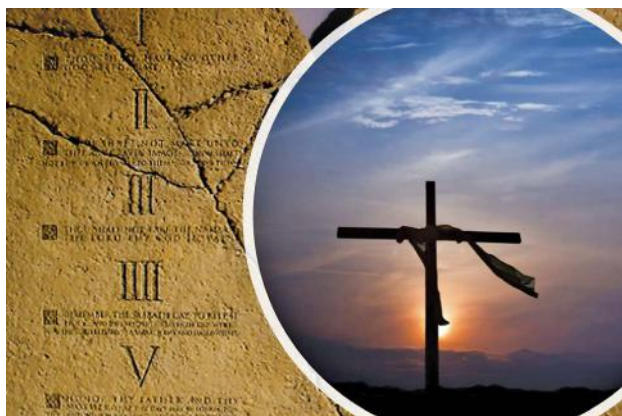
If anyone serves me, he must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there shall my servant be also.

Sunday

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant

be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor." Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say-- 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The



crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

℞ "Remembering that God is with you will help and inspire you in all that you do." (Letter 2) So God's greatest miracle may not be God's parting of the Red Sea or rescue of Jonah from the whale. The greatest miracle may be that God softens stony human hearts and that God equips God's children to want to do the right thing. Christ has left us an example that we should learn humble obedience to the will of God, by all our afflictions. We need affliction, to teach us submission. His obedience in our nature encourages our attempts to obey, and for us to expect support and comfort under all the temptations and sufferings to which we are exposed. Jesus sees us as His servants. He has work for us to do. It means following Him as disciples, doing what He has commanded us to do, walking in His steps. In that way we will be where He is, in the place He wants us to be. In this life and the next. If we are faithful in seeking to serve Jesus, God the Father will Himself honour us. "If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him." God honours all those who honour His Son, those who live for Him. Discerning and doing the Will of god in our life is a typical Lasallian Characteristic. **PRAYER:** God, empower me to discern your Will in all that I do.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

18

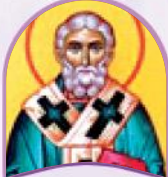
MAR

MONDAY

5th Week of
Lent

VIOLET

COMMEMORATION

CYRIL OF
JERUSALEM

(c.313 - 387)

BISHOP & DOCTOR

Born in the year 313 A.D., St. Cyril was a deacon, a priest and then became Bishop of Jerusalem after Maximus died. During famine, Cyril sold Church goods to raise money for the poor. He was a great teacher of catechumens. Cyril's writings are filled with the loving and forgiving nature of God as well as great lines of the healing power of forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, which was somewhat uncommon during his time period.

First Reading: Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 (or 13: 41-62) ..(please see appendix Page 467)

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6,

Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Verse before the Gospel:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life. You have the words of eternal life.

Gospel: John 8:1-11

While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives, early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

℟ "To be entrusted with the teaching of the young is a great gift and grace of God." (MTR 9.1 & Med 201.1) Many of us may be in situations that concern us in terms of how people are treated, cared for, or accepted by others. We are called to be like Daniel, and not fear speaking up or object to the status quo when leadership is not looking for ways to enhance the lives of those they touch, or when leadership uses fear to avoid challenges from the people they are to lead. We are also reminded, in this first reading that not only should we voice our objections to mistreatment, unwise decisions, or abuse of power but after having developed a prayerful relationship with Our Lord, we should voice those objections. We feel that when we try to work through our challenges and struggles without asking God to walk with us, we experience tidal waves. However in those times that we go to God with complete trust, our struggles seem to be calm restful waters. Jesus raises the bar for humanity- it's not just about right or wrong, it is about loving ourselves and others, with our human imperfections. De La Salle devoted his whole life to the defense of the poor, created a system that spoke for them and found a device that pointed them to their future. **PRAYER:** Father God, free my children from their bondage.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ...*(please see appendix Page 469)*

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

℟ His descendants shall continue forever.

Second Reading: Romans 4:13. 16-18. 22

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the ...*(please see appendix Page 469)*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord, for ever singing your praise.

Gospel: Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a

Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah. Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him;

℟ "Saint Joseph does not hesitate a single instant to carry out what God desired for him." (Med 110.2) He was called by God just as Mary was and he said 'yes' as Mary did. He said 'yes' not out of certainty, but in faith, for he is a man of radical and courageous faith, trusting that the God who called him would continue to encourage and guide him. He responded to God's call to him in trust and hope. "St. Joseph listens to God's directions for him, as spoken through the angel, and he puts those directives into action. St. Joseph listens to God and acts immediately. Joseph is not mild mannered nor simply a silent partner. What can we learn from Joseph? He teaches us how to be present in the joys and sorrows of life, to be steadfast, to live with integrity trusting in God who still calls and sustains each of us, regardless of what we are experiencing. Faced with what seemed like the impossible, Joseph didn't walk away or give in – he trusted God and said yes. De La Salle had a special love for St. Joseph. He tells us, "take St. Joseph as your model since he is your patron."**PRAYER:** May I respond to your call in trust and hope.

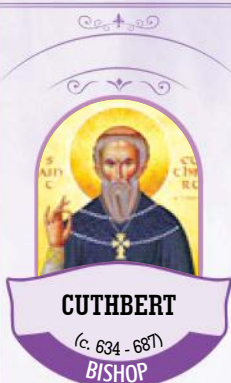
Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

19**MAR****TUESDAY**5th Week of
Lent**WHITE****SOLEMNITY****JOSEPH,
HUSBAND OF
MARY**

Known as the 'just' man, St. Joseph, the spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus was probably born in Bethlehem and died in Nazareth. He is known for his humility, obedience and justice. Great in the spirit, great in faith, St. Joseph comes through as a man who heard the words of the living God. He is the patron saint of the Universal Church, families, fathers, travellers and workers.



5th Week of
Lent
VIOLET



St. Cuthbert, born in the year 634, Scotland, was a saint of the early Northumbrian Church in the Celtic tradition. He received a vision of Saint Aidan of Lindesfarne entering heaven; the sight led Cuthbert to become a Benedictine monk at age 17. He was a monk, bishop and hermit, associated with the monasteries of Melrose and Lindisfarne. He had the gift of prophecy. Cuthbert is regarded as the patron saint of Northern England.

First Reading: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

King Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the ...*(please see appendix Page 469)*"

Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

R *You are to be praised and highly exalted forever!*

Verse before the Gospel:

The Lord says, "I am the resurrection and the life; and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Gospel: John 8:31-42

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free?'" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father's presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father." They answered him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does." They said to him, "We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself." Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.

R **"Earnestly ask Jesus that his Spirit may be alive in you."** (MTR 4.1 & Med 196.1) Choosing to remain true to God the three men refused to sin. We see, as the king did, that God saves those who are faithful. That God saves those who are faithful is a central theme in John's Gospel. Jesus says, if you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. Faithfulness is rewarded. Sin enslaves. And, if the Son frees you, then you will truly be free. The Son has freed us. Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, he yielded his body in service to God and the truth. Through that body, we are saved. This is Good News for us as much as it was for that early Christian community. Whatever enslaves us; whatever persecution we might be enduring; whatever physical or spiritual exile we might experience, God will enter into that fiery furnace with us and, if we are abiding with Christ, he will bring us out unfettered and unharmed. God saves those who are faithful. **PRAYER:** Lord, Help me to be faithful to your constant love.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Genesis 17:3-9

Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, ...*(please see appendix Page 470)*

Psalms 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

℟ The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts as at Meribah.

Gospel: John 8:51-59

Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

℟ "Do not have any anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you." (Letter 101) Both Abraham and Jesus stepped out in faith when God called. Abraham left his homeland and everything that was familiar, trusting that God would bring him safely to his journey's end, wherever that might be. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus surrendered his life into the Father's hands. We, too, are called to trust God, but how can we? We must start by appreciating what God has promised. The key to God's covenant was God's promise to Abraham. Abraham, who seemed destined to die without an heir, became the father of countless descendants filling the earth. The same is true of Jesus, through whom all are heirs to everlasting life. Ultimately, all we can rely on is God's promise. There is nothing that we cannot overcome with divine help. That is God's promise. Throughout his life, De La Salle depended on God's Providence and allowed the Spirit to lead him. **PRAYER:** Lord, I believe your promise — help me to overcome the doubts that often trouble me.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.



5th Week of
Lent
VIOLET



**NICHOLAS
OF FLÜE**
(1417 - 1487)
CONFESSOR

St. Nicholas was a Swiss hermit, ascetic and the patron saint of Switzerland. Also known as Brother Klaus", he is reported to have fought in a combat with a sword in one hand and a rosary in the other. His reputation for sanctity spread, and he attracted spiritual students. In 1481 he was called on to mediate a dispute that threatened civil war in Switzerland. He succeeded in averting the conflict, then retired to his hermitage.

22

MAR

FRIDAY

5th Week of
Lent

VIOLET



MARIA JOSEFA

(1842 - 1912)
NUN & FOUNDRESS

St. Maria Josefa was born on September 7, 1842 in Spain. At a very young age, she demonstrated a profound devotion for the Eucharist and for the Most Blessed Virgin. She also had a special sensitivity for the poor and the sick. Together with four other Servants of Mary, she founded the Congregation of the Servants of Jesus of Charity in 1871. She was canonised on 1 October 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" ...*(please see appendix Page 470)*

Psalm 18: 2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7

℟ *In my anguish I called to the Lord and he heard me.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life, you have the words of eternal life.

Gospel: John 10:31-42

The Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus replied, "I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?" The Jews answered, "It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God." Jesus answered, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, you are gods'? If those to whom the word of God came were called 'gods'—and the scripture cannot be annulled— can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, 'I am God's Son'? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father." Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands. He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. Many came to him, and they were saying, "John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." And many believed in him there.

℟ **"Abandon yourself to God". (Med 20.2).** We believe that Jesus is God and that he rose from the dead, then what? How will this knowledge change our lives? As we enter into Holy Week and enter into the paschal mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we can confidently look beyond the Cross to see the risen Christ. So too, we can confidently look beyond our own Calvary to see the hope of Christ. Our Calvary in our time, is our day to trials and sufferings for God's sake. Jeremiah knew God, and he trusted God. Therefore, even while he was being persecuted, Jeremiah could sing praise to God, whom he said was with him like a mighty champion. If Jeremiah could proclaim this great trust in God's power and deliverance, how much more should we be able to rely on him? We will face our own Calvary, perhaps several of them, but we know that Jesus is, "The Son of God". Throughout any and all hardships we may face in our lives, we know that we can rely on God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. De La Salle tells us to take courage in the love of suffering and the love of interior and exterior trials from which we must not expect to be exempt in this life. **PRAYER:** Father God, let me increase the trust I have in you when I go through difficult times.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:21-28 ...*(please see appendix Page 470)*

Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13

℟ The Lord will keep us, as a shepherd keeps his flock.

Verse before the Gospel:

Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, says the Lord, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit.

Gospel: John 11:45-57

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to put him to death. Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples. Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?"

℟ "It is impossible to please God if you do not live on friendly terms with others." (Letter 47). What would be your reaction if someone you know has achieved greatness? Will you envy and eventually decide to bring down this person? Or you will be happy for his/her success and you will even wish him/her more success. What if the Pharisees did not envy Jesus? What if they simply had a dialogue with Jesus so that they could work hand in hand to help the poor? The Pharisees could have been an agent of positive change in the lives of the poor. However they chose to allow the devil to sow envy and greed in their hearts. Hence, they committed a despicable crime of killing an innocent man in Jesus. Can envy and greed do us any good? No, it will not do us any good, it will only push us to do evil just as the Pharisees did to Jesus. Let us therefore weed out any feeling of envy and greed in our hearts. Instead of being envious let us be happy with those who succeed. Instead of being greedy, why not be generous? **PRAYER:** Lord, remove the feeling of envy from me.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

23
MAR
SATURDAY
5th Week of
Lent
VIOLET

COMMEMORATION



**TURIBIUS OF
MOGROVEJO**

(1538 - 1606)
BISHOP & CONFESSOR

St. Turibius was a lawyer and professor of law at Salamanca and judge of the Court of the Inquisition at Granada, Spain. He was a noted and charismatic preacher who set about baptizing and catechizing to the natives. He founded the first seminary in the Western hemisphere. He fought for the rights of the natives against the Spanish masters. He is honored as a saint in the United States Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.



Palm Sunday of The Lord's Passion

Red
Psalter II

Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18a, 19-20, 23-24

℟: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

All who see me deride me;
They curl their lips, they toss their heads;
“He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
Let him release him, for in him he delights. ℟

For dogs have surrounded me;
A band of the wicked besets me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
I can count every one of my bones. ℟

They divide my clothing among them,
They cast lots for my robe.
But you, O Lord, do not stay afar off;
My strength, make haste to help me! ℟

I will tell of your name to my kin,
And praise you in the midst of the assembly;
“you who fear the Lord, give him praise,
All descendants of Jacob, give him glory;
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel. ℟

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also

Sunday

highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Verse before the Gospel:

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Gospel: Mark 14:1–15:47

(Please see the Bible for the Passion Reading)



℞ **“Hope of salvation should serve as your helmet and the Word of God as shield.” (Med 22.3 Palm Sunday)** Let us walk with our Lord today into that holy city of Jerusalem. The events that took place there two millennia ago transcend and permeate all time. As a result, the events of Holy Week today are just as significant as they were long ago. We walk with our Lord, witness all He accomplished, receive His Body and Blood sacrificed on the Cross and memorialized in the Eucharist, and are resurrected with Him on the third day. Let us commit ourselves to this journey today, an eternal pilgrimage with our Lord to the Eternal City of Heaven. Palm Sunday confronts us with God being disruptively different; God the revolutionary. We see God who takes on the pain, who walks the journey of Holy Week, deeper and deeper into a darkness we cannot enter. Here is the challenge of Palm Sunday: in trusting in Jesus, the Servant King, we are set on a path of following his life and pattern, right to the Cross, so we too might experience the glorious resurrection. **PRAYER:** Jesus, let this Holy week journey bring a transformation in me.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

25

MAR

MONDAY

Monday of
Holy Week
WHITE



**NICODEMUS OF
MAMMOLA**

d. 990

Son of Theophanes and Pandia. Educated by a local priest, known for his learning and piety. It was a hard, ascetic life for these monks, dressed in goat skins, going bare-foot in all seasons, surviving on chestnuts and lupins with a cave for shelter and some straw for a bed, and Nicodemus was initially turned away by the abbot, Saint Fantinus and he attracted many young people to live a Holy life.

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.(please see appendix Page 470)

Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14

℟ *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Verse before the Gospel:

Hail, our King! You alone have mercy on us.

Gospel: John 12:1-11

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus.

℟ **"Adore Jesus' interior disposition in all these plans of the Pharisee's intrigue. He courageously endured everything because this was in accord with the plan of the Father."** (Med 23.2 Monday of Holy Week) As we begin Holy Week, we are reminded that this work of God's servant, which we also are, has to go on through us. We are not here this week just to be spectators, even grateful spectators. We are here to be part of the work which the Paschal Mystery inaugurated. We, too, are to be servants, ready, if necessary, to suffer as Jesus did for the sake of our brothers and sisters. True disciples do not ask how much enough for Jesus is. Rather, they look for what else can be given to Jesus. What stops us from having this love is the same thing that stopped Judas; a dishonest or greedy heart. This condition blocks our heart from opening up and treasuring Jesus. We must change our thinking from what am I getting to what can I give Jesus. Jesus is the one who gives life and saves us from eternal punishment. What do we want to give him? **PRAYER:** Jesus, I give you my heart, my soul and my life.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6(please see appendix Page 471)

Psalm 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17

✠ My mouth will tell of your Salvation, Lord.

Verse before the Gospel:

Hail, our King, obedient to the Father, you are led to be crucified, as the meek lamb to slaughter.

Gospel: John 13:21-33, 36-38

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "Do quickly what you are going to do." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival"; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night. When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once.

...(please see appendix Page 471)

✠ "Strive after the example of your Divine master Jesus Christ to want only what God wants, when he wants it, and in the way he wants it. (Med 24.1 Tuesday of Holy Week) This scene happens in John's Gospel immediately after the scene of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. He washed the feet of all his disciples, including the feet of Judas. He showed the same love to Judas that he showed to the other disciples. Judas, however, did not receive Jesus' love. He chose to turn his back on it. We see the mystery of human freedom at work here. The Lord needs our free response to the offer of his love and friendship. If it is not forthcoming, he cannot force it. Yet, as risen Lord he continues to seek out the lost. His seeking us in our weakness and sin is never in doubt. The only question is whether we will allow ourselves to be found. This Holy Week is a good time to allow ourselves to be found by the Lord who has laid down his life for us. As we contemplate the final journey of Jesus, as we celebrate it liturgically, we allow ourselves to be touched by the love which that journey expresses. It is the love of the Good Shepherd for all the scattered children of God. De La Salle invites us to do everything for the love of God who in turn will reward us. **PRAYER:** Lord, touch me and make me whole.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

26

MAR

TUESDAY

Tuesday of
Holy Week

VIOLET



LUDGER

(c. 742 - 809)

BISHOP

St. Ludger was born in the year 742 A.D. in Netherlands. He was a missionary among the Frisians and Saxons and the founder of Werden Abbey as well as the first Bishop of Munster in Westphalia. He rebuilt many churches and monasteries. He refused to be the bishopric of Germany to continue his missionary work. He never neglected his time of prayer and meditation, even on the day of his death, he celebrated Mass twice.

27

MAR

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday of
Holy Week

VIOLET



JOHN OF EGYPT

(c.305 - 394)

HERMIT

Born in the year 305, in Egypt, St. John was one of the most famous early desert hermits, a noted prophet of his era.

His reputation for wisdom and holiness caused him to be chosen as advisor to Emperor Theodosius.

He had the gifts of prophecy, healing, and knowledge of the hidden sins of his visitors. He died in the year 394 A.D.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—...*(please see appendix Page 471)*

Psalm 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34

R. In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord, for a time of your favour.

Verse before the Gospel:

Hail, our King, obedient to the Father, you are led to be crucified, as the meek lamb to slaughter.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-25

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'" So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

R "Make yourselves worthy to receive the benefits of salvation by your own sharing in his sufferings." (Med 25.1 Wednesday of Holy Week) This week tells us that, in the case of Jesus, the human betrayal that led to His crucifixion did not have the last word; God had the last word by raising his Son from the dead. God elicited good from the evil of betrayal and the many other evils that Jesus endured in the last week of his life. God can also elicit good from the painful experiences that come our way because of others. These days of Holy Week invite us to trust that God can work in life-giving ways, even in those dark experiences, that might make us cry out in the words of this morning's Psalm, 'I have reached the end of my strength'. Are we lovers of money or do we allow money to take control of us? What a shame that Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Money indeed can make people do inhuman things, as can a lust for power too. De La Salle shows great example to us by giving up everything, his wealth and power, for the welfare of the teachers and the poor. **PRAYER:** Lord, give me the spirit of sharing, sharing what I have with others.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14...*(please see appendix Page 472)*

Psalms 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

✠ The cup of blessing is a participation the blood of Christ.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ...*(please see appendix Page 472)*

Verse before the Gospel:

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another even as I have loved you.

Gospel: John 13:1-15

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean." After he had washed their feet, *...(please see appendix Page 472)*

℟ "God of love, set me aflame with love for you and for my neighbour." (Explanation of the Method of Interior Prayer). Holy Thursday celebrates the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and brotherhood. An intentional Holy Week can serve as a spiritual pilgrimage that deepens our faith. The grace of Holy Thursday is knowing that God embraces us despite our weaknesses and imperfections. He teaches us to be together as brothers and sisters. This is a lesson we need to learn in a personal way. God meets our frailty with love, without judgement or exclusion. God's love is given to us without distinction. "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do (John 13:15)." On this first day of the Triduum, we recognize God's unfailing gift of undeserved, unconditional, and unifying love for us. This love has the power to embolden every human heart and calls us to do the same. Accordingly, let us ask for the grace to respond to God's call to love one another. **PRAYER:** Jesus, strengthen the bond I have with my brothers and sisters.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.



Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we recall the Christ:

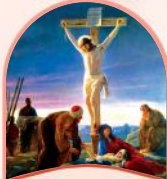
- "instituted the Eucharist" and Commanded his apostles to celebrate it until his return.
- "Constituted them priests of the New Testament" and
- "commanded them to love one another" as he has loved them.

Today there is no dismissal from Mass, creating a connection to the rest of the Paschal Triduum.

29

MAR

FRIDAY

Good
Friday
RED

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church. Traditionally, there is no Mass and no celebration of the Eucharist of the Eucharist on Good Friday. A liturgy may still be performed and communion, if taken, comes from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 ...*(please see appendix Page 472)*

Psalm 31:2 and 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17 and 25

℟ Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Verse before the Gospel:

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

Gospel: John 18:1-19: 42

(Please see the Bible for the Passion Narrative)

℟ "Jesus was loaded with curses, insults and calumnies." (Med 27.1 - Good Friday) "Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble." This familiar Good Friday hymn was created by people enslaved and robbed of hopes and freedoms that we often take for granted today. We reflect on the suffering of Jesus, who serves as Savior for both sinner and saint, converted and condemned, faith-filled and faithless. Let us reflect on those who are condemned, harmed, killed, and abused by the hands of those in power; reflect on friends and family members who have died at the hands of the police or the death penalty; reflect on the plight of those who are poor and those on the move from comfortable homelands to ambiguity; reflect on the unemployed and the underemployed; reflect on those who cannot find the courage to forgive or to engage their neighbors with dignity. Sometimes it causes us to tremble, tremble, tremble. The brothers and sisters of Jesus continue to suffer throughout the world in order to bear witness to him. God continues to ask: Were you there? Were you there to defend? To heal? To comfort? To prevent? To speak out? Were you there? Was I there? This Good Friday, let us seek ways of moving from a paralysis of merely trembling to a culture of encounter and action. De La Salle died on a Good Friday. He cared for and spoke for the voiceless and also defended their cause. He was there. **PRAYER:** Lord, courage is what I ask of you, courage to speak out, to defend and to heal.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-2: 2 or 1:1, 26-31a

Psalms 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 13-14 and 35c

Second Reading: Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Third Reading: Exodus 14:15-15: 1

Forth Reading: Isaiah 54:5-14

Fifth Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

Sixth Reading: Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4

Seventh Reading: Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

✠ Lord, send forth your spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11 ... (please see appendix Page 473)

Gospel: Mark 16:1-7

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ... (please see appendix Page 473)

✠ "The sacred wounds can procure for us another benefit: to animate us to a love for suffering." (Med 28.3 Holy Saturday) Death is our ultimate fear. Everything else we fear, every struggle we have, is some taste of, some chilling approach to, the experience of losing our life. This fear is responsible for so much of our lust and greed, so much of our denial and arrogance, so much of our silly clinging to power, so much of our hectic and anxiety-driven activity. It is the one, inevitable reality we all will face. There is not enough time, money, joy, fulfillment, success. Our physical beauty and strength, our mental competency and agility, all that we have and use to define ourselves, slip away from us with time. Our lives are limited. Our existence is coming to an end. We will all die. In a matter of time, all that will be left of any of us is a decomposing body. Our reflection on this Holy Saturday, and our anticipation of celebrating the gift of life tonight and tomorrow, can bring immense peace and joy, powerful freedom and vitality to our lives. For if we truly believe that death holds no true power over us, we can walk each day in the grace being offered us - to give our lives away in love. **PRAYER:** Risen Jesus, help me rise above my lowliness.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.



Holy
Saturday
WHITE

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM DAY 3



HOLY SATURDAY

Holy Saturday is sacred as the day of the Lord's rest; it has been called the "Second Sabbath" after creation. The day is and should be the most calm and quiet day of the entire Church year, a day broken by no liturgical function.

Christ lies in the grave, the Church sits near and mourns, meditating his suffering and death.



The Resurrection of our Lord

Solemnity - Easter Sunday

White

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Psalm 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23

℟ This is the day the Lord had made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good;

His mercy endures forever

Let the house of Israel say,

"his mercy endures forever." *℟*

"The Lord's hand is exalted.

The Lord's right hand has done mighty deeds,"

I shall not die, I shall live

And recount the deeds of the Lord. *℟*

The stone that the builders rejected

Has become the cornerstone.

By the Lord has this been done,

A marvel in our eyes. *℟*

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival.

Sunday

EASTER SUNDAY

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.



® “Show by your conduct that the resurrection of Jesus Christ has produced happy effects in you.” (Med 29.3 Easter Sunday). Our Lenten journey and pilgrimage are over. Our fasting is complete; now we can feast and celebrate. We have travelled with Jesus from the harshness of the desert to the new life coming from the empty tomb. When we look at the news on our televisions or read it in our newspapers, we are all very well aware of all the hardship and pain that exists in our world today. There isn't a day that goes by where we don't read the story of a random act of terrorism or a shooting of one kind or another. There are painful scenes of war, famine and terrorism on our televisions. Even at the time of Jesus there was inequality, injustice, and poverty. But it is into that world that he came with the good news of the Kingdom of God. In a world where there is often the reality of suffering, violence and injustice, we are called to be people of hope. This is not ordinary human hope. This is the hope that comes to us through the resurrection of Jesus. In the face of sadness, difficulty and pain, we are called to look to and rely on the resurrected Jesus and not just on our strength and resources. The call, invitation and even challenge of Easter is that I experience it personally deep within myself. I am called to be an Easter person, a person of the resurrection. De La Salle invites every Lasallian to be an Easter person touching and transforming lives. **PRAYER:** Risen Jesus, May I be an Easter person, a person of the resurrection.

Reflection: Br. JERALD MANGALAM FSC, India.

1

APR

MONDAY

Easter
Monday
WHITE

HUGH

(1053 - 1132)
BISHOP OF GRENOBLE

St. Hugh was a Benedictine bishop of Grenoble, France, patron of St. Bruno.

He was a canon of the cathedral in Valence. In 1080, while attending a synod in Avignon, Hugh was named bishop of Grenoble.

He attempted a massive reform of the diocese but discouraged, retired to Chaise Dieu Abbey and became a Benedictine. Pope

St. Gregory VII ordered him back to Grenoble. Hugh gave St. Bruno the land on which the Grande

Chartreuse was founded, thus starting the Carthusians.

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, ...*(please see appendix Page 474)*

Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

✠ *Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel: Matthew 28:8-15

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. After the priests had assembled with the elders, they devised a plan to give a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You must say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this comes to the governor's ears, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So they took the money and did as they were directed. And this story is still told among the Jews to this day.

Ⓡ **HERALDS OF TRUTH:** There is a strong contrast in today's gospel reading, between the engagements of a group of women and the engagements of a group of men. The women were full of the joys of Easter. Their joy is deepened when the risen Lord himself meets them and commissions them to share the good news, with his disciples. In divergence, the group of men conspire between them to spread a false story about Jesus' disciples stealing his body. For this group of men who wanted Jesus dead, news that he had risen from the dead was indeed very bad news. The good news increased the women's spirituality and added a new dimension to their lives, that of being joyful messengers. Today, we are invited to identify with the women's response to the risen Lord. We are all commissioned to be heralds of the truth of Easter, disciples who announce by their well lived lives that the light of the risen Lord shines in the darkness. Saint La Salle reminds us, "...*you can say that you are doing the same thing and fulfilling the same ministry in your profession. You must, then, regard your work... as one of the most important and necessary services in the Church.*" (Med. 199.1)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 2:36-41

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" *...(please see appendix Page 474)*

Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22

R *His merciful love fills the earth.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel: John 20:11-18

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

R **TENDERNESS HE REWARDS:** The story told in the Gospel today is one of recognition and respect. Jesus calls her (by name) "Woman" and instantly Mary recognizes him. To paraphrase A. T. Lincoln, the sheep recognize the Shepherd's voice (Jn.10:3-4). In turn, she responds, "Rabbouni!" "Respect" is much wrapped up in this one expression. In Judaism, teachers commanded immense respect from their students. Mary shows him this respect with love, not only as a student but also a zealous follower. The entire story is scattered throughout with signs of her love. Her coming to his grave early in the morning expressed her commitment and fidelity. Her tears demonstrated her love for her "beloved teacher". Saint La Salle affirms, *"By her faithfulness at the tomb of Jesus Christ, she merited to be the first one to whom he appeared after his Resurrection... By the kindness he showed to Mary Magdalen, Jesus Christ has made it clear how good God is to those who love him and with what tenderness he rewards, even in this life, the love they have for him."* (Med. 144.3). She was the first to witness the empty tomb. There can be no doubt that she was respected and admired by Jesus.

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



Easter
Tuesday
WHITE



FRANCIS OF PAOLA
(1416 - 1507)
CONFESSOR

St. Francis of Paola was a man who deeply loved contemplative solitude and wished only to be the "least in the household of God." He founded the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi in 1474. He helped to restore peace between France and Brittany by advising a marriage between the ruling families, and between France and Spain by persuading Louis XI to return some disputed land. He is the patron saint of boatmen, mariners, and naval officers.



Easter
Wednesday
WHITE



RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

C. 1197 – 1253
BISHOP OF CHICHESTER

St Richard was a Bishop of Chichester. His father died when he was young. He was educated at Oxford, England, in Paris, France, and in Bologna, Italy. He was the chancellor of Oxford University, legal advisor to St Edmund Rich and St Boniface or Savoy, the Archbishops of Canterbury., Became a priest, later Bishop of Chichester. Miracles and cures occurred at his shrine in Chichester.

First Reading: Acts 3:1-10 ...*(please see appendix Page 474)*

Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9

✠ *Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; ...*(please see appendix Page 475)*

✠ **COURTESY OF JESUS:** The Road to Emmaus tells of two men who were walking towards the sunset. In their sorrow and their disappointment, those two were in a state of **CONFUSION**. It tells us of the ability of Jesus to make sense of things. Their hopes and dreams were exhausted. They were open to **CONFESS** their confusion to the wayfarer, "...we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel" (Lk.21: 21). It tells us of the courtesy of Jesus. He reflected with them on their story, by delving deeper into scripture and tradition. He initiated a **CONVERSATION**. The dialogue intersects the two stories. When there was a new way of seeing then **CONVERSION** took place in them. The breaking of bread indicates that he was known to them. These men recognized Jesus and were **CONVINCED**. It tells how these two men, when they received such great joy, hurried to share it. They **RETURNED TO JERUSALAM**. The Founder recalls, "Jesus Christ was so pleased by the disciples' conversation that he went with them ... remained there with them. Similarly, Jesus will be glad to be with you when you take pleasure in speaking of him and of what can lead you to him." (Med. 30.3) (195)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 3:11-26

While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished.
...(please see appendix Page 475)

Psalms 8:2ab and 5,6-7a, 7b-9

℟️ O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name through all the earth!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled!" Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.


℟️ FAITH ENLIVENS: Today's passage continues the story of the two disciples who encountered the risen Christ on the road to Emmaus. The two disciples were sharing their story with the other disciples when there and then the risen Lord stood among them and declared, 'Peace be with you'. Saint La Salle affirms, *"In this way Jesus Christ, entering a soul,... through the faith that enlivens it,... As a result, the soul no longer sees anything except by the eyes of faith."* (Med. 32.2) He opened the minds of the apostles to an understanding of the Scriptures. He had to go to great lengths to convince them that he was alive in a new and more powerful way. He stresses the necessity of the cross. It was to the cross that all the scriptures looked forward. The cross is part of the plan of God, for it is the one place on earth, where in a moment of time, we see his eternal love. It is only in the light of Easter that Jesus' death came to be understood as the revelation of the God of love and life. Thereby we become witnesses to his resurrection.

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

4
APR
THURSDAY

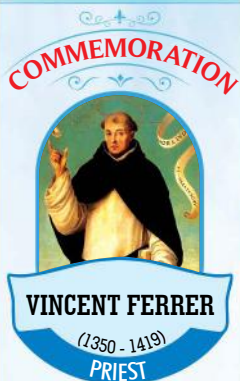
Easter
 Thursday
WHITE

COMMEMORATION



ISIDORE OF SEVILLE
 (c. 560 - 636)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

St. Isidore lived at a time of conflict and growth for the Church in Spain. He practically eradicated the heresy of Arianism and completely stifled the new heresy of Acephali at its very outset. Archbishop Isidore also used resources of education to counteract increasingly influential Gothic barbarism throughout his episcopal jurisdiction. He required seminaries to be built in every diocese, wrote a Rule for religious orders, and founded schools that taught every branch of learning.



St. Vincent Ferrer was a Dominican friar who was very vocal to work against the Western Schism prevalent during his time. He is said to have been responsible for the conversion of many Jews to Catholicism. He spent the last 20 years of his life preaching the Good News in Spain, France, and Switzerland stressing the need of repentance and the fear of coming judgment. He became known as the "Angel of the Judgment."

First Reading: Acts 4:1-12 ...*(please see appendix Page 476)*

Psalm 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a

☞ The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel: John 21:1-14

After these things Jesus showed himself to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing;" They said to him, "we will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, and hundred and fifty-three of them; ...*(please see appendix Page 470)*

☞ LIGHT ALWAYS SHINES: Today's gospel makes reference to the shore of the Sea of Galilee and the fact that the disciples had an unproductive night of fishing. It tells us that as the darkness of night gave way to the light of dawn, 'there stood Jesus on the shore' (Jn.21:4). Like the disciples in today's reading, we don't always recognize him. One of the disciples whom Jesus loved went on to recognize the stranger on the shore. After the wonderful catch of fish he exclaimed, 'it is the Lord' (Jn. 21: 7). The Gospel reading reminds us that the Lord's light always shines in our darkness, whatever form that darkness takes. We are being assured that our failures need not overcome us. The Lord remains in communion with us, and if we seek to be in communion with him and are open to his word, he will work powerfully to elicit new life from our failures. 'Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing'. (Jn. 15:5). Saint La Salle believes that, "*By uniting Himself with them, He gives them in abundance the graces they are able to receive and that He has prepared for them*". (Med. 50.2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 4:13-21

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. They said, "What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name." *...(please see appendix Page 476)*

Psalms 118:1and 14-15ab, 15c-18, 19-21

✠ I will thank you, Lord, for you have answered me.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Gospel: Mark 16:9-15

[Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

TRANSFORMING EFFECT: In the gospel reading the disciples refused to believe Mary Magdalene and the two disciples who had left Jerusalem for Emmaus, told them that Jesus was alive and had appeared to them. When Jesus himself appeared to his disbelieving disciples, he rebuked them for the fact that they denied to believe those who had witnessed his resurrection. In spite of their initial failure to believe, Jesus commissions them to go out and proclaim the good news of Easter to all creation. The disciples are a living sign of how people can change through the power of the risen Lord. Jesus was transformed through his resurrection from the dead. The same risen Lord can have a transforming effect on all of us. If we are open to his presence, he can do for us what he did for the disciples, transforming our doubt and disbelief into a faith that is public and courageous. Saint La Salle realises, "...you are called to announce the truths of the holy Gospel. Carry out this ministry well, and take care that those whom you guide are well instructed in the mysteries of our holy religion". (Med. 175.3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

6
APR
SATURDAY

Easter
Saturday
WHITE



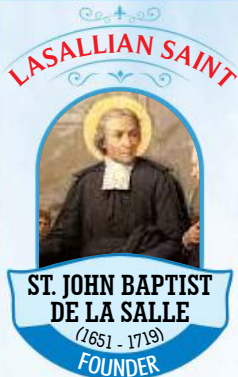
CELESTINE I
(d. 432)
POPE CONFESSOR

St. Jean Baptiste was a French priest, educational reformer, and founder of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He believed that education gave hope and opportunity for people to lead better lives of dignity and freedom. He dedicated much of his life to the education of poor children in France. He is the patron saint for teachers of youth. Pope Leo XIII canonized La Salle on 24 May 1900.

7
APR
SUNDAY

2nd Sunday of Easter
Divine Mercy Sunday

White **Year B** **Psalter II**



Saint John Baptist De La Salle, the patron saint of teachers, founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers), a unique group of lay religious men dedicated exclusively to education. Founded in 17th century France, De La Salle's mission lives on in 80 countries, with 4,000 Brothers and 90,000 Partners serving one million young people in 1,000 ministries.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Psalms 118:2-4, 16b-18, 22-24

℟: Give praise to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
"his mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,
"his mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say,
"his mercy endures forever." ℟

"The Lord's right hand
has done mighty deeds."
I shall not die, I shall live
And recount the deeds of the Lord.
The Lord punished me, punished me severely,
But did not hand me over to death. ℟

The stone that the builders rejected
Has become the cornerstone,
By the Lord has this been done,
A marvel in our eyes.
This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice in it and be glad. ℟

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not

Sunday

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Thomas, you have believed, says the Lord, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Gospel: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



Ⓡ MESSAGERS OF EASTER: The risen Lord comes to his fearful disciples. 'Jesus stood among them'. The Lord stood in all the strength of his risen life. His standing there spoke powerfully of his faithfulness to them. His wounds were signs of a divine merciful love. Jesus enabled them to leave their self-imposed prison and go forth as his joyful and confident messengers of Easter. Easter gives us renewed courage to be witnesses to our faith. Jesus keeps breathing the Holy Spirit on us. The risen Lord respected Thomas' honesty. There was no rebuke, only an invitation to believe. In response to the Lord's invitation, Thomas made one of the greatest confessions of faith in the gospels, 'My Lord and my God'. Thomas belatedly came to belong to that group of Jesus' first disciples, who saw and believed. Let us recall the words of the Founder whose feast also occurs today, "*In this way a soul is filled with views of faith and is so raised up into the life of God that it no longer understands things apart from God; it values everything in terms of God and finds no joy except in God*". (Med. 32.3) The gospel reading concludes with the Lord's final beatitude, 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'.

8

APR

MONDAY

2nd Week of
Easter
WHITE

SOLEMNITY



THE
ANNUNCIATION OF
THE LORD

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord commemorates the most sublime moment in the history of time: the moment when the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity assumed human nature in the womb of the Virgin Mary. It is announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary that she would conceive and become the mother of Jesus, marking His Incarnation (Lk 1:26-38).

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14, 8:10c ...*(please see appendix Page 476)*

Psalm 40:7-8a,8b-9, 10, 11

℟ See, I have come, Lord to do your will.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 4-10 ...*(please see appendix Page 477)*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we have beheld his glory.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

℟ SEARCH FOR TRUTH: Luke portrays Mary as someone whose initial response to the call of God was to raise questions. When she was greeted, she was deeply disturbed and asked herself what this greeting could mean. When Gabriel announced that she would give birth to a child who would be called Son of the Most High, she asked, 'How can this come about, since I am a virgin?' It was only when Gabriel spoke for the third time that Mary *'humbled herself'* (Med.112.1) to what God was asking her, 'Let what you have said be done to me'. On similar occasions like the shepherds visiting the new born child at Bethlehem (Lk. 2: 19) and the finding of the boy Jesus at the temple (Lk. 2: 49), Mary treasured and pondered the words of the shepherds and the answer the boy Jesus gave in the temple. Mary is of a woman who is full of questions, who pondered deeply on all that was happening in her life so that she could understand it more fully. She models for us a reflective faith, a faith that seeks to understand. As people of faith, like Mary, we are to be searchers after truth. In our searching we have the encouragement of the Lord's promise to us, 'Seek and you will find' (Mt. 7: 7-8).

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 4:32-37

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Psalm 93:1abc, 1d-2, 5

℟ *The Lord is King, with majesty enrobed.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the good shepherd says the Lord, I know my own and my own know me.

Gospel: John 3:7b-15

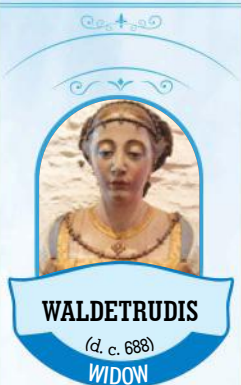
Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

℟ SURRENDER TO HIS SPIRIT: Jesus often spoke about day to day realities and used the image of the wind as portrayed in today's gospel as a way of talking about important spiritual realities. Today, in speaking about the wind he is, in reality, speaking about the Holy Spirit, 'This is how it is with all who are born of the Spirit', he says. Jesus seems to be saying to Nicodemus and to us that the Spirit of God is not something we can control. The Spirit takes us where God wants us to go. All we can do is to surrender to the breath of the Spirit within us and around us, to allow the Spirit to direct us and to lead us. The spiritual person is the person whose life is shaped and directed by the Spirit. Discerning where the Holy Spirit is leading us is central to our lives as followers of Jesus. Saint La Salle reminds us, *"Do you surrender entirely to this divine Spirit, so that he may ask of God all you need to have for the good of your own soul and for those in your care and so that you may act only by him?"* (Med. 62.2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



2nd Week of
Easter
WHITE



St. Waldetrudis grew up in the 7th century, a daughter in a family of extraordinary holiness. She lived a simple life of prayer and performed many works of mercy. She was known for miracles of healing that happened through her intercession when she was alive and after her death. Even though she established the convent, she lived there as a common member, not as the leader of the community. She is the patron saint of Mons, Belgium.

10 APR

WEDNESDAY

2nd Week of
Easter
WHITE



FULBERT

(c. 960 - 1028)

BISHOP

St. Fulbert was the Bishop of Chartres from 1006 to 1028. He was responsible for the advancement of the Nativity of the Virgin's feast day on September 8. He played an important role in the development and spread of the ideas that led to the Gregorian church reforms of the eleventh century.

These reforms concerned the division between the powers of church and state, especially in the appointment of new abbots and bishops.

First Reading: Acts 5:17-26

Then the high priest took action; he and all who were with him (that is, the sect of the Sadducees), being filled with jealousy, arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message about this life." When they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching. When the high priest and those with him arrived, they called together the council and the whole body of the elders of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the temple police went there, they did not find them in the prison; so they returned and reported, "We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, ...*(please see appendix Page 477)*

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R: *The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

Gospel: John 3:16-21

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

R GOD'S LOVE: The words of Jesus to Nicodemus are one of the strongest and most positive statements in the New Testament about God. It speaks of God's love for the world, of God's generous way of expressing His love by giving the world His Son and of God's desire that all people would experience eternal life through receiving God's Son in faith. It is a hugely positive image of God and of how God relates to the world. We have to open ourselves to God's love, receive God's Son, enter into the light and allow it to shine upon us. Saint La Salle says that, "God cannot truly desire this without providing the means for it and, therefore, without giving children the teachers who will assist them in the fulfillment of his plan. This, says Saint Paul, is the field that God cultivates, the building that he is raising, and you are the ones whom he has chosen to help in this work by announcing to these children the Gospel of his Son and the truths that are contained in it." (Med. 193. 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 5:27-33

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.

Psalms 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20

✠ The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Thomas, you have believed, says the Lord, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Gospel: John 3:31-36

The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.

✠ FIRMLY ATTACH TO JESUS: In today's gospel we are given the words spoken by John the Baptist. In the verse just before this gospel reading begins, John had said of Jesus, 'He must increase, but I must decrease'. He then goes on to speak of Jesus. He was very aware that Jesus was above him, 'comes from heaven', that the 'Father Gives Jesus the Spirit without reserve', and that he 'has entrusted everything to the Son'. He had a profound appreciation of the uniqueness of Jesus and for this reason, he could say, 'he must increase, but I must decrease'. The more we see of Jesus, the more we recognize what is yet to be seen. The closer we come to him, the more we understand how deeper our relationship with him could be. As he increases in us and we decrease, we don't cease to be ourselves. Rather, the more Jesus increases in us, the more we become our true selves, our Christ selves, the person God is calling us to be. Our Founder reminds us, "*Is this the way you look upon your relationship with him? Are you so firmly attached to Jesus Christ that you no longer think of yourself?*" (Med. 59.2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



2nd Week of
Easter
WHITE

COMMEMORATION



STANISLAUS
(1030 - 1079)
BISHOP & MARTYR

St. Stanislaus of Szczepanów also known as St. Stanislaus aimed his attacks at the evils of the peasantry and the king, especially the unjust wars and immoral acts of King Boleslaus II. His eloquence and example brought about real conversion in many of his penitents, both clergy and laity. He continued his open opposition in spite of charges of treason and threats of death, finally excommunicating the king. Enraged, the king killed Stanislaus with his own hands.

12

APR

FRIDAY

2nd Week of
Easter
WHITE

GEMMA GALGANI

(1878 - 1903)

VIRGIN

St. Gemma Galgani, was an Italian mystic often referred to as the "Daughter of Passion". She is especially venerated by the Passionists. At the age of twenty one, she began to display signs of the stigmata. At the end of her ecstasies, she returned to normal and carried on quietly and serenely. She was canonized on May 2, 1940, by Pope Pius XII. She is the patron saint against temptations, tuberculosis, and of pharmacists.

First Reading: Acts 5:34-42 ...*(please see appendix Page 477)*

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

℟️ There is one thing I ask of the Lord, to live in the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ being raised from the dead will never die again. Death no longer has dominion over him.

Gospel: John 6:1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ...*(please see appendix Page 478)*

℟️ PERFECT IN WEAKNESS: In the Gospel reading today, we find Jesus and his disciples facing a situation of a hungry crowd and little or no means of feeding them. Different people reacted in different ways. Philip made a calculation on the basis of the number of people and the amount of money available to buy food, and decided that nothing could be done. Andrew had another reaction to the situation. He recognized that a small boy had a small amount of food but he dismissed it as it was of no value. There were two other reactions the reaction of the generous boy who is willing to give Jesus the few pieces of food that he had and then, the reaction of Jesus himself. He took the little food that the boy offered and after having prayed to God, fed the enormous crowd. This shows us how Jesus worked powerfully with the very weak resources of little food. St Paul experienced, 'God's power can be made perfect in weakness' (2 Cor. 12: 9). Indeed God can work powerfully in and through very weak instruments like Paul himself. Saint La Salle invites us, "God wishes you always to use, insofar as you are able, the ordinary means that he provides for your guidance, even if this is without any success". (Med. 20. 1)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Psalms 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

✠ *May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Gospel: John 6:16-21

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

℟ "IT IS I": The disciples in the boat were trying to reach the other side of the Sea of Galilee. We often feel the call to move to a different shore. However, once we set out for that other side, we often find ourselves struggling, like the disciples. Whenever we take on new initiatives, or take a new direction even in our ministry, we will sometimes find ourselves battling with the equivalent of a strong wind and a rough sea, perhaps with a kind of darkness coming over us. It was in such a moment the disciples saw Jesus coming towards the boat, saying to them, **'It is I. Do not be afraid'**. The Lord comes to us all in our moments of struggle. When we sense our vulnerability, our frailty engulfs us. The Lord's availability to us and our awareness of his presence always makes the journey to the other side, the far shore, seem that bit shorter. Saint La Salle guides us, "... when it happens that you encounter some difficulty in the guidance of your disciples, when there are some who do not profit from your instructions and you observe a certain spirit of immorality in them, turn to God with confidence." (Med. 196.1)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



2nd Week of
Easter
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



MARTIN I

(d. 655)
POPE & MARTYR

Pope Martin I was the bishop of Rome from 21 July 649 to his death. He held a council at the Lateran in which the imperial documents were censured, and in which the patriarch of Constantinople and two of his predecessors were condemned. For his resolute opposition to Monothelitism, Pope Martin I was arrested by Emperor Constans II and ultimately banished to Cherson. He is the last of the early popes to be venerated as a martyr.



3rd Sunday of Easter

White

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Psalm 4:2, 4, 7, 8, 9 (7a)

R. Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I called, the God of justice gave me answer;

From anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me! *R.*

Know that the Lord works wonders for his faithful one;

The Lord will hear me whenever I call him. *R.*

"what can bring us happiness?" many say.

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. *R.*

In peace I will lie down and fall asleep,

For you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. *R.*

Second Reading: 1 John 2:1-5a

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Now by this we may be sure that we know him, if we obey his commandments. Whoever says, "I have come to know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar, and in such a person the truth does not exist; but whoever obeys his word, truly in this person the love of God has reached perfection.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Lord Jesus, open to us the scriptures. Make our hearts burn within us while you talk to us.

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" They

Sunday

were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.



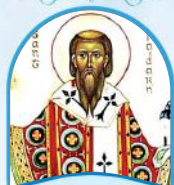
R **INTERIOR PEACE:** Today's gospel reading is Luke's account of the first appearance of the risen Lord to the disciples as a group. His first words to the disciples after rising from the dead were, 'Peace be with you'. The risen Lord was offering his flawed disciples the gift of his peace. He was taking the initiative to be reconciled with them by making peace with them. He expressed his communion with them by eating in their company. The resurrection proclaimed the faithfulness of Jesus. The risen Lord continues to stand among us offering us his peace. Our many past failings do not make his presence any less powerful or his offer of peace any less generous. He comes among us to call us into a renewed communion with himself. As risen Lord he shows us the face of God as the harbinger of mercy. Our Founder asserts, "*Jesus Christ appeared to his disciples and said to them, Peace be with you! to teach us that one of the principal signs that a person is leading a new life, that is, an interior and spiritual life, and is risen with Jesus Christ is when the person enjoys interior peace.*" (Med. 31.1)

15

APR

MONDAY

3rd Week of
Easter
WHITE



PATERNUS

482 - 565
BISHOP

St. Paternus followed his father's path by becoming a hermit in Wales. He founded the monastery at the great church of Paternus and became a bishop of that region. He was known for his preaching, charity and mortifications.

First Reading: Acts 6:8-15

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ...*(please see appendix Page 478)*

Psalm 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, It is written that the Christ should suffer, and on the third day rise from the dead.

Gospel: John 6:22-29

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

R THE WORK OF GOD: Jesus begins by telling the crowds that they are coming in search of him not because of the 'signs' that he is doing but because of the bread that they had eaten. The real food brings a life that never ends and that is the food that Jesus is offering. The source of this 'bread' is the Son on whom the Father has set his seal. This 'seal' was given at his baptism. It is the Spirit of the Father, who is the power of God working in and through Jesus. In order to do the works of God, they are told, "This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent." Note, he asks us not just to 'believe' but to 'believe in'. It involves a total and unconditional commitment of the whole self to Jesus, to the Gospel and the vision of life that he proposes and making it part of one's own self. This is where the real bread is to be found. Saint La Salle invites us, "*Taste and see how good this bread is for you, how pleasing it is to your taste, and how beneficial for your soul.*" (Med. 48.3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 7:51-8:1a

Stephan said to the people "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it." When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him.

...*(please see appendix Page 478)*

Psalm 31:3bc-4, 6 and 7b-8a, 17 and 21 ab

℟ **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the good shepherd says the Lord, I know my own and my own know me.

Gospel: John 6:30-35

So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

℟ BREAD OF LIFE: The crowd asks Jesus for this bread, Jesus surprises them by saying, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." These are significant statements. Firstly Jesus equates Himself with bread, He says that he is essential for life. Secondly the life He refers to is eternal life. He is the spiritual bread that brings eternal life. Thirdly Jesus is making a claim to be God. The phrase "I AM" is the covenant name of God. Fourthly the phrase "come" and "believe" is an invitation to place their faith in Him as the Messiah and Son of God. Finally when He says those who come to Him will never hunger and those who believe in Him will never thirst, He is indicating that they will be made righteous in the sight of God. When we place our faith in Him, Jesus satisfies our hunger and thirst for righteousness, as depicted in the 'Beatitudes'. He is our Bread of Life. Saint La Salle invites us, *"Eat this divine bread, then, gladly, with love, and as often as you can. If you learn how to find in it all the encouragement it contains, it will give your soul a truly heavenly life here on earth."* (Med. 48. 2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

**16
APR**

TUESDAY

3rd Week of
Easter
WHITE



**BERNADETTE OF
LOURDES**
(1844 - 1879)
VIRGIN

St. Bernadette is best known for experiencing Marian apparitions between 11th February and 16th July 1858 of a "young lady" who asked for a chapel to be built at the nearby cavegrotto at Massabielle.

After a canonical investigation, the Marian apparition became known as Our Lady of Lourdes. She was canonized by Pius XI on 8 December 1933. She is the patron saint of bodily illness, Lourdes, France, shepherds and shepherdesses.

17

APR

WEDNESDAY

3rd Week of
Easter
WHITE

ANICETUS

(d. 168)

POPE

Pope Anicetus was the bishop of Rome from c. 157 to his death in April 168. He actively opposed Gnosticism and Marcionism.

He welcomed Polycarp of Smyrna to Rome, to discuss the controversy over the date for the celebration of Easter. Polycarp and his Church of Smyrna celebrated the crucifixion on the fourteenth day of Nisan, which coincides with Passover, while the Roman Church celebrated the Passover on Sunday the weekday of Jesus's resurrection.

First Reading: Acts 8:1b-8

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a

✠ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice says the Lord, I know them and they follow me.

Gospel: John 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

Ⓜ INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP: Jesus invites us into an intimate relationship with himself. He offers himself to us as the bread of life and calls on us to come to him, to believe in him, so that our deepest hunger will be satisfied and our deepest thirst quenched. That coming to him, that believing in him is the journey of a lifetime, a journey into an ever deeper and more intimate relationship with the Lord. Jesus makes three claims here. Firstly he offers himself as spiritual food which produces the very life of God within us. Secondly he promises unbroken friendship and freedom from the fear of being forsaken or cut off from God. Thirdly he offers us the hope of sharing in his resurrection. Those who accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour will be raised up to eternal life with Jesus when he comes again on the last day. Saint La Salle affirms, "*When we receive the body of Jesus Christ, we have the advantage of sharing in our Saviour's life, of having in us an assurance of eternal life. We are even guaranteed to live forever if we preserve in ourselves the Spirit of Jesus Christ, which is what he leaves in us.*" (Med. 48: 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. ...*(please see appendix Page 478)*

Psalm 66:8-9, 16-17, 20

✠ Cry out with joy to God, all the earth

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Thomas, you have believed says the Lord, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Gospel: John 6:44-51

No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

℞ LISTEN WITH DOCILITY: Similarities are found between the story of the Ethiopian in today's first reading, and the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Both the disciples and the Ethiopian were journeying away from Jerusalem. The risen Lord joined them in the form of a Wayfarer and opened the Scriptures for them. Philip joined the Ethiopian eunuch and opened up the Scriptures for him. The opening up of the Scriptures for the two disciples led them to the recognition of the Lord in the breaking of bread. The opening up of the Scriptures for the Ethiopian led him to the Sacrament of Baptism. In both cases, the hearing of the Word led to a deeper encounter with the Lord in the Sacrament. In the Gospel reading, Jesus declares that we first need 'to hear the teaching of the Father and learn from it' before we can come to him as the bread of life who gives us his flesh, his body, for the life of the world. Listening to God's word prepares us, disposes us, to recognize and receive the Lord in the Sacraments. Our Founder invites us to, "Listen with docility to the word of God. Read it every day with attention". (Med. 178. 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



3rd Week of
Easter
WHITE



**GALDINO DELLA
SALA**
(1096 - 1176)
BISHOP OF MILAN

St. Galdinus was a staunch supporter both of Pope Alexander III, and of Milan and its neighbours in Lombardy, in their joint struggles against the Antipope Victor IV, supported by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa. He was a strong supporter of the Roman papacy in the schism that erupted in 1159 after the death of Pope Adrian IV. He is remembered for his charity in Milan to the poor and to those imprisoned for debt.

19

APR

FRIDAY

3rd Week of
Easter
WHITE



LEO IX

(1002 - 1054)

POPE

Bruno of Egisheim Dagsburg also known as St. Leo IX was the bishop of Rome from 12 February 1049 to his death in 1054. He is widely considered the most historically significant German pope of the Middle Ages; he was instrumental in the precipitation of the Great Schism of 1054, considered the turning point in which the Catholic and Orthodox Churches formally separated. He favored traditional morality in his reformation of the Catholic Church.

First Reading: Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ...*(please see appendix Page 479)*

Psalm 117:1, 2

✠ *Go into all the world and preach the Good News.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ being raised from the dead will never die again. Death no longer has dominion over him.

Gospel: John 6:52-59

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.' He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

✠ **SHAPES OUR LIVES:** The language of Jesus in today's gospel must have sounded very unpleasant to many. The realism of his talk about eating his flesh and drinking his blood is disgusting in many ways. However it is the language of the Eucharist. In the Eucharist we consume Christ in a very personal way. In taking him into ourselves in this very intimate way, we are taking in his loving commitment to God and to humanity. As Jesus says in the gospel reading, 'whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in them'. The Eucharist is a very special expression of our communion with him and of his with us, but our communion with him is to extend beyond the Eucharist. In the language of John's gospel, we are to remain in him, as he remains in us. We remain in him by keeping his word, and allowing his word to shape our lives. Our communion with the Lord in the Eucharist calls us to this ongoing form of communion. Saint La Salle affirms that, *"This sacred food is incorporated in the soul that receives it with fervour, so that this soul shares in the virtues of Jesus Christ ..."* (Med. 49: 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 9:31-42

Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. Now as Peter went here and there among all the believers, he came down also to the saints living in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed!" And immediately he got up. And all the residents of Lydda and ...*(please see appendix Page 479)*

Psalm 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

✠ How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Gospel: John 6:60-69

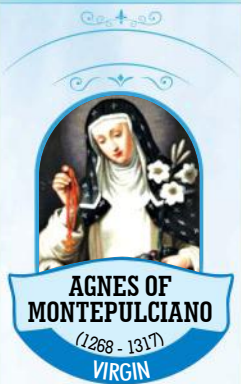
When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Ⓜ PERSONAL DECISION: Jesus asks the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Many of Jesus' followers are described as leaving Jesus. He was asking them to make a personal decision as to whether they would stay with him or not. The risen Lord is posing the question, 'do you want to go away too?' to us. As a result, we each have to make a more personal and more deliberate decision for the Lord than was needed in the past, the kind of decision the Lord looks for in today's gospel reading. Every time we come to Mass we are making our own great act of faith just as Peter did. In choosing to come to Mass we are choosing the Lord as the Bread of Life. We are then sent from the Eucharist to live out that choice of the Lord in our daily lives, allowing that choice for the Lord to shape all the small and large choices that we make in the course of our day. Saint La Salle declares, "A soul who eats, then, this flesh of Jesus Christ and is nourished by this meat no longer lives a natural life,... but by the Spirit of its God, who has become its nourishment." (Med. 49: 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

20
APR
SATURDAY

3rd Week of
Easter
WHITE



St. Agnes, a Dominican prioress, was noted for her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and deep life of prayer, and was elected as the abbess of the monastery in Montepulciano. There she gained a reputation for performing miracles. She also had a vision of St. Dominic Guzman, under the inspiration of which she led the nuns of her monastery to embrace the Rule of St. Augustine as members of the Dominican Order.



4th Sunday of Easter

Good Shepherd Sunday

White

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Acts 4:8-12

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 21-23, 26 and 28-29

℟: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Give praise to the Lord, for he is good;	Has become the cornerstone
His mercy endures forever.	By the Lord has this been done,
It is better to take refuge in the Lord	A marvel in our eyes. ℟
Than to trust in man;	
It is better to take refuge in the Lord	Blest is he who comes
Than to trust in princes. ℟	In the name of the Lord.
	We bless you from the house of the Lord.
I will thank you, for you have answered.	You are my God, I Praise You. My God,
And you are my saviour	I exalt you. Give praise to the Lord,
The stone that the builders rejected	for he is good; His mercy endures forever. ℟

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Thomas, you have believed, says the Lord, because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Gospel: John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them

Sunday

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'



LOVING INTIMACY: In today's gospel Jesus states that he wants his relationship with us his followers to be as close as his relationship with God his Father. He says, 'I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father'. His relationship is characterized by a profound loving intimacy. He affirms that he wishes his relationship with his followers to have the same intimate nature. Our Founder understands the intimacy in our ministry, *"He compares those who have charge of souls to a good shepherd who has great care for the sheep. One quality he must possess, according to our Saviour, is to know each one of them individually. This ought also to be one of the main concerns of those who instruct others: to be able to understand their students and to discern the right way to guide them. This guidance requires understanding and discernment of spirits, qualities you must frequently and earnestly ask of God, because they are most necessary for you in guiding those placed in your care. (Med. 33:1)*

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

22

APR

MONDAY

4th Week of
Easter
WHITE

SOTER

(d. 175)
POPE & MARTYR

Pope Soter was the bishop of Rome from c. 167 to his death in c. 174. He is known for declaring that marriage was valid only as a sacrament blessed by a priest and also for formally inaugurating Easter as an annual festival in Rome. He was known for his outstanding charity towards needy exiled Christians who came to him and towards those who had been condemned to the mines.

First Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet ...*(please see appendix Page 480)*

Psalm 42:2-3; 3, 4

☩ *My soul is thirsting for you, the living God.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, the first born of the dead; you love us and free us from our sins in your blood.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

☩ **PROTECTS AND SUSTAINS:** In today's gospel Jesus uses an image drawn from the rural life of Galilee. There is a sheepfold. At night the sheep enter the sheepfold through the gate for protection. In the morning the shepherd enters the sheepfold through the gate and calls on them to follow him back out to the pasture. Jesus identifies himself with two elements of that image, firstly with the gate, and then with the shepherd. The sheep go through the gate at night for protection and go through the gate in the morning for pasture. In this way the gate is both life-protecting and life-sustaining. This is the sense in which Jesus applies 'the gate' to himself. 'I am the gate'. If we pass through him, if we interact with him, he both protects us and sustains our lives. Jesus, the good Shepherd protects us and sustains our life. We as Lasallians share the shepherd ministry of Jesus as Saint La Salle affirms, "*For this had to have been the kind of ardent zeal you felt for the salvation of those you must instruct when you were led to sacrifice yourselves and to spend your whole life...*" (Med. 201:3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 11:19-26

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."

Psalms 87:1-3, 4-5, 6-7

✠ O praise the Lord, all you nations.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ has risen and has illumined us. He has redeemed us by his blood.

Gospel: John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly!" Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

✠ HEAR THE SHEPHERD: In today's gospel, Jesus speaks as the shepherd who will never allow any of his sheep to be stolen from him. It is a consolation to know that the Lord is so devoted to us and so committed to our well-being, and, in particular, our ultimate well-being, and our eternal well-being. As Jesus says in that gospel reading, 'I give them eternal life'. The Lord will do all he can to hold onto us but we also have our part to play. In that gospel reading, Jesus asserts that 'the sheep who belong to me listen to my voice... they follow me'. Saint La Salle affirms, *"The members of the flock of Jesus Christ are also obliged to hear their shepherd's voice. It is, then, your duty to teach the children entrusted to you; this is your duty every day. Because they must understand what you say, you must give them instructions that are adapted to their capacity; otherwise, what you say will be of little use."* (Med. 33: 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

23

APR

TUESDAY

4th Week of
Easter
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



GEORGE OF LYDDA

(d. 303)

MARTYR

St. George also George of Lydda, was a soldier of Cappadocian Greek origins, member of the Praetorian Guard for Roman emperor Diocletian, who was sentenced to death for refusing to recant his Christian faith. A legend tells of his rescuing a Libyan king's daughter from a dragon and then slaying the monster in return for a promise by the king's subjects to be baptized. He is the patron saint of England.

24
APR

WEDNESDAY

4th Week of
Easter
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL

FIDELIS OF
SIGMARINGEN
(1576 - 1622)
MARTYR

St. Fidelis was a Capuchin friar who led a life of penance, vigils and prayer. As a follower of Saint Francis of Assisi, Fidelis continued his devotion to the weak and needy. He had a reputation as an indefatigable preacher and he was ordered by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith to preach in the canton in Switzerland. There he was pursued by the heretics and suffered martyrdom

First Reading: Acts 12:24-13:5a

But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark. Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." *...(please see appendix Page 480)*

Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8

℟ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Lord who was hanging on the cross for us has risen from the tomb.

Gospel: John 12:44-50

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

℟ BEING A MISSIONARY: In today's gospel reading Jesus speaks of the one who sent him. God sent his Son out of love for the world. God's sending of his Son was an act of generosity on God's part, involving a real giving. In the first reading, the church of Antioch send two of their most gifted members to parts of the Roman Empire where Christianity had not yet been preached. They were sacrificing two of their most valuable assets for the sake of others whose need was greater. Over the centuries the local church has sent and given some of its most gifted members to proclaim the gospel far from home. The Spirit prompts us to take the way of Jesus, which is the way of self-emptying so that others might have life. Being a missionary today is a challenge as very often they face persecution and humiliation. De La Salle writes on St. Francis Xavier's meditation, *"The more you cherish the persecutions and humiliations that people direct against you, the more you will touch the hearts of those whom you instruct and engage them to live as true Christians."* (Med. 79.2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Peter 5:5b-14

And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, ...*(please see appendix Page 480)*

Psalms 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17

✠ I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the bread of life, says the Lord; whoever comes to me shall not hunger.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

REMAINS FAITHFUL: The Evangelist Mark was the first person to write an account of the public ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. Mark produced a new kind of literature, which became, known as a gospel. “*When Saint Peter had read the Gospel, he approved it...*” (Med. 116: 2) He highlighted in his gospel the failure of the disciples. They are portrayed as failing to understand Jesus’ teaching, especially when he speaks of himself as the Son of Man who must be rejected, suffer and die. They then fail him completely when he enters into his passion and death; all of them deserted him. Yet, in Mark’s gospel the risen Jesus remains faithful to his disciples. In this morning’s gospel reading we are told that the disciples were preaching everywhere in response to the risen Lord’s call, and that the Lord was working with them. Our Founder reminds us, “...*you are bound to teach every day the doctrine of the holy Apostles and of Jesus Christ, you are obliged to learn it.... Make your students true disciples of Jesus Christ.*” (Med. 116: 2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



4th Week of
Easter
RED

FEAST



MARK

1st Century
EVANGELIST & MARTYR

Usually identified with the Mark of Acts 12:12, he accompanied St. Paul on his first missionary journey and later followed him to Rome. Mark’s Gospel was probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul between A.D. 60 and 70. He was a disciple of St. Peter and reproduced his teaching in his Gospel. He is said to have founded the Church of Alexandria. St. Mark is the patron saint of Venice

26

APR

FRIDAY

4th Week of
Easter
WHITE

ANACLETUS

(d. c. 88)

POPE & MARTYR

Pope Anacletus was the third Bishop of Rome, following Peter and Linus. Anacletus served as pope between c. 79 and his death, c. 92. During his tenure, he is known to have ordained a number of priests and is traditionally credited with setting up about twentyfive parishes in Rome.

He also required that all ordinations be accomplished in public. He reserved burial sites for future martyrs in the Christian cemeteries, because multitudes were being condemned under Domitian.

First Reading: Acts 13:26–33

Paul said, "My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed. When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Psalm 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11a

✠ *You are my Son. It is I who have begotten you this day.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel: John 14:1-6

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

✠ **ULTIMATE DESTINATION:** Thomas is one of the twelve apostles who features in the gospel of John a couple of times. We associate him with that scene in John's gospel where he refuses to believe the other disciples who announce to him that they had seen Jesus. He is clearly not afraid to speak his mind. He is portrayed in a somewhat similar way in today's gospel. When Jesus says to his disciples, 'You know the way to the place where I am going', Thomas pipes up, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus had just stated that he was going to his Father's house, where there were many rooms. He affirms that the journey he is about to travel is a journey that is open to all his disciples, 'I shall return to take you with me'. His ultimate destination is also our ultimate destination, and the way to that destination is Jesus himself. 'I am the way'. Saint La Salle implores us, "*Strive after the example of your divine master, Jesus Christ, toward only what God wants, when he wants it, and in the way he wants it.*" (Med 24: 1)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 13:44-52

The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy; and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul. Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have set you to be a light for the Gentiles, so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" *...(please see appendix Page 480)*

Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

℟ *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

Gospel: John 14:7-14

If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. *...(please see appendix Page 474)*

℞ REPRESENTING JESUS: Jesus makes a very outstanding statement in today's gospel, 'whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works because I am going to the Father'. He wants to reassure them that even though he is going to be taken from them, he is not leaving them. He will come back to them especially through the sending of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. The work he has been doing he will continue to do in the lives of the disciples, in and through the Holy Spirit. We are now his Body in the world. The risen Lord can work powerfully and wonderfully through each one of us if we are open to the presence and movement of his Spirit in our lives. We should never underestimate the greater works the Lord can do through each one of us. Our Founder confirms to us, "Because you are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ in the work that you do, you must act as representing Jesus Christ. He wants your disciples to see him in you and to receive your instructions as if he were instructing them." (Med. 195: 2)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



4th Week of
Easter
WHITE



ZITA

(1218 - 1278)

VIRGIN

St. Zita was a pious girl who considered her work part of her prayer life. She attended daily Mass, recited morning and evening prayers, and slept on the bare floor for penance. Zita's reputation for charity soon spread throughout Lucca. At first, her employers were upset by her generous gifts of food to the poor, but in time, they were completely won over by her patience and goodness. She is the patroness of domestic workers.



5th *Sunday of Easter*

White

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

When Saul he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Psalm 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32

℟ You are my praise, Lord, in the great assembly.

My vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.

They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.

May their hearts live on forever and ever! *℟*

All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,

All families of the nations worship before him,

They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;

Before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. *℟*

And my soul shall live for him, my descendants serve him.

They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,

Declare his saving justice to people yet unborn:

"These are the things the Lord has done." *℟*

Second Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord, he who abides in me bears much fruit.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



℞ HUMAN FULLY ALIVE: On the night before he died, Jesus is taking his leave of his disciples but, before doing so, he wants to assure them that beyond his death and resurrection he will remain in communion with them. The image of the vine and the branches expresses the depth of his communion with his disciples and with all of us. The Lord wants to be in communion with all of us, but for that to happen we must remain in him by allowing his words to remain in us, by allowing his words to shape our lives. His invitation is always there to return to him and to remain with him or in him. Saint La Salle reminds us, *“What Jesus Christ says to his holy Apostles he also says to you, that you may understand that all the good you are able to do in your work for those entrusted to you will be true and effective only insofar as Jesus Christ gives it his blessing and you remain united with him?”* (Med. 195: 3)

29

APR

MONDAY

5th Week of
Easter
WHITE

MEMORIAL

CATHERINE OF
SIENA
(1347 - 1380)
VIRGIN & DOCTOR

St. Catherine, a Dominican nun, was on fire with love of God and her neighbour. She strenuously fought for the rights and liberty of the papacy, and did much for the renewal of religious life. The Great Schism of the West led her to go to Rome where she sent numerous letters to princes and cardinals to promote obedience to Pope Urban VI. She is the joint patron saint of Italy along with Saint Francis of Assisi.

First Reading: Acts 14:5-18

And when an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, the apostles learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country; and there they continued proclaiming the good news. In Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet and had never walked, for he had been crippled from birth. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. And Paul, looking at him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man sprang up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" ...*(please see appendix Page 481)*

Psalms 115:1-4, 15-16

✠ *Not to us, Lord, but to your name give the glory.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Gospel: John 14:21-26

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

✠ **CHRISTIAN LIFE:** The verb 'to love' occurs frequently in today's reading. It speaks of our love for Jesus, Jesus' love for us, and God the Father's love for us. God the Father expresses his love for us by giving us the Son. Jesus expresses his love for us by laying down his life for us, and by making known to us all he has learnt from the Father. We express our love for Jesus by keeping his word, by living according to his teaching, which, in John's gospel, is summed up as 'love one another as I have loved you'. It also makes reference to the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. As the Father expresses his love for us by giving us the Son; the Father and Son together express their love for us by giving us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us to keep Jesus' word, especially his command 'love one another as I have loved you'. In that short gospel reading, there is a whole vision of the Christian life. Our Founder directs, *"This must be your goal when you instruct your disciples, that they live a Christian life and that your words become spirit and life for them."* (Med. 196: 3)

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 14:19–28

But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city. The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, "It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God." And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.*(please see appendix Page 481)*

Psalm 145:10–11, 12–13ab, 21

✠ Your friend make known, O Lord, the glory of your reign.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and enter into his glory.

Gospel: John 14:27–31a

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded.

℞ GENUINE LOVE: On the night before his passion and death Jesus is portrayed as speaking at length to his disciples who are distressed at the view of Jesus leaving them. In today's reading Jesus states, 'if you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I'. Jesus is saying to his disciples that if they really loved him they would not try to hold onto him; they would let him go to the Father so that he can be present to them and to all disciples of every generation in a new way through the coming of the Holy Spirit. Genuine love for someone often means not holding on to them but letting them go to a life that is fuller for them. This is the kind of love that Jesus is calling for from his disciples, a non-possessive love that surrenders. *On the birth anniversary of the Founder, let us reflect from his life story, how he let go of his authority over the Institute and how he decided, first, on a period of absence and then on a total surrender, all in order to guarantee the consolidation of the work without him.*

Reflection: Br. JOHN FERNANDO FSC, India.



5th Week of
Easter
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



PIUS V
(1504 - 1572)
POPE

Pope Pius V was the bishop of Rome from 1566 to his death in 1572. He is chiefly notable for his role in the Council of Trent, the Counter-Reformation, and the standardization of the Roman Rite within the Latin Church. He actively promoted the spreading of the faith and restored the sacred liturgy. As a cardinal, he gained a reputation for putting orthodoxy before personalities, prosecuting eight French bishops for heresy and stood firm against nepotism.



5th Week of
Easter
WHITE



**JOSEPH,
THE WORKER**

Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St. Joseph the Worker in 1955 as a model and example of Christian workmanship. Pope assured the audience by saying, "You have at your side a shepherd, a defender and a father".

St. Joseph is an example for all those who live a life of faithful performance of every day duties and gain bread by the toil of their hands.

First Reading: Genesis 1:26-2:3

God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living things that moves on the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ...*(please see appendix Page 481)*

Psalm 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16

℟ *Give success to the work of our hands, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Day after day, may the Lord be blest. He bears our burdens; God is our Saviour. .

Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

At that time: Coming to his home town Jesus taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's Son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, " A prophet is not without honour except in his home town and in his own household." And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

℞ The first reading highlights the controversies which erupted in the early Church between the Jews and Gentiles. Two classes of people wanted to belong to the newly established Church and they obviously had different views about its identity and the direction it should take. Controversies are bound to occur but the communitarian aspect of the Church helps to resolve disagreements. The restructuring of Districts within the global Lasallian Institute is a time for us to experience the reality of "One heart, One commitment and One life". As with the encounter between the Pharisees and Paul in Jerusalem, which eventually resulted in an energized sense of commitment, so too the global Institute experiences a renewal of mind and heart with the existence of our new District, embracing, as it does, the Lasallian Spirit with renewed vigor, while, at the same time, leaving behind any legacy of entrenched differences and separate development. Though hard to experience in reality, the Lasallian DNA underlines the "vitality of the Lasallian spirituality." Individual and collective discernment are what matters. **Reflection:** "One commitment leading to another." What is the impact on my own life experience when I encounter changes in and around me?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 15:7-21

After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written, *...(please see appendix Page 482)*

Psalms 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10

✠ Tell among all the people the wonders of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them and they follow me.

Gospel: John 15:9-11

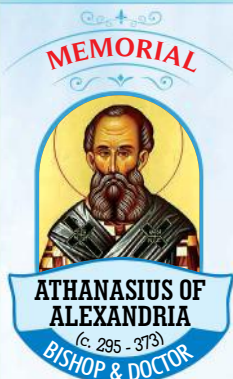
As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

℞ The words of Jesus fall into place and make sense once we realize that God's commandments are not a restriction on our human freedom but are an actualization of it. Our free will itself is God's gift, and He has made us free so that we can learn to choose, to desire rightly, and in so doing, learn to love. As we conform ourselves to His commandments, and live according to His wisdom, then our lives and our decisions begin to mirror His wisdom. If we remain close to Him in this way, if we remain in His love, then we will experience deep joy and the peace of God. We will also come to know the joy and peace of Christ, which is brought about by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete."* Conforming ourselves to God's commandments means that we follow in Christ's footsteps. De La Salle invites us to reflect on the following: *"No matter how much faith your disciples may have, or how lively it may be, if they are not practicing any good works at all, their faith will be of no use to them"* (MTR: Med 200.3). **Reflection:** What preoccupies me in ways that seem to prevent me from seeing God?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.



5th Week of
Easter
WHITE



Born at Alexandria, St. Athanasius fought ceaselessly against the Arian heresy and as a result he had to endure much tribulation and he was several times sent into exile. He is the first person to identify the same 27 books of the New Testament that are in use today. His book *Life of St. Anthony* achieved astonishing popularity and contributed greatly to the establishment of monastic life throughout the Western Christian world.

3

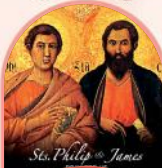
MAY

FRIDAY

5th Week of
Easter

RED

FEAST



PHILIP & JAMES

(d. c. 62) & (d. c. 62)

APOSTLES

Philip was one of the first of the Apostles and was instrumental in the call of Nathaniel.

He probably suffered martyrdom by crucifixion at Hierapolis. St. James, the son of Alphaeus ruled the Church at Jerusalem, wrote an epistle, and led a life of penance. He converted many of the Jews to the true faith. He was martyred by being cast down from the parapet of the temple and killed with a fuller's club.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried,...
(*please see appendix Page 482*)

Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5

☩ *Their sound goes forth through all the earth.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the way and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. Phillip, he who has seen me has seen the Father.

Gospel: John 14:6-14

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

☩ Today the Catholic Church celebrates the lives of the two great Apostles of Jesus, namely Philip and James, respectively. Even though he had been close to Jesus for three years Philip still did not fully understand Him. His practical request in today's Gospel was met with a gentle rebuke from the Lord which reminded him of what Jesus often said: that to know Him was to know God the Father; to see the love of Jesus was to see the love of God the Father; and seeing Jesus in action was seeing the Father in action. His effort to glean information eventually enabled him to step forward into his calling of apostleship. He learned what it meant to follow Jesus, to be grounded in Him and to be at work in the world. Both Philip and James are remembered because they persisted in faith and continued in their calling. De La Salle imbibed the virtues of great application to prayer and wisdom from Saint James, along with those of promptness and zealous love for leading souls to God from Saint Philip. **Reflection:** What prevents me from pursuing the salvation of souls in my ministry?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 16:1-10

Paul went on also to Derbe and to Lystra, where there was a disciple named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer; but his father was a Greek. He was well spoken of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him; and he took him and had him circumcised because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. As they went from town to town, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in numbers daily. They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, *(please see appendix Page 482)*

Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5

✠ Cry out with joy to the Lord all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Gospel: John 15:18-21

“If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘Servants are not greater than their master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me.

✠ Jesus was treated unfairly by His persecutors because they knew him only as the son of Man, never as the Son of God. Their lack of knowledge about Him blinded their eyes and consciences. When the Lord sends us on a mission He determines where we go. The life of Paul and Timothy are testimony to this fact. Their imparted mission was communicated through the Holy Spirit. He directed the work for the mission and they responded by willing laying down their own wills and plans for the direction that the Holy Spirit intends. It is God who is in charge of the mission, who sets its direction and who determines its results. The greatest help we can give to anyone is the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. As men of Faith and Zeal, our lives are centered on the Holy Eucharist and Communion. The Eucharistic Celebration unites us with Jesus. Receiving Holy Communion often keeps us united in Christ and as Lasallians helps us undertake our mission joyfully. Reflection: What practical ideas do I use to encourage myself to be spiritually mindful in the community, school, and during leisure activities? How do I relate this mind-set to my intimacy with Christ?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

4
MAY
SATURDAY

5th Week of
Easter
WHITE



FLORIAN OF LORCH
(d. 304)
MARTYR

Florian was a military administrator who is said to have stopped a town from burning by praying and throwing a single bucket of water on the blaze. When ordered to execute a group of Christians during the persecutions of Diocletian, he refused, and professed his own faith. He was executed by drowning him in the Enns River with a millstone tied around his neck. He is the patron saint of chimney sweeps and firefighters.



6th Sunday of Easter

White

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

On Peter's arrival Cornelius met him, and falling at his feet, worshiped him. But Peter made him get up, saying, "Stand up; I am only a mortal." Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4,

R. The Lord has shown his deliverance to the nations.

O sing a new song to the Lord,
For he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
Have brought salvation. *R.*

The Lord has made known his salvation,
Has shown his deliverance to the nations.
He has remembered his merciful love
And his truth for the house of Israel. *R.*

All the ends of the earth have seen
The salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth;
Break forth into joyous song,
And sing out your praise. *R.*

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-10

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Jesus said, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him."

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Jesus said, As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



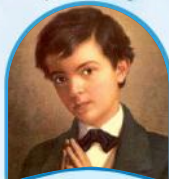
℞ As the Father has loved, so the Son loves. The Son's love imitates and mirrors the Father's love. The Son's deep love in giving his life for his friends is no accident but stems from the way the Father has loved the Son. In encountering Jesus, the disciples encountered the living God – and so can we! Jesus' 'new' commandment is that we love one another. To be filled with this blessing means, that I will be called to love all without any exceptions, as Jesus did. Here Jesus illustrates the depth of God's love for us and shows us that he would give us anything for the sake of our well-being. Consequently, He gives us our commandment: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" This is the unmistakable call to radical love and self-giving that is at the core of what we believe as Lasallians. Our Lasallian DNA emphasizes the following, namely, the Holy Presence of God, Faith in God's pathways, Together and By Association, and Passion for Mission. All of these enable us to be the living witnesses of God's great love for us, through our radical call and community. **Reflection:** Who in my circle of friends encourages a life of spiritual awareness, prayer, meaning, and compassion?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

6

MAY

MONDAY

6th Week of
Easter
WHITE

DOMINIC SAVIO

(1842 - 1857)

STUDENT

Dominic was a student of St. John Bosco. He died at the age of 14, possibly from pleurisy. He was noted for his piety and devotion to the Catholic faith. He founded and directed the Immaculate Conception Sodality, a group of boys who by prayer, word and example carried on an apostolate among their classmates. Savio was canonised a saint on 12th June 1954, by Pope Pius XII.

First Reading: Acts 16:11-15

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

Psalm 149:1-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

✠ The Lord takes delight in his people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ has risen and has illumined us. He has redeemed us by his blood.

Gospel: John 15:26-16:4a

"When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. "I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling. They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

✠ Pain and suffering are part of our human life. Our pain can shape us, challenge us and ultimately guide us toward growth and transformation. Our pain encourages resilience, empathy and personal growth which enable us to forge new beginnings. Jesus was sentenced to death. Jesus tells his disciples that they too will someday face similar ordeals and cautions them, saying, "A time will come when anyone who puts you to death will claim to be serving God." Because of Jesus and his teachings, we will face some degree of persecution. De La Salle's love for the peripheries irked the civil authorities in Paris which led them to file law suits against him. His intention being pure, he inevitably faced pain and hardships for his educational mission. These emotional struggles and physical sufferings reverberated in the grace-filled mission of the fledgling Institute and in the lives of those early Brothers who accompanied De La Salle. **Reflection:** Am I willing to accept humiliation, embarrassment, and rebukes in my community and mission? In what way has this been evident?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 16:22-34

The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ...*(please see appendix Page 482)*

Psalm 138:1-2a, 2bcd-3, 7c-8

✠ *With your right hand you save me, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Lord who was hanging on the cross for us has risen from the tomb.

Gospel: John 16:5-11

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

✠ Life is difficult. What makes it difficult is that the process of confronting and solving problems is a painful one. In the Acts of the Apostles, we learn that Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison. Their faith, however, shook the prison walls and broke open the doors. The jailer, confided to his own inner prison of Roman law and its consequences for escaped prisoners, thought of killing himself. As we prepare for Pentecost, may we be open to the Holy Spirit's calls to change our attitudes, words and actions. Lasallian spirituality is a spirituality that is lived in daily life, in daily tasks, in the educational mission, in the Gospel imperatives and in reading the signs of the times. As we continue to respond to the grace of conversion may we rejoice as the jailer and his family did. We have a Consoler who can lead us ever closer to God, to one another and to the whole universe.

Reflection: In my life, how do I approach the people I meet, as well as the ordinary activities of each day, so that they become sacred?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.



6th Week of
Easter
WHITE



**JOHN OF
BEVERLEY**
(d. 721)
BISHOP

John was an English bishop active in the kingdom of Northumbria. He was renowned as a preacher, displaying marked erudition in expounding Scripture. He was diligent in visitation, considerate towards the poor, and attentive to the training of students.

The popularity of his cult was a major factor in the prosperity of Beverley during the Middle Ages. He retired to a monastery which he had founded at Beverley, where he died on 7 May 721.

8

MAY

WEDNESDAY

6th Week of
Easter
WHITE

**MAGDALENE OF
CANOSSA**
(1774 - 1835)
VIRGIN

As a cloistered Carmelite, St. Magdalene realized her desire was to serve the needy without restriction. For years she worked among the poor and sick in hospitals and also among delinquent and abandoned girls.

She founded the Congregation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity to promote the needs of the poor and setting a new method of religious life for both men and women. Pope John Paul II canonised her on 2nd October 1988.

First Reading: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him. Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ...*(please see appendix Page 483)*

Psalm 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14

⌘ *Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ who has created all things has risen. He had pity upon mankind. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 16:12-15

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason, I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Ⓡ The Lasallian Feast of our Lady of the Star is celebrated in our global Institute on the May 08. Mary is the star that points us in the right direction, that is, towards Jesus. Her exceptional pilgrimage of faith represents a constant point of reference for the Church. Mary let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness. Today we look to her and ask her to help us proclaim the message of salvation to all and in turnable new disciples become evangelizers. As Lasallian pilgrims we are the protagonists in the journey of teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives. De La Salle reminds you and me of the following: *"How happy a person is when carried by the grace of God, as the author of the Imitation of Christ says very well"* (Med.164.3). Let us continue to have Lasallian devotion to our Lady of the Star who is Mother of all Christian Schools. **Reflection:** Do I really nurture my faith by PRAYING THE ROSARY and, at the same time, by having a deep devotion to Mother Mary?

First Reading: Acts 18:1-8

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers. Every sabbath he would argue in the synagogue and would try to convince Jews and Greeks. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” *...(please see appendix Page 483)*

Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

℟ The Lord has shown his deliverance to the nations.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! We know that Christ has really risen from the dead. O victorious King, have mercy on us. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 16:16-20

“A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.” Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What does he mean by saying to us, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and ‘Because I am going to the Father?’” They said, “What does he mean by this ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’? Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.

℟ Jesus leaves us with a new mission, a new orientation, a new challenge, a new moment in our vocation and a new part of living our baptism in the reality of His existence. While on their pathway of transitional growth the first disciples experienced fear and anxiety until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. That same power remains with us today. Just like the first disciples, we too are on that pathway of transitional growth as his witnesses. We encounter diverse realities in our passion for the mission: how to integrate humanism, creativity, witness and quality - all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. De La Salle reminds us that the Saviour draws from humanity. Jesus is our mediator. We are called to the glory into which Christ has preceded us. As we anticipate that moment, help us to realize that our evangelization here on earth implies interpersonal sharing as we help others recognize through their own experiences that Jesus dead and risen is the truth that lights up their own lives. We ask this in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen. **Reflection:** What are the factors that make me grasp for what I want or hold onto what I like, and why is it challenging for me to let go?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

9

MAY

THURSDAY

6th Week of
Easter
WHITE



PETER NOLASCO

(c. 1182 - 1256)
CONFESSOR

Born to the French nobility, St. Peter gave away his possessions and moved to Barcelona to avoid the Albigensianheretics. He took part in the Crusades against the Albigensians in southern France. He used his large inheritance to ransom Christians held prisoners by the Moors. He founded the Order of Our Lady of Mercy (Mercedarians) devoted to ransoming Christians. He twice served as a captive in Africa, winning the release of over 400 captives

10

MAY

FRIDAY

6th Week of

Easter

WHITE



**DAMIEN OF
MOLOKAI**

(1840 - 1889)

PRIEST

St. Damien, belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, was recognized for his ministry, which he led from 1873 until his death in 1889, in Hawai'i for people with leprosy in Molokai. He taught the Catholic faith and established leadership within the community to build houses, schools, hospitals, and churches. He died of leprosy on 15 April 1889. He was canonised on 11 October 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI.

First Reading: Acts 18:9-18

One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent; for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people.' He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. They said, "This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law." Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews; but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters." And he dismissed them from the tribunal. Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. ...*(please see appendix Page 483)*

Psalms 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 (8a)

℟: God is king of all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and enter into his glory.

Gospel: John 16:20-23

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. When a woman is in labor, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

℟ Jesus, facing imminent death, voices his feelings about pain and joy. He says that sadness and pain, in general, will eventually be conquered by joy and happiness. We may experience difficulties and we may have bad decisions in life, but as long as we have faith in God we will rejoice in the end. If the way to enter the Kingdom of God requires sorrow, what are we going to do to help those who are experiencing pain? The example of a mother giving birth to a child is sufficient enough to explain the entire process of pain and joy. When a mother converses with others about her baby, she does not constantly discuss how painful it was to give birth. She rejoices that the child is alive and well and her attention is turned toward the future. When a project is finished, the joys of success crowd the sufferings from our minds. It enables us to find a proper perspective and gives us the needed faith for whatever lies ahead. It is a promise that present pains will become future joys. **Reflection:** Is my presence in the community and mission, a blessing for others? Or is my absence a blessing for others?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 18:23-28

After spending some time there he departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. *...(please see appendix Page 483)*

Psalm 47:2-3, 8-9, 10

✠ *God is king of all the earth.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

Gospel: John 16:23b-28

Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be completed. "I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father."

✠ Jesus invites us to pray about our needs and, at the same time, wants us to have a deeper relationship with the Trinity - through the intimate presence of Jesus in the Paraclete and close to the Father who is one with Jesus. He wants to enter into our lives, our space and those areas of our decision making. But he especially wants to enter into our hearts. Prayer is about relationship and relationships can never be forced or imposed. The Trinitarian Spirituality is coherent with Lasallian spirituality. Lasallian spirituality is composed of a network of human bondedness. Our life is full of brokenness - broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful? Only by returning again and again to God's faithful presence in our lives can we live in peace and mature in faith. The Spirit of Faith and Zeal calls for a coherence between our inner and outer lives. May this same spirit always connect us with the transcendent. **Reflection:** How do I ensure that I am pro-active in welcoming others into professional, spiritual, and social Lasallian circles?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.



6th Week of
Easter
WHITE



**IGNATIUS OF
LACONI**
(1701 - 1781)
MONK

Ignatius belonged to the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. His conquering a serious illness prompted him to consecrate his life to God. He was known for his self-denial and charity in Cagliari. While on his rounds, Ignatius would instruct the children, visit the sick, and urge sinners to repent. He was canonized in 21st October 1951 by Pope Pius XII. He is the patron saint for beggars and students.



Ascension of The Lord

White

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Psalms 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9

℟: God goes up with shouts of joy. the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most high, is awesome,

The great king over all the earth. **℟**

God goes up with shouts of joy. The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God; sing praise!

Sing praise to our King; sing praise! **℟**

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill.

God reigns over the nations.

God sits upon his holy throne. **℟**

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-13

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above

Sunday

ASCENSION SUNDAY

all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Go, make disciples of all nations; I am with you always, to the close of the age.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

And Jesus said to them, "Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.



R Jesus gives the following mission to all believers: "Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature." This mission is not given to a select few but to all believers. The Ascension offers great hope to believers. At the same time, it demands a real, present commitment in faith to the one who was rejected and crucified, and is now ascended to the right hand of God. Witnessing to the risen Jesus remains a very special task and mission for us and the Church as well. We preach with words but we proclaim with our lives. As we celebrate the Lord's return to His Father in Heaven we are being commissioned to go forth and proclaim the Gospel of life and love, of hope and peace, by the witness of our lives. As such, we need to be proclaimers and evangelizers. We carry out Lasallian mission as witness, a service and a communion in union with Christ's teachings, by evangelizing the children so that they can live with dignity as sons and daughters of God. Are we?

Reflection: List two or three concrete actions designed to help you and your community strengthen your fraternal witness that will make it more attractive to the youth who are in search of leading a significantly meaningful life.

13

MAY

MONDAY

7th Week of
Easter
WHITE



OUR LADY OF
FATIMA

On 13th May 1917, during the First World War, in the little Portuguese town of Fatima, the Mother of God herself deigned to appear in the first of six apparitions to three children, Sr. Lucia of Fatima and Sts. Francisca and Jacinta Marto, to make through them one final appeal to the materialistic, war-torn world. Our Lady asked them to pray the Rosary and to make sacrifices, offering them for the conversion of sinners.

First Reading: Acts 19:1-8

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them. He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God.

Psalm 68:2-3, 4-5ac, 6-7ab

✠ *You Kingdoms of the earth, sing to God.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Go, make disciples of all the nations; I am with you always; yes, to the close of the age.

Gospel: John 16:29-33

The disciples said, "Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God." Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"

✠ May 13 marks the anniversary of the first of six apparitions of the Virgin Mary to three shepherd children in Fatima. Our Lady came to innocent children so that they, in their purity, could share her messages and ignite the world for love of God. Our Lady of Fatima is a beautiful example of how the Mother brings us to the Father. Mother of all individuals and peoples, you know our sufferings and hopes. May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of Hope! ♦ From famine and war, *deliver us*. ♦ From nuclear war, incalculable self-destruction and every kind of conflict, *deliver us*. ♦ From sins against the life of man since the very beginning, *deliver us*. ♦ From hatred and the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, *deliver us*. ♦ From every kind of injustice in society, both national and international, *deliver us*. ♦ From readiness to trample on the commandments of God, *deliver us*. ♦ From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of God, *deliver us*. ♦ From the loss of awareness of good and evil, *deliver us*. ♦ From sins against the Holy Spirit, *deliver us, deliver us*.

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about one hundred twenty), and said, "Brother, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."
 ...(please see appendix Page 483)

Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

✠ *The Lord set them with the princes of his people.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord.

Gospel: John 15:9-17

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandment and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.


✠ On the feast of Saint Matthias, we reflect on the process of his election as replacement for Judas who is a witness of Jesus' resurrection. It is about the decision and discernment. No matter how much we do, if God has no hand in it, it amounts to nothing (Psalm 127:1). The quality of our life is built on the quality of our decisions. Every decision we make reflects our evaluation of who we are. John Baptist De La Salle's decision to bring the teachers in to his life was a major shock in his family circle. He undertook this action in faith and prayer. "Complete trust in God and dependence on the Providence of God" was De La Salle's mantra for the success of the Lasallian mission. God is the light that illuminates the darkness, and as Lasallians, a spark of divine light is within each of one us now. Lord, may your Spirit illuminate our way through the important decisions of life. May our choices reflect our hopes, not our fears. **Reflection:** Our mentors, Brothers, parents, grandparents or teachers have dreamt dreams that they have somehow passed on to us. Which of those dreams motivates us to see a more positive future in our decision-making processes?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

14
MAY
TUESDAY

7th Week of
 Easter
WHITE

FEAST



MATTHIAS
 1st Century
 APOSTLE & MARTYR

Matthias was according to the Acts of the Apostles, chosen by the apostles to replace Judas Iscariot following the latter's betrayal of Jesus and his subsequent death. According to one tradition, he preached Christianity in Judaea and Ethiopia where he was crucified, but others hold that he was beheaded at Jerusalem. He is the patron of tailors, carpenters and reformed alcoholics.

15

MAY

WEDNESDAY

7th Week of
Easter
WHITE

**ISIDORE THE
FARMER**
(c. 1070 - 1130)
MADRID

Isidore the Farmer was a Spanish farm worker known for his piety toward the poor and animals. He rose early in the morning to go to church and spent many a holiday devoutly visiting the churches of Madrid and surrounding areas. All day long, as he walked behind the plow, he communed with God. He was known for his love of the poor, and there are accounts of Isidore's supplying them miraculously with food.

First Reading: Acts 20:28-38

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. ...*(please see appendix Page 484)*

Psalm 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35b-36c

℟️ You Kingdoms of the earth, sing to God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I will pray the Father and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever.

Gospel: John 17:11b-19

Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

℞ On this day in 1950 Pope Pius XII proclaimed De La Salle the Patron Saint of all Teachers and student teachers. In his Proclamation he said that JBDLS, a great man of holiness and natural gifts, not only educated young people himself but continues to do so through excellent principles and practices he established in the Society he founded. When De La Salle took a step forward, he acted with all possible energy and seriousness. One commitment, limited in scope, led him still further. In personal terms we might say that it was by gradually involving himself in unforeseen events that he freed himself little by little, over time for the service of others. This is how De La Salle explained the situation: *"God, who conducts all this with wisdom and gentleness, wishing to draw me into undertaking entirely the care of the schools, has done so in a quite imperceptible way and in a short time, so that one commitment led me into another without my having foreseen it in the beginning."* **Reflection:** How does the Legacy of De La Salle continue today in my context and what do I do to pass on the Passion to the Generation Z and Generation Alpha?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Since he wanted to find out what Paul was being accused of by the Jews, the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and the entire council to meet. He brought Paul down and had him stand before them. When Paul noticed that some were Sadducees and others were Pharisees, he called out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. ...*(please see appendix Page 484)*

Psalm 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

℟️ Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Holy Spirit will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Gospel: John 17:20-26

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

℟️ The life of Saint Paul underlines a healthy combination of human wit and Divine Providence. On his way to Damascus, Paul went as a Pharisee. His encounter with Christ freed him and he came to believe in Christ. The trinitarian God is the embodiment of unity. Paul experienced the disunity between the Pharisees and Sadducees. Today we, as Christians are suffering from "amnesia" regarding the life and resurrection of Jesus resulting in the many divisions that are taking place. Due to divisions, we are not able to accomplish the mission of God. Jesus urges us to be united in one faith. Only the love of God can bring unity among us. By seeing our love for each, the world will also believe in Christ. In our faithful response to the calls of the Spirit and to the charism of JBDLS, as Lasallians of faith and zeal, we vow ourselves to God to procure his glory by fulfilling "together and by association", that we become 'ambassadors of Jesus Christ'. We need to pause, to accept and listen to one another. In this way, we begin to experience unity. Unity grows along the way; it never stands still. Unity happens when we walk together. **Reflection:** How can I make sure that I do not develop a Lasallian "caste system"?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

**16
MAY**

THURSDAY

7th Week of
Easter
WHITE



SIMON STOCK
(c. 1165 - 1265)
CONFESSOR

St. Simon was an early Prior of the Carmelites. The surname "Stock" is related to a story that he lived for a time in a hollow tree before the arrival of the Carmelites in England. The Blessed Virgin Mary is traditionally said to have appeared to him and given him the Carmelite habit, the Brown Scapular. He founded many Carmelite Communities, helped to change the Carmelites from a hermit Order to one of mendicant friars.

17
MAY

FRIDAY

7th Week of
Easter
WHITE



PASCHAL BAYLON

(1540 - 1592)

Paschal belonging to the Order of Friars Minor was best known for his strong and deep devotion to the Eucharist. He became noted for his strict austerities, as well as his love for and compassion towards the sick. He was sent to counter the arguments of the Calvinists in France but was chased out and nearly killed by a mob. He lived his life in contemplation and silent meditation and had frequent ecstatic visions.

First Reading: Acts 25:13b-21

After several days had passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to welcome Festus. Since they were staying there several days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man here who was left in prison by Felix. When I was in Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me about him and asked for a sentence against him. ...*(please see appendix Page 484)*

Psalm 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab

R: The Lord has fixed his throne in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I will not leave you desolate, says the Lord; I go but I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.

Gospel: John 21:15-19

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

R Jesus reminds us today of what love should be, to God and to those around us. When Jesus resurrected, He appeared to Peter and asked him three times, "Do you love me? Peter denied Jesus three times before He was crucified. Jesus wants Peter to replace his triple public denial with the triple profession of love. In John's Gospel, *philia* and *agape* -the two famous Greek words are used for love. Philia is a close friendship while Agape is total self-giving. At last Peter would make his "agape commitment" to Jesus. We need to reconsider our own degree of love for Jesus. We will know our love's extent by monitoring our daily living. It is encouraging to know that Jesus is understanding and very patient with both Peter and ourselves. The personal experience of the Lasallian in his/her calling and mission is an experience of faith. To know God and his envoy Jesus Christ is for De La Salle, the foundation for Christian life. De La Salle describes the effect that faith has as the result of a personal experience with Jesus Christ. **Reflection:** In love with Jesus, why is it vital for me as a Brother/ Lasallian to have an intimate relationship with Jesus?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

When we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with the soldier who was guarding him. Three days later he called together the local leaders of the Jews. When they had assembled, he said to them, "Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, yet I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans. When they had examined me, the Romans wanted to release me, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to the emperor—even though I had no charge to ...*(please see appendix Page 485)*

Psalm 11:4, 5 and 7

✠ The upright shall behold your face, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Gospel: John 21:20-25

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remains until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!" So the rumor spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If it is my will that he remains until I come, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

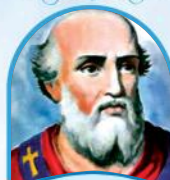
℞ After an unsuccessful attempt to return to fishing, Jesus appears again to the disciples. After Peter's triple public denial of Jesus, John was the one who stood beside him. He was with Mary, the mother of Jesus at the foot of the cross and it was through him that Jesus handed over his mother to us Christians. After Peter's triple public profession of love, Jesus reinstated Peter by saying "Feed my lambs, tend my flock, feed my flock". Then Jesus predicted the kind of death that Peter would die. Jesus was saying to Peter, "Whatever becomes of John is not as important as the task before you." In essence, Jesus was telling Peter to mind his business. In life, we do not all have the same calling, not even in the Lasallian mission. We must avoid having to compare ourselves with each other lest we lose touch with our unique call. Let us stop asking if her/his/ their cross is heavier than mine. We are all carrying the crosses that God deems fit for each of us. No one has it all good! We cannot all be the same but we must all be our best. **Reflection:** Do I fully relish what is put before me in life, or do I make comparisons?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

18
MAY
SATURDAY

7th Week of
Easter
WHITE / RED

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



JOHN I
(d. 526)
POPE & MARTYR

Pope John I was the bishop of Rome from 523 to his death.

He was sent on a diplomatic mission to Constantinople by the Ostrogoth King Theoderic to negotiate better treatment for Arians.

On his way home, John was imprisoned at Ravenna because the emperor had begun to suspect that John's friendship with his eastern rival might lead to a conspiracy against his throne. Shortly after his imprisonment, John died from the treatment in prison.



Pentecost Sunday

Red

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power."

Psalm 104:1 ab and 24ac, 29b-30, 31 and 34

R: Lord, send forth your spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, how great you are,

How many are your works, O Lord!

The earth is full of your creatures. ***R***

You take away their breath, they die,

Returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, and they are created,

And you renew the face of the earth. ***R***

May the glory of the Lord last forever!

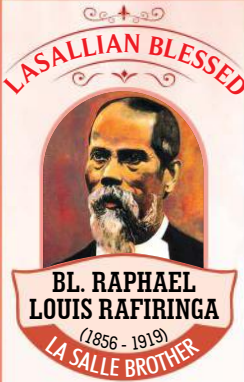
May the Lord rejoice in his works!

May my thoughts be pleasing to him.

I will rejoice in the Lord. ***R***

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 (or Romans 8: 8-17)

No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and



Br. Raphaël Louis Rafiringa was born in Tananarive (Madagascar) on May 1, 1856.

His indefatigable missionary effort suffered as a result of two wars, one in 1883 and the other in 1895. All the missionaries having been chased from the island, Brother Raphaël confronted this difficult situation with a superhuman courage that was crowned with success. As a sign of their recognition of this, the French authorities decorated him with the Madagascan gold medal of merit. As a result of his remarkable literary effort, he was named a member of the Madagascan Academy. He died at Fianarantsoa on May 19, 1919.

On October 18, 1979, the Brothers of this great island requested of Pope John Paul II the introduction of the Cause of the Servant of God.

Sunday

PENTECOST SUNDAY

there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."



℞ The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and on all those who were gathered together with them in the large upper room. He came to bring them a new law, the law of grace and love, and poured himself out upon them like a strong, driving wind. Let us open our mind and heart to receive him and let him live in our hearts. The apostles had all fled after seeing Christ die on the cross. They had gone into hiding, afraid of death. But after receiving the Holy Spirit, they came together again and gathered in the same place where there they encouraged each other and urged one another to suffer for the name of Jesus Christ. In such suffering they considered themselves blessed, and rejoiced. The Spirit of God is poured upon them. As Lasallians, we carry out a work that requires us to touch hearts, in God's pathways with the Spirit of God. We let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts with renewed vigor in order to rekindle our Spirit for the salvation of others. **Reflection:** Think of a time where you faced a serious trial or suffering. What were the biggest questions you wrestled with? Did you feel closer to God or further away from Him

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.



7th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

Pope Francis declared that a new obligatory memorial is to be celebrated in honor of our Blessed Mother under the title: Mary, Mother of the Church (Mater Ecclesiae), which will take place on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday. This announcement was made in a decree released by the Vatican on Saturday, March 3 2018.

Honoring Mary as mother of the church on the day after Pentecost also highlights for Catholics that Mary was present with the disciples on Pentecost, praying with them as the Holy Spirit descended. Mary “from the awaiting of the Spirit at Pentecost, has never ceased to take motherly care of the pilgrim church on earth.”
Maximin of trier

First Reading: James 3:13-18 ...*(please see appendix Page 485)*

Psalms 19:8-10, 15

℟ *The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Our savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel: Mark 9:14-29

At that time: [When Jesus came down the mountain with Peter and James and John] they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him greeted him. And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ...*(please see appendix Page 485)*

℟ Pope Francis inserted the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, into the Roman Calendar on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday. The main purpose of the devotion is to “encourage the growth of the maternal sense of the Church in the pastors, religious and faithful, as well as a growth of genuine Marian piety”. We are protagonists for the Lasallian traditions of Joy, Unity and Prayer which must be promoted with ardent zeal. We rejoice because Amazing Grace has reached down and saved us. We dwell in unity and welcome the lost, the least, and the last, because Jesus Christ laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. His Grace enlivens us to be in communion with people and Him. Mary, with her divine motherhood stood at the foot of the Cross and accepted her Son’s testament of love and welcomed all people. We are clearly invited to have a personal devotion to Mary in order to sustain Joy, Unity and Prayer. **Reflection:** How do I live “Joy, Unity, and Prayer” in terms of horizontal relationships and vertical piety to Jesus?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: James 4:1-10

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? ...*(please see appendix Page 485)*

Psalms 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23

✠ Entrust your cares to the Lord. and he will support you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

Ⓜ Conflicts permeate the world, manifesting within individuals, families, communities, and countries. The apostle James emphasizes that these conflicts and tragedies arise from the complexities of human existence. As our inner cravings persist, envy sparks conflict, causing internal turmoil. The transformative solution lies within individuals' hearts. God calls us to purify our hearts and transition from pride to humility. The Gospel emphasizes childlikeness as we all appreciate children's innocence. We delight in holding them and engaging in play with them. However, it is crucial to handle children with care and understanding. Instead of scolding a child, it is essential to employ compassionate communication methods. By doing so, we can foster a positive environment for their growth and development. Through both readings Jesus gives each one of us an invitation to live innocent and humble lives like children do so that we can receive God in into our lives. **Reflection:** Suggestions for improving attitudes, behaviors, and overall well-being within the community and workplace. Thoughts on intentional and international communities?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.



7th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



**CHRISTOPHER
MAGALLANES**

(1869 - 1927)
MARTYR

Christopher and his 24 companion martyrs lived under a very anti Catholic government in Mexico, one determined to weaken the Catholic faith of its people. Churches, schools, and seminaries were closed; foreign clergy were expelled. He was killed without trial on the way to say Mass during the Cristero War after he was falsely accused of promoting the Cristero Rebellion in the area. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 21, 2000.

**EUGENE OF
MAZENOD**

22**MAY****WEDNESDAY**7th Week in
Ordinary Time**WHITE****RITA OF CASCIA**

(1381 - 1457)

WIDOW

After her husband died, St. Rita joined an Augustinian community of religious sisters, where she was known both for practicing mortification of the flesh and for the efficacy of her prayers. She is often portrayed with a bleeding wound on her forehead, which is understood to indicate a partial stigmata. At her canonisation ceremony she was bestowed the title of Patroness of Impossible Causes. She is the patroness of abused wives and heartbroken women.

First Reading: James 4:13-17

Beloved: Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Psalm 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11

R *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father except through me.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-40

At that time: John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him, for no one who does a mighty work in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. For the one who is not against us is for us.

R There is a figure of speech used by some when they speak about their future plans. With all their plans and strategies, they add; "GOD WILLING". To think and speak of our future plans in that way shows that we acknowledge the fact that we don't have control over future events in our lives. Jesus tells us that our lives are often unpredictable as the thin white smoke exiting a chimney. He called them vapor clouds. They are pushed and manipulated by every breeze, and after a short period of time, they will completely disappear. No one has the real assurance of what will happen tomorrow. Let us remember, circumstances may cause us to revise our thinking. May our future dreams be fulfilled – God willing? Mother Teresa, says that it is more important to be faithful than to be successful in our life responsibilities. John Baptist De La Salle by attending to the presence and action of God, was faithful in his life and mission. He integrated the word "God Willing" with the Total abandonment to God, inspired and sustained by a living spirit of faith. **Reflection:** Do we have the courage to strike out along the new paths which God's newness sets before us?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: James 5:1-6

Come now, you rich, weep and howl for the miseries that are coming upon you. Your riches have rotted and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion will be evidence against you and will eat your flesh like fire. ...*(please see appendix Page 486)*

Psalms 49:14-15c, 15d-16, 17-18, 19-20

Rx Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Accept the word of God, not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God.

Gospel: Mark 9:41-50

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will by no means lose his reward. "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung round his neck and he were thrown into the sea. And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.' For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt it good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.

R Being a Christian means bearing witness to Jesus Christ, the ultimate definition of a Christian. Christian consistency is paramount, as it embodies the trait of faithfully testifying to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Christians are called to give testimony to Jesus Christ. People who boast of being Christian, and take advantage of their employees are inconsistent. The Apostle James beautifully brought this reality into the limelight. Christians who ordinarily and commonly live inconsistently do great harm. The Gospel says that the Lord speaks strongly against scandal. Thinking, feeling and acting as Christians are the need of the hour, for we need to be consistent. As Lasallians, the combination of radical trust and conscious action must be tied to the Christian tradition. Let us continue to take the Lasallian legacy, with the following five Cs. *Care, Concern, Competence, Confidence, and Consistency*, which make us complete Lasallians in today's world.

Reflection: Am I putting effort, time, patience, and work into what is important to me in my given responsibility as a Lasallian? Is there mutuality and balance in my relationships?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

**23
MAY**

THURSDAY

7th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



**JOHN BAPTIST
DE ROSSI**
(1698 - 1762)
CONFESSOR

St. John Baptist De Rossi served as the canon of Santa Maria in Cosmedin after his priest cousin died, and he was a popular confessor despite his initial fears that his epileptic seizures could manifest in the Confessional. He opened a hospice for homeless women not long after his ordination, and he became known for his work with prisoners and ill people, to whom he dedicated his entire ecclesial mission.

24

MAY

FRIDAY

7th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE



OUR LADY OF HELP OF CHRISTIANS

John Chrysostom was the first person to use this title in year 345 as a devotion to the Virgin Mary.

The Church has traditionally focused on two aspects of Our Lady's help on this feast day. Firstly, the Church focuses on the role of Our Lady's intercession in the fight against sin in the life of a believer. Secondly, it focuses on Our Lady as one who assists Christians as a community, in fighting against anti-Christian forces.

First Reading: James 5:9-12

Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12

Rx The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth;

Gospel: Mark 10:1-12

At that time: Jesus went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to him again. And again, as was his custom, he taught them. And Pharisees came up and in order to test him asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate." And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

R Through the first reading, St. James is inviting us to be genuine in what we say and do. Let our "yes" mean a "yes" and our "No" mean a "No". The reading tells us not to be double-minded. As, Christians, we should be known for our integrity and transparency. Our conversation with others must be truthful and genuine. In the Gospel reading, the Pharisees test Jesus by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Understanding the mind of the Pharisees, Jesus answers cleverly, saying marriage is an act of two people, where they become one in flesh mind and heart. Jesus speaks about the true commitment that transforms their promises into a reality. Commitment is one of the supreme values, where one can become trustworthy in the eyes of God. Being committed is not just doing what is asked of us but also offering ourselves with total trust. A strong "yes" and a strong "no" comprise of *commitment, trails, sacrifices, and temptations*. John Baptist De La Salle is the symbol of all such traits which he has given us. **Reflection:** What are the signs of effective Commitment, sacrifices and my Lasallian vocation?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: James 5:13-20

Beloved: Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit. My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Psalm 141:1-2, 3 and 8

Let my prayer be accepted as incense before you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries

Gospel: Mark 10:13-16

At that time: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it!" And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

R The apostle James offers us a number of spiritual solutions for the many difficulties which surface in our lives. The spiritual remedies are the following combinations: hardship-prayer, sickness-anointing, healing- prayer for another. When facing difficulties, we normally give first attention to our own personal troubles and think of assisting others only when we are whole again. Many of our problems will disappear more quickly and more completely if we don't over exaggerate them. Instead of fretting over them and ourselves, we should concentrate on helping others. The difficulties we have in life, give us the opportunities to develop. St. James says that the more healing we personally want, the more we should pray for others. It is a concrete example of loving neighbor as ourselves. **Reflection:** Am I closed and fearful before the newness of the Holy Spirit? How do I encounter my everyday challenges in my mission and in community?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.



7th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**VENERABLE BEDE,
GREGORY VII**
(673 - 735)
CONFESSOR, DOCTOR

Bede was an English Benedictine monk. He was well known as an author, teacher, and scholar, and his most famous work, Ecclesiastical History of the English People, gained him the title "The Father of English History". He also helped establish the practice of dating forward from the birth of Christ (Anno Domini – in the year of our Lord). He especially upheld the tradition of the Fathers and explained the Scriptures.



The Most Holy Trinity

White

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

For ask now about former ages, long before your own, ever since the day that God created human beings on the earth; ask from one end of heaven to the other: has anything so great as this ever happened or has its like ever been heard of? Has any people ever heard the voice of a god speaking out of a fire, as you have heard, and lived? Or has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs and wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by terrifying displays of power, as the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your very eyes? So acknowledge today and take to heart that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. Keep his statutes and his commandments, which I am commanding you today for your own well-being and that of your descendants after you, so that you may long remain in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for all time.

Psalm 33:4-5, 6 and 9, 18-19, 20 and 22

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.

For the word of the Lord is faithful,
 And all his works to be trusted.
 The Lord loves justice and right,
 And his merciful love fills the earth. *R.*

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
 By the breath of his mouth all their host.
 He spoke, and it came to be.
 He commanded; it stood in place. *R.*

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
 Who hope in his merciful love,
 To rescue their souls from death,
 To keep them alive in famine. *R.*

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
 He is our help and our shield.
 May your merciful love be upon us,
 As we hope in you, O Lord. *R.*

Second Reading: Romans 8:14-17

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that

Sunday

HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is, and who was, and who is to come.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



® The Feast of Trinity Sunday calls us to live with the awareness of the Triune God's presence in us - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and to dedicate ourselves daily to living as faithful followers. Trinity Sunday is an important day in the history of the Institute. On Trinity Sunday (June 6, 1694) De La Salle and the twelve principal Brothers made the first perpetual vows in the Institute in a remote room in the house at Vaugirard. The formula of the vows was similar to that of the Heroic Vow of 1691. The Triune God is present within us always which helps us to lead purer and holier lives while practicing acts of justice and charity. As Brothers we are called to reflect on the following namely:

- ◆ The need of respecting ourselves and others.
- ◆ The need to be aware of God as the source of our strength and courage
- ◆ The need to see the Trinity as the model for our Christian families
- ◆ Called to become more like the Triune God through all our relationships.
- ◆ Let us pray that we might have the courage and conviction of those twelve Brothers who went before us in June of 1694.

Reflection: On this important day of our Institute and over the years since my first profession and now as a Brother with varied experiences how have I valued and owned my profession of vows

27

MAY

MONDAY

8th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

(d. 605)
BISHOP

Augustine was a Benedictine monk who became the first Archbishop of Canterbury in the year 597. He was sent by St. Gregory the Great to preach the gospel in England. He converted many to the faith and set up some dioceses especially in the kingdom of Kent. His example also influenced the great missionary efforts of the AngloSaxon Church. He is considered the "Apostle to the English" and a founder of the English Church.

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ...*(please see appendix Page 486)*

Psalm 111:1b-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c

✠ *The Lord keeps his covenant ever in mind.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Gospel: Mark 10:17-27

At that time: As Jesus was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honour your father and mother.'" And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth!" And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. And Jesus looks around and said to his disciples, "How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God."

✠ In today's Gospel, a man who desires to be good and to gain eternal life at the end of his life here on earth, came up to Jesus and asked him saying, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Having had his personal realization, he pursued it. On the invitation of Jesus to keep the commandment towards eternal life, he responded to Jesus that he had observed it since his youth. Jesus knew he lacked something and that this man has some hindrance from gaining eternal life. To follow Jesus, Jesus tells him to go, sell what he has, and give to the poor and he will have treasure in heaven. The reluctant man went sorrowfully because he was attached to his riches and treasures. Jesus knows what each and every one of us lacks and he also knows our weaknesses and strengths. **Reflection:** It is important to find out today, that one thing that we all lack, that which can hinder us from relating well with God and our brothers and sisters. Can we name them in our personal encounter with the Lord?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:10-16

Beloved: Concerning the salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and enquired carefully, enquired carefully, enquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Psalms 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

℟ *The Lord has made known his salvation.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries of the kingdom.

Gospel: Mark 10:28-31

At that time: Peter began to say to Jesus, "See, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first"

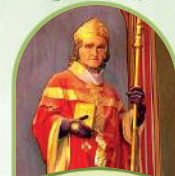
℟ St. Peter, in today's First Reading reminds us of our divine calling: "Be holy, for I am holy." Holiness is a universal calling for all, as true selfhood is realized within a community. We need the other to make us whole. However, communalism, racism, casteism, regionalism, and religious persecutions become stumbling blocks for us. Persecutions, mentioned by Jesus, aim to reflect God's image in us. Like Jesus, his followers will face opposition. Aimed at everyone, this message highlights the purpose of persecutions to illuminate our divine resemblance. Expect similar challenges, as Jesus' own experience teaches us. Stay steadfast in faith amidst trials. As men and women of faith and zeal, our hope is not built on the absence of difficulty, or a positive mental attitude. It is built on the unassailable fact of the historical resurrection of Jesus. Hence, persecution and suffering pave way for the holiness that Jesus encountered. **Reflection:** Does our communion with all make us recollected more, and make us more charitable, more patient, and more self-controlled to qualify our holiness?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

28
MAY

TUESDAY

8th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



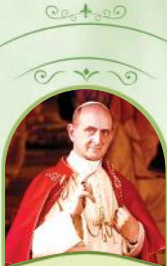
GERMANUS

(496 - 576)
BISHOP

Germanus was born near Autun, France. He was known for his hardworking and generous alms-giving nature. He continued to practice the virtues and austerities of his monastic life, working to diminish the suffering caused by the incessant wars. He persuaded the king to stamp out the pagan practices existing in Gaul and to forbid the excess that accompanied the celebration of most Christian festivals. He is called as the "Father of the Poor."



8th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



PAUL VI

(1897 - 1978)
POPE

Paul VI served in the Vatican's Secretariat of State from 1922 to 1954. He was appointed as archbishop of Milan in 1954. He was elevated to the college Cardinals in 1958 and was elected Pope in 1963. He re-convened the Second Vatican Council, which was automatically closed with the death of John XXIII, but disappointed liberals by upholding the celibacy of priests, papal primacy, and condemning contraception. He is most widely known for his landmark encyclical *Humanae Vitae*. In 1965, he instituted the World Synod of Bishops, and the next year decreed that bishops must offer their resignations on reaching age 75. In 1970, he decided that cardinals over 80 would no longer vote in papal conclaves or head the Holy See's major offices. He was canonized by Pope Francis on Oct. 14, 2018.

CYRIL

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-25 ...*(please see appendix Page 486)*

Psalm 147:12-15, 19-20

℟ *To Jerusalem, glorify the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! The son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

The disciples were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them. And they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles. And they will mock him and spit on him, and flog him and kill him. And after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the chalice that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The chalice that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. ...*(please see appendix Page 486)*

℟ The Gospel reading is the third prediction of Jesus' passion. Upon entering Jerusalem, Jesus told the disciples again the inevitable, that he would suffer a great deal. But again, he also assured them of his resurrection after three days. We would probably also behave like the disciples of Jesus. We would be afraid of suffering and hardships. Like James and John, we could hopefully say we can endure whatever in the name of the Lord. Yet, we should also learn to focus on the Lord's assurance of the resurrection after the suffering and death. When our faith is stretched and tested during challenging situations, let us focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. We should be strong and keep focus on Jesus. Yes, we can do it. Yes, we can endure with his help and grace because he has promised to give help, rest and peace to those who are heavily burdened. **Reflection:** What helps me realize / hinder the focus on Jesus on my formative pilgrimage as a Brother/ Lasallian?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Peter 2:2-5, 9-12

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his won Possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honourable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5

☩ *Come before him, singing for joy.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! I am the light of the world, ways the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

☩ "Go your way: your faith has made you well", Jesus said to the blind man Bartimaeus. What a beautiful thought to know that all it takes to be saved is to believe. Faith is multi-dimensional. To have faith we must believe, do and trust. Through the Gospel reading we see these various dimensions come to life in the cure of the blind man Bartimaeus, as he believes, takes action and trusts. To believe means to be persistent and he is persistent because he trusts in the one he believes in. On that day, there were many people in the crowd at Jericho. Bartimaeus knew what he wanted and so he was persistent. Though others told him to keep quiet, he continued with his pleas to Jesus. In doing so, Jesus heard him and answered them. Jesus summons Bartimaeus and cures his blindness. **Reflection:** When I say I believe in Jesus, do I truly exhibit the FAITH in what I do similar to the faith of the blind man Bartimaeus?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

30
MAY

THURSDAY

8th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



JOAN OF ARC

(1412 - 1431)
VIRGIN MARTYR

St. Joan of Arc claimed to have received visions of the archangel Michael, Saint Margaret, and Saint Catherine of Alexandria instructing her to support Charles VII and recover France from English domination. During the Hundred Years War, Joan led French troops against the English and recaptured the cities of Orléans and Troyes. Burned at the stake as a heretic after a politically motivated trial, Joan was canonized in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

31
MAY

FRIDAY

8th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

FEAST



**VISITATION OF
BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY**

This feast commemorates the visit of the Virgin Mary, pregnant with the child Jesus, to her cousin Elizabeth, pregnant with John the Baptist, as recorded in the Gospel of Luke (1:39–56). Elizabeth boldly declared Mary the most “blessed” among women, the Mother of God. Mary later sings the Magnificat as a thanks giving for the mighty richness of God’s unfailing love and mercy. Its observance was extended to the whole church in 1389 by Pope Urban VI.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–18 ...*(please see appendix Page 486)*

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcde, 5–6

℟ *Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you Virgin Mary, who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to you from the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 1:39–56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great thing for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

℞ We collectively commemorate the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin, Elizabeth, following the Archangel Gabriel’s announcement that she would conceive the Good News. When Mary visited Elizabeth, she recognized her as the Mother of God, as her own son, St. John the Baptist leapt and kicked with great joy in her womb. We are called to remember the great joy of Mary, who sang the famous hymn ‘Magnificat’, praising God for all the good things that He has done for His people. We are also called to remember that God had chosen Mary to be His vessel and His instrument for the salvation of the world. Through Mary, God has made Himself incarnate, human. She showed us all how to be obedient to God, and how we should walk in the way of the Lord. She showed us the importance of prayer and of listening to God. **Reflection:** Have we led a prayerful life? Have we walked faithfully in God’s ways? Have we devoted our time, effort and attention to the Lord and put Him as the focus and the center of our lives?

Reflection: Br. FELIX JOSEPH FSC, India.

First Reading: Jude 17:20-25

You must remember, beloved the predications of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. Building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh. Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm: 63:2, 3-4, 5-6

℟ For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Gospel: Mark 11:27-33

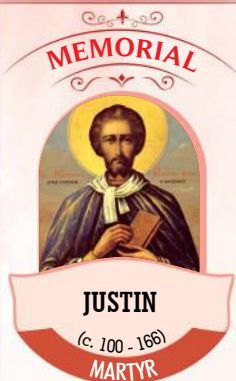
Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said, "By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?" Jesus said to them, "I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me." They argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But shall we say, 'Of human origin?'"—they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Ⓡ Today's readings speak about wisdom and guidance. The readings remind us of the profound impact teachers have on their students' lives, not only academically but also spiritually. The first reading encourages us to build ourselves up in faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. This call to spiritual growth invites us to not only impart knowledge but also foster an environment where students can deepen their relationship with God. And the gospel reading speaks of challenging authority, reminding us that student-teacher relationships should be built on trust, respect, and open dialogue. St. John Baptist de La Salle emphasized the importance of mutual respect between teachers and students, encouraging teachers to be patient and understanding when faced with questions or challenges. Thus through the readings today we are reminded that the student-teacher relationship goes beyond the classroom. It is an opportunity to guide and support students in their academic and spiritual journey, fostering an atmosphere of trust, respect, and spiritual growth that empowers them to flourish not only as scholars but also as individuals of faith and character.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



8th Week in Ordinary Time
RED



Justin, an early Christian apologist, is regarded as the foremost exponent of the Divine Word, the Logos, in the second century. The first Apology, his most well-known text, passionately defends the morality of the Christian life, and provides various ethical and philosophical arguments to convince the Roman emperor, Antoninus, to abandon the persecution of the Church. For his staunch adherence to the Christian religion, Justin was beheaded in Rome in 165.



The Body and Blood of Christ

White

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Exodus 24:3-8

Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do." And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. He rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and set up twelve pillars, corresponding to the twelve tribes of Israel. He sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed oxen as offerings of well-being to the Lord. Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he dashed against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant, and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." Moses took the blood and dashed it on the people, and said, "See the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Psalm 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

℟: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the Lord
 For all his goodness to me?
 The cup of salvation I will raise;
 I will call on the name of the Lord. ℟

How precious in the eyes of the Lord
 Is the death of his faithful.
 Your servant am I, the son of your handmaid;
 You have loosened my bonds. ℟

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
 I will call on the name of the Lord.
 My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
 Before all his people. ℟

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God! For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Sunday

CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord; If any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever.

Gospel: Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



® The concept of "The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ" reminds us of the profound spiritual dimension in the student-teacher relationship. Just as the Eucharist nourishes our souls, teachers have the responsibility to nourish the minds and hearts of their students. St. John Baptist de La Salle, a devoted educator and spiritual guide, saw the act of teaching as a sacred vocation. He believed that teachers should not only impart knowledge but also instil values, compassion, and love in their students. In doing so, they create an environment where students can grow intellectually and spiritually. By connecting "The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ" with education, St. John Baptist de La Salle urges teachers to recognize the divine presence in their work. As they share their knowledge and wisdom, they become instruments of grace, enriching the lives of their students and guiding them towards a deeper understanding of themselves and their faith.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

3

JUN

MONDAY

9th Week in Ordinary Time

RED

MEMORIAL



CHARLES
LWANGA & CO
(d. c.1886 - 1887)
MARTYRS

During the years 1885 to 1887, many Christians were killed in Uganda by the King Mwanga in hatred of religion. Among these were Charles Lwanga and twenty-one of his companions who would not acquiesce in the impure desires of the king. Some of them were killed by the sword and burned to death. Charles Lwanga is the patron of youth and Catholic action in most of tropical Africa. They were canonized by Pope Paul VI on October 18, 1964.

First Reading: 2 Peter 1:2-7

May grace and peace by yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus he has given us, ...*(please see appendix Page 487)*

Psalm 91:1-2, 14-15, 15c-16

℟: *O my God, I trust in you.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider the wonders of your law.

Gospel: Mark 12:1-12

Then he began to speak to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the wine press, and built a watchtower; then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants to collect from them his share of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, and beat him, and sent him away empty handed. And again he sent another slave to them; this one they beat over the head and insulted. Then he sent another and that one they killed. And so it was with many others; some they beat, and others they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son.' But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they seized him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away.

℟ Today's gospel passage resonates deeply with the essence of the student-teacher relationship. Jesus, the teacher, seeks to impart wisdom, guidance, and love to his disciples—the students. The vineyard symbolizes God's Kingdom, where Jesus cultivates the growth of faith within his followers. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are entrusted with God's teachings and blessings. However, like the wicked tenants, we may become entangled in our selfish desires, ignoring our responsibilities as stewards of God's word. The parable serves as a reminder of the consequences of neglecting the precious teachings we receive. Nurturing the student-teacher bond requires humility, obedience, and trust. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we must cultivate receptive hearts, embracing the teachings imparted to us by our divine Teacher, Jesus Christ, with gratitude and unwavering commitment. Only then can we truly bear the fruits of righteousness and spread God's love to those who are entrusted to our care.

First Reading: 2 Peter 3:11-15, 17-18

Waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him. You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Psalm 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14, 16

✠ O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Make me grasp the way of your precepts, and I will muse on your wonders.

Gospel: Mark 12:13-17

Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?" But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, "Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it" And they brought one. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Jesus said to them, "Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were utterly amazed at him.

℞ In today's Gospel, Pharisees and Herodians questioned Jesus about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus responded with the famous phrase, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." This passage reflects the delicate balance between secular obligations and spiritual responsibilities. As educators, we must shape the hearts and minds of the students and we must guide students to fulfil their civic duties while nurturing their spiritual growth. By instilling values of integrity and discernment, we equip them to navigate complex ethical dilemmas. Just as Jesus acknowledged both worldly and divine domains, De La Salle reminds us to address the holistic development of our students. Embracing the student's individuality and potential, we become not just educators but mentors, guiding them towards becoming responsible citizens with hearts attuned to higher truths.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

4

JUN

TUESDAY

9th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE



**FRANCIS
CARACCIOLO**

(1563 - 1608)

PRIEST

Francis was an Italian Catholic priest who co-founded the Congregation of the Clerics Regular Minor along with John Augustine Adorno. Even in his capacity as superior of the Order, he insisted on sharing simple tasks: sweeping rooms, making beds, washing dishes. As a priest, Francis spent many hours in the confessional. He also begged in the streets for the poor and gave away most of his possessions to the needy.

5
JUN
WEDNESDAY

9th Week in
Ordinary Time
RED

MEMORIAL



BONIFACE
(c. 673 - 755)
BISHOP & MARTYR

Boniface, known as the Apostle to the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up being elected abbot to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes. Two characteristics stand out: his Christian orthodoxy and his fidelity to the pope of Rome. During the evangelization of Friesland he was killed by the pagans. Through his efforts to reorganize and regulate the church of the Franks, he helped shape the Latin Church in Europe.

First Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-3, 6-12

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God whom I worship with clear conscience, as my ancestors did when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self discipline. ...*(please see appendix Page 487)*

Psalm 123:1-2, 2-3

℟: To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Train me, Lord, to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Gospel: Mark 12:18-27

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us that 'if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother.' There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; and the second married her and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.' Jesus said to them, "Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong."

℟ In today's first reading, Paul writes to his beloved student, Timothy, reflecting on their enduring teacher-student relationship. The bond between them is built on trust, love, and a shared faith in Christ. Paul encourages Timothy to fan the flames of his spiritual gifts, instilling confidence in him to carry out his divine calling to fearlessly carry out his divine calling. This passage underscores the essence of a profound student-teacher relationship. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are blessed with mentors who impart wisdom and guidance. And as teachers, we serve as a role model for nurturing spiritual growth and the spreading of God's message in those who are entrusted to our care. In our lives, we encounter similar relationships with mentors, spiritual guides, or teachers. Embracing their teachings and counsel allow us to embrace our divine purpose and serve as faithful stewards of God's grace. Let us cherish these relationships, learning from their wisdom, and embracing our calling with courage and unwavering faith.

First Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself. *...(please see appendix Page 487)*

Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10 & 14

℟ Lord, make me know your ways.

Gospel Acclamation

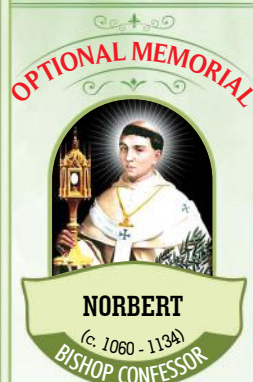
Alleluia, Bend my heart to your will, O Lord, and teach me your law.

Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

℟ In today's gospel, a scribe asked Jesus about the greatest commandment, to which Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself." This profound teaching emphasizes love as the foundation of our relationships with God and others. In the first reading, St. Paul encourages Timothy to persevere and remain faithful to the Word of God, reflecting the importance of passing on knowledge and wisdom to future generations. Similarly St. John Baptist De La Salle believed that the student-teacher relationship should be rooted in love and guided by faith. As educators, we must embody Christ's teachings by fostering a nurturing environment where students feel valued and supported. By integrating love for God and others into the educational journey, we not only impart knowledge but also cultivate character and compassion. In doing so, we honour our responsibility to pass on the light of wisdom, empowering students to become loving and principled individuals.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



St. Norbert, a canon of the cathedral of Xanten, went through France and Germany and other places preaching the Word of God, and with the help of companions who had joined him, founded the Premonstratensian Order dedicated to preaching, pastoral work, and education and set up a number of monasteries. As a Bishop, he carried out reforms in the religious life of the people and spread the faith among the pagans living nearby.



9th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

SOLEMNITY



**SACRED
HEART OF JESUS**

The Feast of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most widely practiced and well-known devotions in the Roman Catholic Church. It takes the physical heart of Jesus as representation of His Divine love for humanity. The Feast of the Sacred Heart has been in the Roman Catholic Liturgical calendar since 1856, and is always celebrated 19 days after Pentecost Sunday. The feast of the Sacred Heart always falls on a Friday. The devotion especially emphasizes the unmitigated love, compassion, and long suffering of the heart of Christ towards humanity.

The origin of the devotion to the Most Sacred Heart in the modern form, derived for a French Roman Catholic Saint, St. Marguerite Marie Alacoque, Who learned the devotion from Jesus during a mystical experience.

First Reading: Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9 ...*(please see appendix Page 487)*

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4acde, 5-6

✠ With joy you will draw water from the wells of the Salvation.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 8-12, 14-19

Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. For this reason I bow my knees ...*(please see appendix Page 488)*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, This is the love I mean: God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel: John 19:31-37

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

✠ St. John Baptist De La Salle finds profound wisdom in The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Embracing the heart's essence, this sacred connection unveils a transformative journey of compassion, understanding, and guidance. De La Salle emphasizes that teachers, as exemplars of Christ's love, must nurture not only the intellect but also the spirit. Just as Jesus' heart is open to all, teachers should embrace their students with acceptance and empathy, recognizing each one's unique needs and potential. The heart's tenderness fosters an environment where knowledge flourishes, and souls are inspired to grow. Within this divine partnership, students come to cherish learning, and teachers find fulfilment in nurturing minds and souls alike. By embodying The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, educators embody the essence of selfless love and service in their noble vocation.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ...*(please see appendix Page 488)*

Psalms 71: 8-9, 14-15, 16-17, 22

☞ *My lips will tell of your justice.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-51

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

☞ St. John Baptist De La Salle finds profound insights, inspired by The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As Mary's heart embodies purity and grace, teachers are called to emulate her virtues in their interactions with students. Like Mary's unwavering faith and devotion, educators must approach their vocation with a profound commitment to nurturing young minds and souls. De La Salle emphasizes the importance of fostering a compassionate and supportive environment, just as Mary tenderly cares for all her children. In this sacred connection, students are encouraged to flourish, guided by the gentle wisdom of teachers who mirror Mary's love. The Immaculate Heart becomes a beacon of inspiration, reminding educators to embrace their role with humility and dedication, knowing that through their selfless efforts, they can lead students towards a brighter and enlightened future.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



The Immaculate Heart of Mary is a devotional name used to refer to the interior life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections and above all, her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus, and her compassionate love for all people.



10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B


Psalter II


First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15


[After Adam had eaten of the tree,] The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.


Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 7bc-8

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings. 

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul hopes in the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak. 

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But which you is founded forgiveness,
that you may be revered. 

Let Israel hope for the LORD. For with the
Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful
redemption. It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. 

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

Brethren: Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke", we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Now will the ruler of this world be cast out, says the Lord; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 3:20-35

At that time: Jesus went home with his disciples, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat. And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind." At that time: The scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul;" and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons!" And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house. "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit!" Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."



📖 In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges societal norms to redefine relationships. The passage shows his family questioning his actions, while Jesus embraces a broader family—those who do God's will. This challenges us to reflect on the student-teacher relationship. It emphasizes the teacher's role in nurturing students' spiritual growth. Like Jesus, teachers must transcend mere academic instruction, seeing their students as part of a broader educational family. In fostering a supportive and compassionate environment, teachers can inspire students to embrace their unique potential. As Jesus rejected traditional ties, educators should break free from conventional methods to encourage innovative and inclusive learning experiences. By understanding their students' needs and empowering them with knowledge and values, teachers can transform lives and build a community centred on learning, love, and understanding. Just as Jesus redefined kinship, teachers can redefine the student-teacher relationship, enriching lives in profound ways.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

10
JUN

MONDAY

10th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREENGETULIUS &
COMPANIONS(d. c.120)
MARTYRS

Getulius was an officer in the Roman army under Trajan and Hadrian. Upon his conversion to the Christian faith, he lived in seclusion with his companions. He is known to have converted Cerealis, the imperial vicar who was sent to arrest him. Because of this reason, the Consul Licinius ordered them to renounce their faith. Rejecting to do so, St. Getulius and his companions were beheaded at the stake on the Via Salaria.

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:1-6

Now Elijah the Tishbite, of Tishbe in Gilead said to Ahab, "As the Lord the God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." The word of the Lord came to him, saying, "Go from here and turn eastward, and hide yourself by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. You shall drink from the wadi, and I have commanded the ravens to feed you there." So he went and did according to the word of the Lord; he went and lived by the Wadi Cherith, which is east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning, and bread and meat in the evening; and he drank from the wadi.

Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your decrees.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness;" sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

R In the first reading, we see that the prophet Elijah's obedience to God's guidance led him to the brook Cherith, where he was provided for by the ravens during a time of scarcity. In the Gospel reading, Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, highlighting the virtues of humility, compassion, and righteousness, promising blessings to those who embody these qualities. Like Elijah and Jesus, teachers must offer guidance and support to their students, especially during challenging times. The student-teacher relationship should mirror the virtues of the Sermon on the Mount, fostering humility in learning and encouraging empathy towards others. Just as God provided for Elijah and blessed those who embraced Christ's teachings, teachers who embody these values become conduits of divine grace, nurturing not only the minds but also the hearts of their students. By instilling these virtues, teachers inspire their students to seek wisdom, walk in righteousness, and be blessings to the world.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 11:21-26; 13: 1-3

The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians." Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Psalm 98:1-3, 3-6

✠ The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, O praise the Lord, Jerusalem ! He sends out his word to the earth.

Gospel: Matthew 10:7-13

As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Ⓜ The student-teacher relationship, mirrored in the life of Saint Barnabas, Apostle, holds valuable insights according to the teachings of St. John Baptist De La Salle. As Barnabas demonstrated unwavering support and encouragement to the Apostle Paul, teachers are called to be mentors and guides, nurturing their students' potential. Just as Barnabas recognized Paul's talents and vouched for him, educators should see the unique gifts in each student and foster their growth. De La Salle emphasizes the importance of forming a genuine connection with students, cultivating trust and understanding. Like Barnabas, teachers must be willing to accompany their students on their journey of learning and faith. In this sacred bond, students are empowered to shine, and teachers find fulfilment in witnessing their development. The life of Saint Barnabas reminds educators to be beacons of encouragement and inspiration, guiding their students towards greatness with love and compassion.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

**11
JUN**

TUESDAY

10th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



BARNABAS

APOSTLE

Strictly speaking, Barnabas was not an apostle. He was designated by the Holy Spirit to share the charge and mission of the twelve Apostles and is venerated by the Church as one of them. He played an important part in the first extension of Christianity outside the Jewish world. It was Barnabas who presented St. Paul to the other Apostles after his conversion. Barnabas was Paul's companion and helper on his first missionary journey and returned with him to Jerusalem.

**12
JUN**

WEDNESDAY

10th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



JOHN OF SAHAGUN

1419 - 1479

PRIEST

St John of Sahagun, O.E.S.A. was a Spanish Augustinian friar and priest. He is noted for his devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. During Mass, he often saw the Host surrounded by light, sometimes had visions of the bodily form of Christ at the moment of consecration. He could read hearts in confession and became a sought-after spiritual director. He was a great preacher whose sermons helped to change social conditions in Salamanca.

First Reading: 1 Kings 18:20-39

So Ahab sent to all the Israelites, and assembled the prophets at Mount Carmel. Elijah then came near to all the people, and said, "How long will you go limping with two different opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him." The people did not answer him a word. Then Elijah said to the people, "I, even I only, am left a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets number four hundred and fifty. Let two bulls be given to us; let them choose one bull for themselves, cut it in pieces, and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it; I will prepare the other bull and lay it on the wood, but put no fire to it. Then you call on the name of your God and I will call on the name of the Lord; the god who answers by fire is indeed God." All the people answered, "Well spoken!" Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many; then call on the name of your god, but put no fire to it." So they took the bull that was given them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning(please see appendix Page 488)

Psalm 16:1-2, 4, 5, 8, 11

℟️ Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

℟️ In the Gospel, Jesus affirms the importance of upholding the law and teaching others to do the same. This passage reminds us of the significance of the student-teacher relationship as a means of transmitting wisdom and moral values. St. John Baptist De La Salle, known for his dedication to education, understood the teacher's role in guiding students not only academically but also spiritually. Teachers can be seen as custodians of knowledge and ethical principles, entrusted with the task of shaping young minds. Just as Jesus emphasized the significance of the law, educators must instill a sense of responsibility and respect for learning. St. John Baptist De La Salle's approach highlights the importance of leading by example, as teachers embody the values they seek to impart. By creating a nurturing environment and fostering a genuine passion for knowledge, educators can empower students to become responsible, compassionate, and enlightened individuals, ensuring the continuity of wisdom and virtue in society.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: I Kings 18:41-46

In those days: Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink, for there is a sound of the rushing of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Mount Carmel. And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. And he said to his servant, "Go up now, look towards the sea." And he went up and looked and said, "There is nothing." And he said, "Go again," seven times. And at the seventh time he said, "Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea." And he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare you chariot and go down, lest the rain stop you.'(please see appendix Page 489)

Psalm 65:10, 11, 12, 13

✠ Praise is due to you in Sion, O God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.

Gospel : Matthew 5:20-26

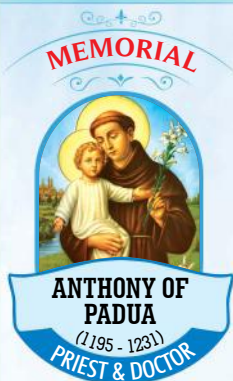
At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

✠ The student-teacher relationship, influenced by the life of Saint Anthony of Padua, holds profound lessons according to the teachings of St. John Baptist De La Salle. As Saint Anthony exemplified deep knowledge and wisdom in his teachings, educators are called to be knowledgeable and dedicated to their craft. Like Saint Anthony, teachers should approach their role as a sacred duty, imparting not only academic knowledge but also fostering spiritual growth. De La Salle emphasizes the importance of leading by example, just as Saint Anthony's virtuous life served as a testament to his teachings. Teachers must embody the values they instil, inspiring students to emulate goodness and compassion. In this sacred connection, students find guidance and solace, and teachers witness the fruits of their labour in the growth of their pupils. The life of Saint Anthony reminds educators to be passionate in their vocation by, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those who are confided to their care.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



10th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



The gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ was the rule of Saint Anthony of Padua's life. He was noted by his contemporaries for his powerful preaching, expert knowledge of scripture, and undying love and devotion to the poor and the sick. He used to convert and reassure those who had been misled by their denial of Christ's divinity and of the sacraments. He is the patron saint of lost things.

14 JUN

FRIDAY

10th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



METHODIUS I

(d. 847 A.D.)

PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Methodius I was the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople from March 4, 843 to June 14, 847. During the second iconoclastic persecution, he boldly stood his ground in favour of the veneration of the sacred images. As the patriarch of Constantinople, he convened a council and promoted orthodoxy and the veneration of icons after the long years of iconoclasticism. He was indeed well educated; engaged in both copying and writing of manuscripts.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-16

In those days: Elijah came [to Horeb the mount of God] to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him. And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He said, "I have been very jealous for the LORD, ...*(please see appendix Page 489)*

Psalm 27:7-8ab, 8c-9abc, 13-14

℟ *It is your face, O Lord, that I seek.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, You shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

Gospel: Matthew 5:27-32

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. "It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

℟ In the first reading, we find the powerful story of Elijah encountering God not in grand displays of force, but in a gentle whisper. This passage reminds us of the significance of attentive listening and deep reflection in the student-teacher relationship. St. John Baptist De La Salle, renowned for his dedication to education, stressed the importance of understanding students' unique needs and nurturing their spiritual growth. Teachers, like Elijah, must listen keenly to their students' voices, concerns, and aspirations. By creating a supportive and compassionate environment, educators can help students blossom intellectually and emotionally. Just as God's presence was found in a gentle whisper, De La Salle encourages teachers to approach their students with patience, understanding, and empathy. By doing so, they can effectively guide students towards enlightenment and growth, helping them become confident and compassionate individuals who positively impact the world around them.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:19-21

So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was ploughing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10

℟️ O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed these things to children.

Gospel: Matthew 5:33-37

"Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

℞ In the first reading, we witness the call of Elisha, who, upon being chosen as Elijah's disciple, shows unwavering commitment by leaving everything behind to follow his teacher. This passage illuminates the importance of loyalty and trust between educators and learners. Teachers, like Elijah, have the responsibility to inspire and guide their students towards a higher purpose. Conversely, students, like Elisha, must exhibit dedication and openness to learn and grow. De La Salle highlights the significance of a mutual commitment, where teachers wholeheartedly invest in their students' development, and students respond with a sincere desire for knowledge and character formation. Through this interconnected relationship, education becomes a transformative journey of mutual understanding and growth. When both teachers and students are united in purpose, they can build a learning community grounded in trust, respect, and shared aspirations for a brighter future.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



10th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



GERMAINE COUSIN

(c.1579 - 1601)
VIRGIN

Germaine was born with a deformed hand and the disease of scrofula, and, while yet an infant, lost her mother. Her father soon married again, but his second wife treated Germaine with much cruelty. She used to practise many austerities as reparation for the sacrileges perpetrated by heretics. She had deep love for the Sacraments of Penance and the Holy Eucharist. She used to assemble the village children and teach them to love Jesus and Mary.



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Psalms 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16

It is good to give thanks to You, O Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
To make music to your name, O most high,
To proclaim your loving mercy in the morning,
And your truth in the watches of the night. *℟*

The just will flourish like the palm tree,
And grow like a Lebanon cedar.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
They will flourish in the courts of our God. *℟*

Still bearing fruit when they are old,
Still full of sap, still green,
To proclaim that the Lord is upright,
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. *℟*

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word is truth, O Lord, sanctify us in the truth.

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.



® In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the parables of the mustard seed and the growing seed to illustrate the transformative power of faith and knowledge. These passages offer valuable insights into the student-teacher relationship. Like the small mustard seed, learning starts with a tiny spark, and with nurturing and guidance, it grows into profound wisdom. St. John Baptist De La Salle, a visionary educator, emphasizes the teacher's role in sowing the seeds of knowledge and virtue. Just as Jesus teaches in parables, educators should employ diverse and engaging teaching methods to ignite curiosity and understanding in their students. As the seeds of learning take root, students begin to flourish, reaching their full potential under the guidance of dedicated teachers. Nurturing this growth requires patience, care, and an unwavering belief in each student's unique journey. Through the teacher's nurturing support, the once-small seeds of potential blossom into a forest of knowledge, empowering students to make a positive impact on the world around them.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

17
JUN

MONDAY

11th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREENGREGORY
BARBARIGO

(1625 - 1697)

BISHOP

Born in Venice, Gregory set his clergy an example by undertaking to teach catechism to the villagers at a time of decadence. As a bishop, he made it a point to visit all the parishes in his diocese, even the most inaccessible ones. He imposed upon himself severe penances, fasting, and prayers for the good of his flock. He began a seminary and took the responsibility to teach philosophy and rhetoric.

First Reading: 1 Kings 21:1-16

Later the following events took place: Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel, beside the palace of King Ahab of Samaria. And Ahab said to Naboth, "Give me your vineyard, so that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house; I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money." But Naboth said to Ahab, "The Lord forbid that I should give you my ancestral inheritance." Ahab went home resentful and sullen because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him; for he had said, "I will not give you my ancestral inheritance." He lay down on his bed, turned away his face, and would not eat. His wife Jezebel came to him and said, "Why are you so depressed that you will not eat?" He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if you prefer, I will give you another vineyard for it'; but he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'" His wife Jezebel said to him, "Do you now govern Israel? Get up, eat some food, and be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."*(please see appendix Page 489)*

Psalm 5:2-3, 5-6, 7

℟ *Give heed to my groaning, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-42

"You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

℞ In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches about responding to evil with goodness and going beyond what is expected. This lesson holds valuable insights for the student-teacher relationship. Instead of reacting negatively to challenges, teachers can emulate Christ's teachings by responding with patience, understanding, and compassion. When faced with difficult students or trying circumstances, educators can choose to respond with kindness, empathy, and an unwavering commitment to their students' growth. Moreover, De La Salle emphasizes the importance of going the extra mile in educating and caring for students. By offering personalized attention and support, teachers can empower their students to overcome obstacles and thrive academically and personally. In this manner, the student-teacher relationship becomes a powerful conduit for positive change, fostering an environment where love, respect, and understanding prevail, enriching the lives of both teachers and students alike.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Kings 21:17-29

Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying: Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. You shall say to him, "Thus says the Lord: Have you killed, and also taken possession?" You shall say to him, "Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood." Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" He answered, "I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, I will bring disaster on you. I will consume you, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel; and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked me to anger and have caused Israel to sin. Also concerning Jezebel the Lord said, "The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the bounds of Jezreel. Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; and anyone of his who dies(please see appendix Page 489)

Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 11, 16

✠ *Have mercy, Lord, for we have sinned.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your words, Lord, are spirit and life you have the words of eternal life.

Second Reading: Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

✠ In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges his followers to love their enemies and be perfect, just as God is perfect. This powerful message has profound implications for the student-teacher relationship. Teachers, inspired by Christ's teachings, can foster an environment of love, respect, and understanding in the classroom. By loving their students unconditionally, teachers can create a safe space where students feel valued and accepted. Additionally, De La Salle emphasizes the role of teachers as role models. Just as God's perfection serves as an ideal, teachers' virtuous behaviour can inspire students to strive for excellence and become compassionate individuals. When teachers approach their students with love and understanding, they promote an atmosphere of mutual respect, cooperation, and growth. By embodying Christ's message, the student-teacher relationship becomes a catalyst for positive change, empowering students to reach their full potential as they develop both academically and morally.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



11th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



MARCUS & MARCELLIAN
(d. 287)
MARTYRS

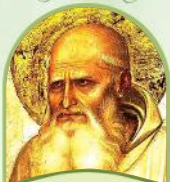
Mark and Marcellian were twins hailing from an illustrious family in Rome. The brothers refused to sacrifice to the Roman gods and were arrested. They converted their guards and escaped but were soon recaptured. They were condemned to be bound head downwards to two pillars with their feet nailed to them. Sts. Mark and Marcellian hung there for a full day until they were pierced with lances.

19 JUN

WEDNESDAY

11th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



ROMUALD

(952 - 1027)
ABBOT CONFESSOR

Born in Ravenna, he embraced the life of a hermit. For many years, he went from place to place seeking true solitude, and built a number of monasteries. He fought against the depraved morals of many of the monks at the time and by the exercise of virtue advanced along the path of perfection. He founded the Order of the Camaldolese Benedictines, uniting the monastic and eremitical lives.

**JULIANA
FALCONIERI**

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan."(please see appendix Page 490)

Psalm 31:20, 21, 24

℟ *Be strong, let your heart take courage, all who hope in the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

℞ In the first reading, we witness the passing of the prophetic mantle from Elijah to Elisha. This powerful moment symbolizes the continuity of knowledge and wisdom from teacher to student. The passage highlights the sacred bond in the student-teacher relationship, where the torch of learning is passed on and future generations are enriched. The Gospel reading also emphasizes the humility of the heart and the importance of sincerity in one's actions. In the context of education, teachers are encouraged to teach with sincerity, free from vanity or self-centred motives. When educators approach their roles with genuine care and concern for their students' well-being and progress, they create a profound impact. The student-teacher relationship becomes a transformative journey, fostering not only intellectual growth but also the development of character and virtue. Through this authentic connection, the seeds of wisdom planted by teachers bear fruit, shaping responsible and compassionate individuals who contribute positively to society.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Sirach 48:1-14

Then Elijah arose, a prophet like fire, and his word burned like a torch. He brought a famine upon them, and by his zeal he made them few in number. By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens, and also three times brought down fire. How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds! Whose glory is equal to yours? You raised a corpse from death and from Hades, by the word of the Most High. You sent kings down to destruction, and famous men, from their sickbeds. You heard rebuke at Sinai and judgments of vengeance at Horeb. You anointed kings to inflict retribution, and prophets to succeed you. You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire, in a chariot with horses of fire. At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. Happy are those who saw you and were adorned with your love!*(please see appendix Page 490)*

Psalm 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7

℟️ Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

Gospel: Matthew 6:7-15

“When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. “Pray them in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

℞ In the first reading, we encounter the life and legacy of the prophet Elijah, who passed on his wisdom and mantle to Elisha. This passage speaks to the significance of the student-teacher relationship, where knowledge is transmitted through generations. The teachings of Jesus in the gospel emphasize the Lord’s Prayer, a model of sincere communication with God. St. John Baptist De La Salle, an advocate for education, recognized the power of effective communication in the teacher-student dynamic. Just as Elijah shared his wisdom with Elisha, teachers must impart knowledge with clarity and passion. Moreover, De La Salle emphasized the role of prayer and spirituality in the learning process, guiding students to seek wisdom from above. In nurturing a strong student-teacher bond, educators can inspire students to grow academically, morally, and spiritually, ensuring a legacy of enlightenment and virtue carried forward by each generation.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



11th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



SILVERIUS

(d. 538)
POPE & MARTYR

Pope Silverius ruled the Holy See from 8 June 536 to his deposition in 537.

His rapid rise to prominence from a deacon to the papacy coincided the efforts of Ostrogothic king Theodahad, who intended to install a pro-Gothic candidate just before the Gothic War. Later deposed by Byzantine general Belisarius, he was tried and sent to exile on the desolated island of Palmarola, where he starved to death in 537.

21
JUN

FRIDAY

11th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL

ALOYSIUS
GONZAGA
(1568 - 1591)
CONFESSOR

Aloysius was a member of the Society of Jesus.

Despite the objections from his superiors, he volunteered to work bringing victims of a plague to a Jesuit hospital, despite his personal revulsion at the patients' crumbling physical conditions. His reputation for purity, prayerfulness, and suffering led many to consider him a saint soon after his death. While working in the hospital, Aloysius contracted the plague from a patient he personally cared for, and died on June 21, 1591.

First Reading: 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20

In those days: When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she arose and destroyed all the royal family. But Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram, sister of Ahaziah, took Joash the son of Ahziah and stole him away from among the king's sons who were being put to death, and she put him and nurse in a bedroom. Thus they hid him from Athaliah, so that he was not put to death. And he remained with her for six years, hidden in the house of the LORD, while Athaliah reigned over the land. But in the seventh year Jehoiada sent and brought the captains of the Carites and of the guards, and had them come to him in the house of the LORD. And he made a covenant with them and put them under oath in the house of the LORD, and he showed them the king's son. The captains did according to all that Jehoiada the priest commanded, and they each brought his men who were to go off duty on the Sabbath, and came to Jehoiada the priest. And the priest gave to the captains the spears and shields that had been King David's, which were in the house of the LORD. And the guards stood, ...*(please see appendix Page 490)*

Psalm 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18

✠ *The Lord has chosen Sion; he has desired it for his dwelling.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel: Matthew 6:19-23

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

✠ As Saint Aloysius exhibited unwavering devotion to his religious calling, educators are reminded of their sacred duty to guide students not only academically but also in matters of the heart and spirit. Like Aloysius, teachers should exemplify integrity and a deep sense of purpose, inspiring students to pursue a life of virtue. De La Salle emphasizes the significance of cultivating a nurturing environment, where students can grow in wisdom and holiness. Teachers must foster a genuine sense of care and compassion, just as Saint Aloysius showed towards others. In this sacred connection, students are empowered to embrace their potential, and teachers find fulfillment in guiding souls towards goodness and righteousness. The life of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of the student-teacher relationship rooted in faith and love.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25

After the death of Jehoiada the princes of Judah came and paid homage to the king. Then the king listened to them. And they abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their fathers and served the Asherim and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ...*(please see appendix Page 491)*

Psalms 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34

✠ I will keep my faithful love for him always.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.” “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

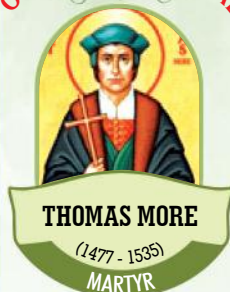
✠ In the first reading, we see the downfall of Joash after the death of his teacher, Jehoiada which, serves as a cautionary tale about the influence of mentors in a student’s life. Just as Jehoiada played a pivotal role in Joash’s life, teachers leave a lasting impact on their students’ values and choices. This passage from the Gospel reminds us of the futility of worrying about material possessions, emphasizing trust in divine providence. By nurturing trust in a higher purpose, teachers can guide students away from the anxieties of worldly pursuits and towards a life centered on meaningful values. St. John Baptist De La Salle, an advocate for education, stresses the transformative power of the teacher-student relationship. The student-teacher bond becomes a vessel for imparting wisdom and fostering resilience, enabling students to face challenges with faith and confidence in their potential.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



11th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



Thomas More was an English lawyer, social philosopher, author, statesman, and noted Renaissance humanist. He opposed the Protestant Reformation, directing polemics against the theology of Martin Luther, Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin and William Tyndale. He refused to acknowledge King Henry as Supreme Head of the Church of England and the annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. After refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy, he was convicted of treason and beheaded.

PAULINUS OF NOLA



12th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? —when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?'

Psalms 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31

R. O give thanks to the Lord for his mercy endures forever!

Some went down to the sea in ships,
To trade on the mighty waters.
These have seen the deeds of the Lord.
The wonders he does in the deep. *R.*

For he spoke and raised up the storm-wind.
Tossing high the waves of the sea
That surged to heaven and
Dropped to the depths.
Their souls melted away in their distress. *R.*

Then they cried to the Lord in their need,
And he rescued them from their distress.
He stilled the storm to a whisper,
And the waves of the sea were hushed. *R.*

They rejoiced because of the calm,
And he led them to the haven they desired.
Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
His wonders for the children of men. *R.*

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I have called you friends, says the Lord, because all I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you.

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"



📄 In today's Gospel, we witness Jesus calming the storm, demonstrating his authority over nature. This passage holds profound lessons for the student-teacher relationship. Just as the disciples trusted Jesus during the storm, teachers cultivating trust and rapport, can create a space where students feel secure to explore, question, and grow. Thus students can trust their teachers to guide them through the challenges of learning and life. And in the first reading, Saint Paul speaks of new creations in Christ, highlighting the transformative power of faith. Similarly, teachers play a crucial role in nurturing the intellectual and spiritual growth of their students, helping them discover their unique potential and purpose. When students and teachers walk together with mutual respect and trust, the student-teacher relationship becomes a transformative journey, where minds and hearts are empowered to weather life's storms and embrace growth with courage and resilience.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

24
JUN

MONDAY

12th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

SOLEMNITY



**NATIVITY OF JOHN
THE BAPTIST**

MARTYR

John the Baptist through his birth, preaching and baptizing, bore witness to the coming, birth, preaching and baptism of Christ. Born of Zechariah and Elizabeth, he spent his time as an ascetic, announcing the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His attitude toward Jesus was: "He must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30).

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6 ...*(please see appendix Page 491)*

Psalm 138:1-3, 13-14, 14-15

✠ I thank you for the wonder of my being.

Second Reading: Acts 13:22-26

When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ...*(please see appendix Page 492)*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, You, child, will be called, the prophet of the Most High; for you shall go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66, 80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

✠ The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist, a celebration of new beginnings, holds a profound reflection on the student-teacher relationship, as guided by the teachings of St. John Baptist De La Salle. Just as John the Baptist was chosen for a divine mission, teachers are entrusted with the sacred duty of shaping young minds and souls. De La Salle's insights emphasize the importance of recognizing each student's unique potential, just as John's parents rejoiced in his miraculous birth. Teachers must nurture and encourage their students to grow in wisdom and virtue, following John's example of humility and devotion. Like the Baptist's call to prepare the way for the Lord, educators must pave the path of knowledge and enlightenment for their students. In this sacred bond, students find purpose, and teachers find fulfillment in guiding them towards greatness. The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist reminds educators of the transformative power they hold in shaping the future and nurturing souls in their care.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Kings 19:9-11, 14-21, 31-35, 36

When the king heard concerning King Tirhakah of Ethiopia, "See, he has set out to fight against you," he sent messengers again to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus shall you speak to King Hezekiah of Judah: Do not let your God on whom you rely deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria. See, you have heard that the kings of Assyria have done to all lands, destroying them utterly. Shall you be delivered? Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; then Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord and spread it before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said: "O Lord the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, you are God, you alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O Lord, and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; hear the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God. Truly, O Lord, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and have hurled their gods into the fire, though they were no gods but the work of human hands wood and stone and so they were destroyed. So now, O Lord our God, save us, I pray you, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you, O Lord, are God alone." Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, ...*(please see appendix Page 492)*

Psalms 48:2-3, 3-4, 10-11

℟ *God upholds his city for ever.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your word is truth, O Lord, sanctify us in the truth.

Gospel: Matthew 7:6, 12-14

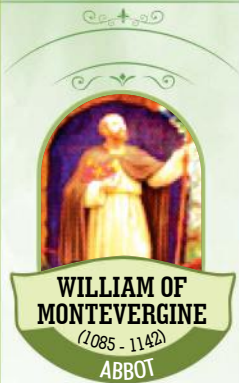
"Do not give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you. "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

℞ In the first reading, we read about Hezekiah seeking the guidance of the prophet Isaiah in times of trouble. This passage reveals the importance of seeking wisdom from teachers and mentors during challenging moments. Just as Hezekiah turned to Isaiah for counsel, the teachers must encourage their students to approach them with trust and openness, knowing they will be met with care and support. And in the gospel, Jesus teaches the golden rule, emphasizing the significance of treating others with kindness and respect. By embodying the golden rule, teachers create a harmonious and respectful learning environment. Students, in turn, learn the importance of treating their peers and teachers with compassion and fairness. Through this reciprocal relationship, both students and teachers grow, forging a community where mutual respect and learning flourish.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



12th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



William of Montevergine was a Catholic hermit and the founder of the Congregation of Monte Vergine, or "Williamites". Legend says that William began mining the stone and digging the foundations for the church on Monte - vergine with a single donkey. One evening, a wolf charged from the forest and killed the donkey. William ordered the wolf to take the donkey's place. The wolf, understanding that he had interrupted God's work, bowed his head, and began hauling the loads of stone.

**26
JUN**

WEDNESDAY

12th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



**JOSE MARIA
ESCRIVÁ**
(1902 - 1975)
PRIEST

Josemaría Escrivá was a Spanish Roman Catholic priest who founded Opus Dei, an organization of lay people and priests dedicated to the teaching that everyone is called to holiness by God and that ordinary life can result in sanctity. As Opus Dei grew, he continued his studies and his priestly work among the poor and sick. He was canonized in 2002 by Pope John Paul II.

First Reading: 2 Kings 22:8-13, 23:1-3

In those days: Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the secretary, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. And Shaphan the secretary came to the king, and reported to the king, "You servants have emptied out the money that was found in the house and have delivered it into the hand of the workmen who have the oversight of the house of the LORD." Then Shaphan the secretary told the king, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king. When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his clothes. And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Micaiah, and Shaphan the secretary, and Asaiah the king's servant, saying, "Go, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found. For great is the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not ...*(please see appendix Page 492)*

Psalm 119:33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40

℟ *Lord, teach me the way of your statutes.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in ne bears much fruit.

Gospel: Matthew 7:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thorn bushes? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits!"

℞ In the first reading, we witness the power of the student-teacher relationship through the young king Josiah and the priest Hilkiah. Josiah's humble and receptive attitude towards Hilkiah's teachings led to transformative actions in the kingdom. This illustrates the significance of open-hearted learning and wise guidance in nurturing leaders. And in the gospel, Jesus warns against false prophets, emphasizing the importance of discernment in seeking trustworthy teachers. This highlights the need for a strong student-teacher relationship built on authenticity and genuine care. St. John Baptist De La Salle's educational principles resonate with these readings. He emphasizes the moral and spiritual formation of students through teachers who embody values and integrity. De La Salle emphasizes the significance of teachers as role models, whose lives bear the fruits of wisdom and virtue, guiding students to become leaders of integrity and positive change. Through a nurturing and discerning student-teacher bond, future generations can be inspired to impact the world with goodness and wisdom.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Kings 24:8-17

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned for three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up to Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to city while his servants were besieging it, and ...*(please see appendix Page 493)*

Psalms 79:1-2, 3-5, 8, 9

℟ For the sake of the glory of your name, free us O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Gospel: Matthew 7:21-29

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.' "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. .

℟ In the first reading, we see the tragic consequences of King Jehoiachin's misguided leadership, leading to the Babylonian captivity. This passage serves as a cautionary tale about the impact of unwise decisions and the need for guidance in leadership. And in the gospel, Jesus speaks of the importance of building a strong foundation by listening to and acting on His teachings. St. John Baptist De La Salle, a pioneer in education, stresses the critical role of teachers in shaping future leaders. Like Jesus' parable, teachers must lay a strong foundation of knowledge and values in their students. De La Salle advocates for educators to lead with wisdom, ensuring that students not only hear but internalize and apply essential principles. Through a transformative student-teacher relationship grounded in integrity and guidance, young leaders can build their lives on a solid foundation, making wise decisions that positively impact their communities and the world.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



12th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA
(370 - 444)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

St. Cyril of Alexandria was the Patriarch of Alexandria from 412 to 444. He wrote extensively and was a leading protagonist in the Christological controversies of the late 4th and 5th centuries. He suppressed the Novatians. He became noted in Church history because of his spirited fight for the title "Theotokos" during the First Council of Ephesus. He fought against Nestorius who taught the heresy that there were two persons in Christ.

28
JUN

FRIDAY

12th Week in
Ordinary Time
RED

MEMORIAL



IRENAEUS

(c.130 - c.200)
BISHOP & MARTYR

Irenaeus was a Greek bishop noted for his role in guiding and expanding Christian communities for the development of Christian theology by combating heresy and defining orthodoxy.

To counter the doctrines of the gnostic sects claiming secret wisdom, he offered three pillars of orthodoxy: the scriptures, the tradition handed down from the apostles, and the teaching of the apostles' successors. He emphasized the unity of Christ's simultaneous human and divine nature.

First Reading: 2 Kings 25:1-12

And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it; they built siege works against it all round. So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine became so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city wall; the king with all the soldiers fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. They went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; all his army was scattered, deserting him. Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, who passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out the eyes of Zedekiah;(please see appendix Page 493)

Psalms 139:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

℟️ *O Let my tongue Cleave to my mouth If I remember you not.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

Gospel: Matthew 8:1-4

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I do choose. Be made clean!" Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

℟️ The life of Saint Irenaeus, a devoted Bishop and Martyr, sheds light on the profound student-teacher relationship, in line with as is also exemplified in the teachings of St. John Baptist De La Salle. As Saint Irenaeus fearlessly defended the faith, teachers are called to impart knowledge and foster spiritual growth in their students. De La Salle's wisdom emphasizes the importance of guiding students with unwavering dedication, just as Irenaeus nourished his flock with love and care. Teachers must be mentors and role models, leading by example and instilling virtuous values. Like Irenaeus' commitment to preserving Christian doctrine, educators must equip their students with wisdom and discernment to face life's challenges. In this sacred connection, students find strength and purpose, while teachers find fulfillment in shaping responsible and faithful individuals. The life of Saint Irenaeus reminds educators of the transformative power they possess in moulding minds and souls for the greater glory of God.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

First Reading: Acts 12: 1-11

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church.(please see appendix Page 493))

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

℟ From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-19

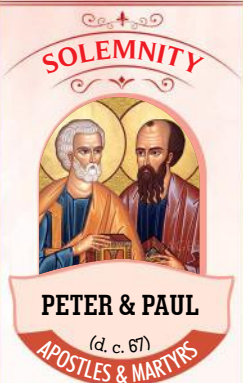
Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets!" He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

℟ The lives of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, offer profound insights into the student-teacher relationship. Both Peter and Paul were chosen by Christ to spread His message and build the foundation of the Church. Teachers, like these Apostles, bear the responsibility of imparting knowledge and nurturing faith in their students. De La Salle's teachings emphasize the significance of forming a strong and supportive bond with students, just as Peter and Paul shared a deep connection with Christ. Teachers must guide their students towards a path of truth and virtue, just as the Apostles did in their ministry. In this sacred connection, students are empowered to embrace their calling, and teachers find fulfillment in witnessing their growth. The lives of Saints Peter and Paul remind educators of the transformative power they possess in shaping hearts and minds for a brighter future.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.



12th Week in Ordinary Time
RED



The Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul is a liturgical feast in honour of the martyrdom in Rome. Peter was an apostle and the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God". St. Peter was martyred by being crucified upside down in the year 64. St. Paul known as the apostle of the Gentiles was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67.



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Wisdom 1:13-15; 2: 23-24

Because God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal. For God created us for incorruption, and made us in the image of his own eternity, but through the devil's envy death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.

Psalms 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a, and 13b

℟: I will extol you, O Lord, for you have raised me up.

I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up,
And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have lifted up my soul from the grave,
Restored me to life from those who sink into the pit. *℟*

Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones; Give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts a moment, his favour all through life.
At night come tears, but dawn brings joy. *℟*

Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; Be my helper, O Lord.
You have changed my mourning into dancing,
O Lord my God, I will thank you forever. *℟*

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I have called you friends, says the Lord, because all I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you.

Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had

Sunday

heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.



® In the gospel, we encounter two miracles: the healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter. These stories demonstrate Jesus' compassion and ability to bring life and healing. Similarly, in the first reading, Paul urges the Corinthians to excel in generosity and selflessness, reflecting Christ's sacrificial love. Likewise teachers must show genuine care and compassion for students, just as Jesus cared for the sick and suffering. By embodying Christ's love and selflessness, teachers can inspire their students to be generous and caring individuals. Furthermore, De La Salle emphasized the value of education in nurturing the mind and soul. Through a compassionate and transformative student-teacher relationship, educators can instill in students the desire to make a positive impact on others' lives, fostering a community of kindness and healing.

Reflection: Br. MARTIN KATTAR FSC, India.

1

JUL

MONDAY

13th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



JUNIPERO SERRA

(1713 - 1784)
APOSTLE OF CALIFORNIA

Juniper also known as Apostle of California was a friar of the Franciscan Order who founded a mission in Baja California and the first nine of 21 Spanish missions in California from San Diego to San Francisco. He baptized over 6,000 people and confirmed 5,000. He brought the Native Americans not only the gift of faith but also a decent standard of living. Pope Francis canonised him on September 23, 2015

First Reading: Amos 2:6-10, 13-16

Thus says the LORD: "For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted; a man and his father go into the same girl, so that my holy name is profaned; they lay themselves down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge, and in the house of their God they drink the wine of those who have been fined." Yet it was I who destroyed the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars and who was as strong as the oaks; I destroyed his fruit above and his roots beneath. Also it was I who brought you up out of the land of Egypt and led you for forty years in the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. "Behold, I will press you down in your place, as a cart full of sheaves presses down.(please see appendix Page 494)

Psalm 50:16bc-17, 18-20, 21, 22-23

℟ *Mark this, you who are forgetful of God.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Today, harden not your hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 8:18-22

At that time: When Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. And a scribe came up and said to him, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head!" Another of the disciples said to him, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and leave the dead to bury their own dead.

℟ **"Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go."** Prophet Amos speaks of the justice of God. His justice is combined with mercy. Thus, He takes the side of the poor and marginalized. God has shown His mercy and love to the people of Israel, first by choosing them and then by liberating them from foreign rulers. He offered them a land where they could live happily and in peace. In spite of God's goodness towards them, they strayed away from Him and disobeyed Him. As a result, vengeance was inflicted on the Israelites for their misdeeds. However, God wants to bring them back again. Jesus invites His followers in the first instance to experience the goodness of God. The one who has experienced the providential loving care of God, is able to surrender oneself wholeheartedly. He should be able to sacrifice anything for His Kingdom. What hinders one in following Jesus can be all the excuses one makes. Indeed the excuses of the disciples are similar to the ones we encounter in our own lives. Am I able to forgo my comfort zones in order to be the light and salt of the earth? Do we dare to transform our lives according to the message of Christ? Can we really say to Jesus "I will follow you wherever you want me to go"?

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12

Hear this word that the LORD has spoken against you, O people of Israel, against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt: "You only have I know of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities. "Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet? Does a lion roar in the forest, when he has no prey? Does a young lion cry out from his den, if he has taken nothing? Does a bird fall in a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it? Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing? Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it? "For the Lord GOD does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets. The lion has roared; who will not fear? The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?" "I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were as a brand plucked out of the burning; yet you did not return to me," Declares the LORD. "Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"

Psalm 5:5-6, 7, 8

℟ Lead me, Lord, in your justice.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I long for the Lord, in his word I hope.

Gospel: Matthew 8:23-27

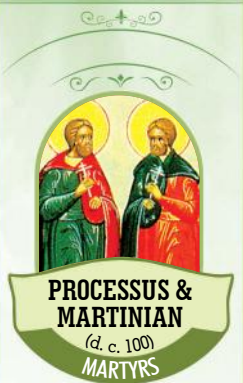
At that time: When Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. And they went and woke him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" The he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marvelled, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?"

℞ "Why are you afraid, O men of little faith?" Amos is called the prophet of doom. His message is about the punishment that God will bring forth to Israel. As they have forgotten the merciful acts of God, the liberating presence of God has been rejected by the people. When they were under foreign rulers, God intervened and saved them. Yet these people have not positively responded to the love of God. As a result, He will severely chastise them. The Gospel presents the miracle of calming the sea. The presence of Jesus makes a big difference amidst the stormy and panicky situation. Jesus manifests his power over nature and creation. In fact He is the Lord of the Universe. The experience of the presence of Jesus in one's life always makes a difference. His presence is found not only in stormy situations but also in the very ordinary situations of life. We can elevate our faith by being open to his providential presence in our life. We need not fear when we are not in control of situations since we believe He will turn them into moments of hope.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



13th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



According to legend, Martinian and Processus were imperial soldiers assigned as the warders of Saint Peter and Saint Paul in the Mamertine Prison. The apostles converted their jailers after a spring flowed miraculously in the prison. Peter baptized them in the miraculous waters. By order of the emperor Nero, the guards were then arrested, tortured, and beheaded.

3

JUL

WEDNESDAY

13th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED

FEAST



THOMAS

1st Century
APOSTLE & MARTYR

Thomas was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. Commonly known as “Doubting Thomas” because he doubted Jesus’ resurrection when first told of it; later, he confessed his faith, “My Lord and my God,” on seeing Jesus’ crucifixion wounds. Thomas is believed to have travelled outside the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel, travelling as far as the Malabar Coast. According to Syrian Christian tradition, he was allegedly martyred at St. Thomas Mount in Chennai.

First Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Psalm 117:1bc, 2

℟ *Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good news.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Blessese are those who have not seen and yet believed.

Gospel: John 20:24-29

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

℟ **“My Lord and my God!”** Amazingly the doubt of Thomas is cleared by the appearance of the Risen Lord. In fact it changed him so much that he became fully convinced of the resurrection of Jesus. His faith conviction is summarized in the declaration, “My Lord and my God.” Thomas became a witness to Jesus through the life he lived and his martyrdom. The foundation of Christian faith is the belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and God. The one who accepts Jesus as Lord, will not only accept His teachings but also build up one’s life according to His values. Thereby, one is invited to be a witness to Jesus. Jesus’ words can echo within us: “Happy are those who have not seen but have believed.” The present day man and woman can find reasons both for belief and unbelief. Faith can be reasonable but it is not based on reason. Blaise Pascal said, “Heart has reasons which the reason cannot understand.” Thus, on this feast day, we are invited to raise our hearts and minds to the Lord, so that he clears our doubts in life. As teachers, we too have a responsibility to elevate the faith of the children. It is more by our life example than by teaching the doctrine that we can be witnesses to Christ.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Amos 7:10-17

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the(please see appendix Page 494)

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11

℟️ The decrees of the Lord are truth. and all of them just.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town. And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic "Stand up, take your bed and go to your home." And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.


℞ **"Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."** The debate between Amazin and Amos highlights how Amazin tries to evade the hard truth, namely, the vengeance that will come upon the people. Consequently Amos was asked to leave them. The mission of a prophet is not to get some personal acceptance by flattering people. The call of a prophet is to be the mouth piece of God. Thus, he always has to speak the truth that God wants him to declare. In the Gospel, we come across the healing of a paralytic. Prior to healing the paralytic, Jesus tells him that his sins were forgiven. The power to forgive sin is ascribed to God. In this event, Jesus shows that power which God alone has. The words of Jesus disturbed the scribes who represented the learned in the crowd. Jesus disturbed the undisturbed and calmed the disturbed. As teachers, we can encounter disturbed children who need our attention and care, ones that need to be comforted. Similarly, we too can find undisturbed children who need to be challenged. The truth can be hard to swallow but we need to be prophetic too.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

4
JUL
THURSDAY

13th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
(1271 - 1336)
QUEEN OF PORTUGAL

Born of the royal family of Aragon, St. Elizabeth overcame many trials and difficulties by prayer and works of charity. When her husband died she gave her worldly goods to the poor and took the habit of the Third Order of St. Francis. While effecting a reconciliation between her son and son-in-law, she died in the year 1336. She is usually depicted in royal garb with a dove or an olive branch.

5

JUL

FRIDAY

13th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



ANTHONY MARY ZACCARIA
1502 - 1539
CONFESSOR

St. Anthony Zaccaria was an early leader of the Counter Reformation. He established the congregations, the Society of Clerics of Saint Paul (the Barnabites) for men and the Angelics of Saint Paul for unclioisterednuns. He helped introduce the Forty Hours' Devotion. These groups helped reform the morals of the faithful, encouraged laymen to work together with the apostolate, and frequent reception of Communion. He is a patron saint of physicians.

First Reading: Amos 8:4-6, 9-12

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?" "And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son and the end of it like a bitter day. "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

Psalms 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131

℟ Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

At that time: As Jesus passed on, he saw a man celled Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me!" And he rose and followed him. And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

℟ "It is not those who are well who need a doctor, but those who are sick." Matthew was a tax collector which was not a highly esteemed job due to the fact that many were corrupt. However, Jesus dared to call such a person to be his close follower. Mathew took up the challenge and became not just a transformed person but an apostle. The history of the Christian Church is full of examples of conversions, the first being Saint Paul. The dramatic change in the life of St. Augustine is brought about by the prayer of his mother, St. Monica. There is a saying that a saint has a great past and a sinner has a great future. The great past of a saint is his inner conversion and great future of a sinner is the possibility for inner conversion. As teachers we come across various types of children. Some are highly capable, the majority are of average level academically and a few are on the weak side. How do we treat them? It is perhaps easy to work with the best and the average academic students. But as Christian teachers, our concern towards the weak academically can bring an inner joy. Jesus came to seek the lost. As shepherds and guardians of children, let's be closer to the academically weak ones.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Amos 9:11-15

Thus says the LORD: "In that day I will raise up the booth of David that is fallen and repair its breaches, and raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old, that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by my name," declares the LORD who does this. "Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when the ploughman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows the seed; the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them," says the LORD your God.

Psalms 85:9, 11-12, 13-14

℟️ *The Lord speaks of peace for his people.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me.

Gospel: Matthew 9:14-17

At that time: The disciples of John came to Jesus, saying, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" And Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one puts a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment, for the patch tears away from the garment, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins. If it is, the skins burst and the wine is spilled and the skins are destroyed. But new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved."

℟️ "New wine is put into fresh wineskins." We can discover the attitudes and behavior of Jesus as something novel. A reaction to such behavior is seen in the Gospel. That reaction came from the disciples of John the Baptizer. Jesus said to them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them?" The message of Jesus is contrasted with that of the Old Testament as John and the Pharisees were still observing practices from that time. Jesus presented God as a loving Father who accepts the least ones as His beloved. Thus, the first will be last and last will be the first. He loves both the sinner and the righteous, but He is closer to the sinner than those who think they are right. New situations in life call for new and creative responses. Today, when we face various new situations and issues, we need to think in a new manner. The old pattern of thinking may not help. Just like Jesus had a new vision of God, we too can be open to new ways of thinking. However, we should not do away with the good practices of the past. If we can integrate both past wisdom and critical thinking about the present, then we will be able to respond to current personal and societal situations in a creative manner.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



13th Week in
Ordinary Time
RED

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



MARIA GORETTI

(1890 - 1902)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

Born at Ancona, Maria spent her childhood in poverty and helping her mother in the domestic chores. She was a religious girl and much given to prayer. In 1902, while defending her chastity against a man attempting to violate her, she preferred to die rather than give way, and was repeatedly stabbed with a knife. She is the patron saint of chastity, rape victims and forgiveness. Pope Pius XII canonised her on June 24, 1950.



14th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord God." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Psalm 123:1-2ab, 2cdef, 3-4

℟: *Our eyes are on the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.*

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
You who dwell in the heavens.
Behold, like the eyes of slaves
On the hand of their Lords. ℟

Like the eyes of a servant
On the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes are on the Lord our God,
Till he show us his mercy. ℟

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed, all too full is our soul
With the scorn of the arrogant,
The disdain of the proud. ℟

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.



Ⓜ Ezekiel was a frustrated prophet who in his frustrations often scolded and attacked the exiles. But when he received the word of the fall of Jerusalem, he offered the exiles a new message of hope. He was able to rise above his frustrations because he experienced God's presence in his painful agony. St. Paul was sad when he heard the unjust attacks of his opponents. Apart from that, he had to carry all through his life "a thorn in his flesh." He asserted that when he was weak, then he was strong. Jesus was rejected in his own home town. Yet he demonstrated God's strength in the midst of denial and rejection. The weakness or pain that we carry on in our lives are powerful symbols of God's dynamic presence among us. 'A thorn in the flesh' could be physical illness, rejection by others or the hardships in our day to day lives. People often admire the talents, achievements and great deeds. However, we find it difficult to cope up with weakness and can be easily discouraged, frustrated and depressed. The joy of life depends not so much on what we do, but what God does through us. He can accomplish whatever he wants even through pain and suffering.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

8

JUL

MONDAY

14th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



HESPERIUS & ZOE

(d. 135)
MARTYRS

Hesperius and his wife Zoe were slaves of a rich Roman named Catulus in Asia Minor. Put to shame for their religious indifference by the example of their children, they refused to accept food offered to the gods. There upon they were arrested and, when put to trial, made a bold confession of their faith and refused to venerate the Master's gods. Infuriated, Catulus had them roasted to death in a furnace.

RAYMOND OF TOULOUSE

First Reading: Hosea 2:16, 17-18, 21-22

On that day, says the Lord, you will call me, "My husband," and no longer will you call me, "My Baal." For I will remove the names of the Balls from her mouth, and they shall be mentioned by name no more. I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. On that day I will answer, says the Lord, I will answer the heavens and they shall answer the earth; and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil, and they shall answer Jezreel;

Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

℟ *The Lord is kind and full of compassion.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Teach me your paths, my God, make me walk in your truth.

Gospel: Matthew 9:18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live!" And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself. "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district.

℞ "If I only touch his garment, I shall be made well." There are two miracles that we come across in the Gospel passage of today. As Jesus was moving towards the ruler's house, a woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years got healed. Then Jesus raised the ruler's daughter to life. Miracles are part and parcel of Jesus' ministry. Jesus performed these miracles not as a wonder maker but rather to show God's power and to confirm what he taught. These miracles are signs of God' loving plan of salvation. How do we understand miracles today? They are not impossibilities that can never happen. On the other hand they cannot happen without God's intervention. How and why God acts in a certain way at a certain time is beyond our comprehension. But he does intervene according to his plan. Every day, large number of miracles happen within us and outside of us. If we open our eyes to nature, we may see how God brings light and darkness, how the birds of the air are fed, and how the smallest insect survives. Let's open our eyes and ears to the miraculous things that happen everywhere. What is your response to them?

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13

They made kings, but not through me; they set up princes, but without my knowledge. With their silver and gold they made idols for their own destruction. Your calf is rejected, O Samaria. My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of innocence? For it is from Israel, an artisan made it; it is not God. The calf of Samaria shall be broken to pieces. For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind. The standing grain has no heads, it shall yield no meal; if it were to yield, foreigners would devour it. When Ephraim multiplied altars to expiate sin, they became to him altars for sinning. Though I write for him the multitude of my instructions,*(please see appendix Page 494)*

Psalms 115:3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10

℟ House of Israel, trust in the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, I am the good shepherd, says the Lord ; I know my home and my own know me.

Gospel: Matthew 9:32-38

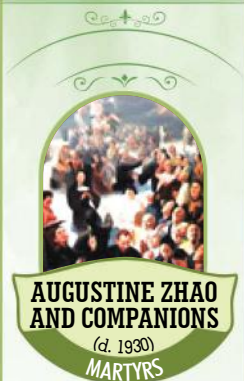
After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons." Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowd, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest!"

℟ "The harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few." Jesus went about teaching in their synagogues, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he felt compassion for them. Then he tells his disciples that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. When we consider the vastness of the mission of spreading God's Kingdom, we too feel the need to have more and more co-workers who can commit themselves to that purpose. Jesus initiated God's Kingdom but we all have a role to play in bringing it to fulfillment. We are journeying towards that omega point. The modern world is equipped with so many gadgets that fulfill human desires, but can they assure true happiness and joy in life? Even the so called richest nations may be poor in the way they treat humanity. There are injustices, inequalities in the distribution of wealth and corruption all over the world. Humanity longs for a just and fair society but it will be realized only when God's reign takes roots in the world. Do we opt for ministries that go beyond our comfort zones? St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Preach the Gospel. If necessary use words."

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



14th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



The Martyr Saints of China, or Augustine Zhao Rong and his 119 companions, from the mid-17th century to 1930, were martyred because of their ministry and, in some cases, for their refusal to apostatize. Augustine Zhao Rong was a Chinese soldier who accompanied Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse of the Paris Foreign Mission Society to his martyrdom in Beijing. They were canonised on October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

**10
JUL**

WEDNESDAY

14th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



**SEVEN HOLY
BROTHERS**

(d. c.165)
MARTYRS

Felicity is said to have been a rich and pious Christian widow who had seven sons. She devoted herself to charitable work and converted many to the Christian faith by her example. This aroused the wrath of pagan priests and demanded sacrifice from Felicitas and her children. With joy, she accompanied her sons and witnessed the death of all seven. She refused to act against her conscience and so she too suffered martyrdom.

First Reading: Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12

Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased the more altars he built; as his country improved, he improved his pillars. Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will break down their altars, and destroy their pillars. For now they will say: "We have no king, for we do not fear the Lord, and a king what could he do for us?" Samaria's king shall perish like a chip on the face of the waters. The high places of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars. They shall say to the mountains, Cover us, and to the hills, Fall on us. Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.

Psalm 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

℟ *Constantly seek the face of the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 10:1-7

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near'.

℟ **"The kingdom of heaven is at hand."** Hosea warns people that they should do away with idol worship. Idolatry was fast spreading as people became wealthier. God rejected such worship and said that He would act against their unfaithfulness. Their faithfulness to God is the basis of their covenantal relationship. In the Gospel, we gain an insight into the calling of the twelve disciples. They are called the apostles. The word Apostle means, one who is being sent out. Jesus commissioned them to go in search of the lost sheep of Israel. Their message is that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. God's kingdom is not like any human kingdom demarcated by a territory. It is not a particular type of ideology with a type of governing body. It is the reign of God. God governs every aspect of human life both inside and outside. It simply means God reigns. To be a member of God's kingdom, one needs to be sincerely committed in his/ her covenantal relationship with God. That relationship can be tarnished or even cut off by prioritizing other things, especially idol worship. What are my priorities today?

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?(please see appendix Page 494)

Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16

Let your face shine on us, O Lord, and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your precepts, O Lord, are all of them sure; they stand firm for ever and ever.

Gospel: Matthew 10:7-15

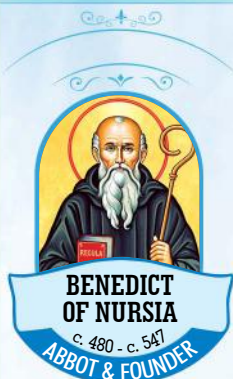
As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment than for that town.

R "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." The disciples are ordered to proclaim that "the kingdom of heaven is near." It reflects the central message of Jesus about the availability of the kingdom of God to humanity and the importance of repentance and faith. Jesus gives his disciples the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers and cast out demons. This emphasizes the authority and power given to them to demonstrate the reality of the kingdom of heaven through concrete actions. The disciples are told to give freely what they have received. It reflects the nature of God's grace and love - it is not earned but freely given. It also emphasizes the selfless nature of their mission. The disciples are instructed not to carry extra supplies, illustrating their dependence on God for their mission. It teaches them to trust the care and hospitality of the God they encounter. Jesus prepares his disciples for the possibility of rejection. They are encouraged to see the value of the households they visit and to leave the places that reject what they say. Shaking off the dust symbolizes separation from those who reject God's message. St. Benedict states that "Whenever you begin any good work you should first of all make a most pressing appeal to Christ our Lord to bring it to perfection."

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



14th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



Born at Nursia, he led a life of solitude and gathered disciples around him, and then went to Monte Cassino. He founded a well known monastery and wrote his Rule, as a result of which he has been called the Father of Monasticism in the West. He formulated the golden rule Ora et Labora - pray and work, the most common and influential Rule used by monasteries and monks. He is a patron saint of Europe.

12
JUL

FRIDAY

14th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



JOHN GUALBERT

(985 - 1073)
ABBOT

John Gualberto is the founder of the Vallumbrosan Order. He became a member of the Order of Saint Benedict though he left in order to found his own congregation.

He condemned nepotism and all simoniacal actions and was known for the pureness and meekness of his faith. He became a noted figure for his compassion to the poor and the ill. He is the patron saint for foresters, park rangers and parks.

First Reading: Hosea 14:2-9

Take words with you and return to the Lord; say to him, "Take away all guilt; accept that which is good, and we will offer the fruit of our lips. Assyria shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses; we will say no more. 'Our God,' to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy." I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily, he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon.(please see appendix Page 495)

Psalms 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14, 17

My mouth shall declare your praise.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider the wonders of your law.

Gospel: Matthew 10:16-23

"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

R **"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves"** In today's Gospel Jesus uses the metaphor of sheep and wolves to convey the qualities that his disciples should embody. They must be intelligent and wise to the challenges and opposition they face, maintaining a spirit of innocence and purity in their intentions. Jesus prepares his disciples for a difficult journey. He warns them that they will be handed over to the authorities, flogged in the synagogue and brought before the rulers. This foretells the hostility they will face because of their words. Despite the challenges, Jesus assures his disciples that they will not be alone. He promises that if they are caught, the Spirit of their Father will speak through them. This emphasizes the role of divine guidance and intervention in their mission. The disciples are told that they will be hated for their association with Jesus, but those who are sure of their faith and devotion to Him will be saved. It emphasizes the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity. Jesus advises the disciples to flee elsewhere if they are persecuted. It acknowledges the reality of persecution and also emphasizes the need to continue spreading the message.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."(please see appendix Page 495)

Psalms 93:1, 1-2, 5

℟ *The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Train me, Lord, to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Gospel: Matthew 10:24-33

"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. "Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

℟ **"A disciple is not above the teacher."** In today's Gospel Jesus reminds his disciples that they should expect the same treatment he experienced. A student is not above a teacher and a servant is not above a master. It prepares them for the challenges and opposition that follow Jesus. Jesus instructs his disciples not to fear those who oppose them. He assures them that the truths will come out later and that what they say should not be hidden. It encourages transparency and boldness in sharing the gospel. Jesus distinguishes between the fear of those who can harm the body and the fear of God, who has power over both body and soul. This reminds the disciples that their ultimate loyalty should be to God, not to men. Jesus uses the parable of the sparrows to emphasize God's care and concern. If God cares for even the smallest creatures, how much more does he care for his disciples? This highlights the value of each person in the eyes of God. Jesus explains that his acceptance or denial has eternal consequences. Recognizing him leads to positive recognition before God, while denying him leads to denial before God. Where do I stand today in terms of the above values of faith?

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

13
JUL
SATURDAY

14th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



HENRY II
(973 - 1024)
HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR

Born in Bavaria, Henry succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria and later was elected Holy Roman Emperor. As king, Henry encouraged the German bishops to reform the practices of the Church in accordance with canon law. He was outstanding for his reforms in the Church and for his encouragement of missionary activity. He was declared the patron saint of the Benedictine Oblates by Pope St. Pius X.



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15

And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'

Psalms 85:9ab, and 10, 11-12, 13-14

℟: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
 He speaks of peace for his people and his faithful,
 His salvation is near for those who fear him,
 And his glory will dwell in our land. *℟*

Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
 Justice and peace have kissed.
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
 And justice look down from heaven. *℟*

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
 And our earth shall yield its increase.
 Justice will march before him,
 And guide his steps on the way. *℟*

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,

Sunday

so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



℞ "You were sealed with the Holy Spirit" In today's second reading, Paul begins by praising God for blessing believers with every spiritual blessing in Christ. It reflects the holistic nature of God's care for his people, not only in material or temporal matters, but also in spiritual governance. The song is about God informing us that believers were holy and blameless even before the creation of the world. Through Jesus Christ, believers are adopted into God's family as sons and daughters. This adoption is a manifestation of God's love and pleasure and emphasizes our identity as God's children. The reading highlights the abundance of God's grace and redemption through the blood of Jesus. The forgiveness of sins is freely given, emphasizing God's unmerited favor and the high price paid for our salvation. By believing the Gospel, believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit. This seal represents the ownership, security and guarantee of their future inheritance. The song repeatedly emphasizes God's purpose and will. Believers are reminded that God works all things according to His plan, and our hope in Christ is part of that great purpose. The song refers to the ultimate goal of bringing unity under Christ to all things in heaven and on earth. It emphasizes the cosmic dimension of God's plan and His desire to reconcile all things to Himself through Christ.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

15
JUL

MONDAY

15th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



BONAVENTURE

(c.1218 - 1274)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

Born in Tuscany, Bonaventure studied philosophy and theology and then taught the students of the order. He became

Minister General of the Franciscan Order and steered them on a moderate and intellectual course that made them the most prominent order in the Catholic Church.

His theology was marked completely to integrate faith and reason. As a mystical writer, he managed to unite the pastoral, practical aspects of life with the doctrines of the Church.

First Reading: Isaiah 1:10-17 ...*(please see appendix Page 495)*

Psalm 50:8-9, 16-17, 21-23

℟ I will show God's salvation to the upright.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Train me, Lord, to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Gospel: Matthew 10:34-11:1

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter in-law against her mother in law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of disciple truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

℟ “Give ear to the law of God” Today's first reading emphasizes that God desires true worship and a sincere relationship with His people, not just ritual sacrifices. It speaks of the importance of authenticity in our worship and devotion, focusing on the heart rather than outward actions. May God rebuke the oppressors of social justice and ethical living. The nation is called to “learn to do right,” seeking justice, protecting the oppressed and the vulnerable. This is consistent with the call to compassion and concern for others, which is central to many religious teachings. God demands true repentance and calls people to turn from their evil deeds. It echoes the concept of repentance in many religious traditions, emphasizing personal change and turning to righteousness. The living image of God, tired of certain sacrifices, emphasizes the idea that God desires heartfelt devotion rather than empty religious activity. It causes us to evaluate our worship practices and intentions. The reading requires a response to God's message by turning away from injustice to seeking justice. This theme of personal responsibility and accountability is present in various spiritual teachings. St. Bonaventure said “The best perfection of a religious man is to do common things in a perfect manner. A constant fidelity in small things is a great and heroic virtue.”

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:1-9

In the days of Ahaz of Jotham son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel went up to attack Jerusalem, but could not mount an attack against it. When the hose of David heard that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind. Then the Lord said to Isaiah, Go out to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shearjash'ub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field, and say to him, Take heed, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smouldering stumps of fire-brands, because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. ...*(please see appendix Page 495)*

Psalm 48:2-3, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

℟ His city God upholds for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Bend my heart to your will, O Lord, and teach me your law.

Gospel: Matthew 11:20-24

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you; on the Day of Judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the Day of Judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

℞ "Are you the coming One, or do we look for another?" It is not enough to encounter signs and wonders; true change requires a change of heart and a response to God's call. This illustrates the principle that with privilege comes responsibility. Jesus uses comparisons with other cities such as Tyre, Sidon and Sodom to emphasize the severity of the lack of repentance in these cities. The cities condemned by Jesus contrast with the hypothetical response of Tyre, Sidon and Sodom. Thereby Jesus stressed the importance of repentance and humility even in the face of great sin. He announced the reality of divine judgment and the responsibility of individuals and communities for their actions and responses to God's revelation. The Gospel calls us to examine our own hearts and our response to God's truth and grace. Matthew 11:20-24 reminds us of the importance of responding to God's revelation with true repentance and humility. It highlights the principle of responsibility and emphasizes the need for a receptive heart. Finally, we are encouraged to consider the depth of our own response to God's call and the consequences of our choices in the light of divine judgment.



15th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE/GREEN



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

Since the 15th century, popular devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel has centered on the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, also known as the Brown Scapular. The first Carmelites were Christian hermits living on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land during the late 12th and early to mid 13th century. They built in the midst of their hermitages a chapel which they dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. She is the patroness of the Carmelite Order.

17
JUL

WEDNESDAY

15th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



ALEXIUS

5th Century
CONFESSOR

From the charitable example of his parents, Alexius developed a compassionate attitude at an early age. Fearing that earthly honours might draw his heart from noble objects, he decided to renounce the advantages of his birth and retire from the world. He worked in his father's house as a servant for seventeen years bearing the ill treatment of other servants in patience and silence. He is the Titular Patron of the Alexian Brothers.

First Reading: Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16

Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger the club in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. But this is not what he intends, nor does he have this in mind; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few. For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I have removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their treasures; like a bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones. My hand has found, like a nest, the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing, or opened its mouth, or chirped." Shall the axe vaunt itself over the one who wields it, or the saw magnify itself against the one who handles it? As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up, or as if a staff should lift the one who is not wood! Therefore the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire.

Psalm 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15

℟ *The Lord will not abandon his people.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Because of your love give me life, and I will do your will.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-27

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

℟ "I thank you father, Lord of heaven and earth". Jesus spoke of a conflict where the world often values the wisdom and learning of men but those who consider themselves wise do not always understand God's revelation. Instead, God chooses to reveal truths to those who approach Him with humility and childlike simplicity. The passage emphasizes God's sovereignty in revealing spiritual truths. The revelation or concealment of these truths do not depend on human achievements, but is done according to the mind and will of God. This reinforces the idea that salvation and understanding are gifts of God's grace. This refers to the divine nature of Jesus and his role as the revealer of God's truths. This passage emphasizes the role of Jesus as a mediator between God and humanity. It stresses the centrality of Jesus to our understanding of God and our access to divine truths. It teaches us to give glory to God for His role as revealer of truths and source of all understanding. Matthew 11:25-27 calls us to embrace humility, childlike faith and deep dependence on God in understanding spiritual truths.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 26:7-9, 11, 16-19

The way of the righteous is level; O just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous. In the path of your judgments, O Lord, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire. My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you. For when your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. O Lord, your hand is lifted up, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed. Let the fire for your adversaries consume them. O Lord, in distress they sought you, they poured out a prayer when your chastening was on them. Like a woman with child, who writhes and cries out in her pangs when she is near her time, so were we because of you, O Lord; we were with child, we writhed, but we gave birth only to wind. We have won no victories on earth, and no one is born to inhabit the world. Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long dead.

Psalm 102:13-15, 16-18, 19-21

✠ *The Lord looked down from heaven to the earth.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!”

✠ **“Come to me all who labour”** This does not only mean physical fatigue, but also the weight of worries, guilt, and struggles that people carry in their lives. The invitation to “come to me” reminds us of the personal relationship that Jesus offers us. The solution to finding rest involves connecting with Him. It is a call to follow His teachings, accept His values and shape our lives in his image. This discipleship leads to inner transformation and true rest. The rest of what Jesus offers is in His character, and to learn from Him is to embrace His gentleness and humility. His yoke, which represents His teachings and way of life, is described as ‘easy’ and His burden as ‘light’. However, Jesus’ way of life brings inner peace and true rest when we follow His wisdom and guidance. Trust in Jesus. Ultimately, this passage encourages us to trust in Jesus as our source of rest and peace. Trying to carry our burdens alone can be exhausting, while surrendering to Jesus brings freedom and renewal. Matthew 11:28-30 invites us to approach Jesus with our weariness and burdens. It teaches us that true rest is found in our relationship with Him, learning His character and teachings, and embracing His grace.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



15th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



FREDERICK OF UTRECHT
(d. 838)
BISHOP & MARTYR

Known for his learning and personal piety, St. Frederick worked to reform the clergy, regularize Church practice in his diocese, and opposed incestuous marriages, especially among the nobility.

He dispatched a group of missionaries to evangelize the pagans to the north of Utrecht, and worked with them around Walcheren. Legend tells that he was stabbed by two men after the offering of the Mass on 18 July 838. He is the patron saint of the deaf.

19
JUL

FRIDAY

15th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



JUSTA & RUFINA

(d. 287)
MARTYRS

Justa and Rufina were sisters and natives of Seville who made fine earthen ware pottery for a living. Refusing to sell their wares for use in the pagan celebrations, the city's prefect, Diogenianus, ordered them to be imprisoned. Failing to convince them to renounce their faith, he had them tortured on the rack and with iron hooks.

Justa died due to starvation whereas St. Rufina was strangled or beheaded and her body burned.

MACRINA
BIKIRA

First Reading: Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8

In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, "Thus says the Lord: Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover." Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord: "Remember now, O Lord, I implore you, how I have walked before you in faithfulness with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah: "Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the Lord, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and defend this city....(please see appendix Page 496)

Isaiah 38:10-12, 16

℟️ You have held back my life, O Lord, from the pit of doom.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your decrees.

Gospel: Matthew 12:1-8

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something, greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

℟️ Today's Bible readings are full of powerful messages that challenge us to think about our lives and examine our hearts. When we combine these messages with our Lasallian Inspiration, they can help us live a life filled with faith, love and service. In the Book of Isaiah, we find the story of Hezekiah. He was gravely ill and on the verge of death. He asked God to help him. He poured out his heart in prayer and asked for a few more years to live. God answered his prayers and Hezekiah lived fifteen more years. This story teaches us that prayer is powerful and God is always on our side. When we call on Him, He is always there to help us. In the Lasallian context, St. John Baptist De La Salle invites us to be thankful and to have faith in God's providence. Even in our darkest hour, we as Lasallians are called to believe that God has a plan for us... Let us ask today for God's grace to transform us into men and women of prayer who put God first in all things without compromising.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Micah 2:1-5

Alas for those who devise wickedness and evil deeds on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in their power. They covet fields, and seize them; houses, and take them away; they oppress householder and house, people and their inheritance. Therefore thus says the Lord: Now, I am devising against this family an evil from which you cannot remove your necks; and you shall not walk haughtily, for it will be an evil time. On that day they shall take up a taunt song against you, and will with bitter lamentation, and say, "We are utterly ruined; the Lord alters the inheritance of my people; how he removes it from me! Among our captors he parcels out our fields." Therefore you will have no one to cast the line by lot in the assembly of the Lord.

Psalm 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14

℟ *Lord, do not forget the poor.*

Gospel Acclamation

Allleluia, My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.

Gospel: Matthew 12:14-21

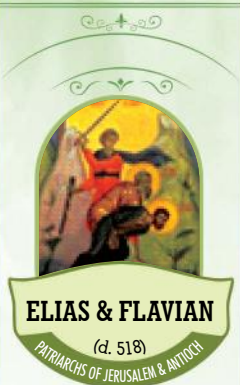
But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him. When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "Here is my servant, whom I have chosen, my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not wrangle or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smouldering wick until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

℟ Today's reflection will be based on two Bible quotes, "Micah 2:1-5" and "Mt. 12:14-21," and the good qualities of Saint Apollinarius, Bishop and martyr. The first verse of Micah (2:1-5) warns us of the perils of coveting and seizing the possessions of others. It reminds us to be careful of our own actions and intentions and not to let greed or selfishness drive us to hurt others or to take advantage of their weaknesses. In the Gospel, Jesus shows us a different attitude. He does not take revenge on those who deceive him or falsely accuse him. Instead, he continues to heal the sick and oppressed. This passage reminds us that Jesus is the servant of God. He fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament, and is gentle, humble, and compassionate. He brings justice to all nations. In his life as a Bishop and Martyr, Saint Apollinarius demonstrated these qualities by serving his flock, caring for the poor, and going beyond the boundaries of society to reach out to those who are vulnerable and oppressed. As Lasallians ourselves, let us strive to be more like Jesus, day by day, spreading the message of God's love to people all over the world.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

20
JUL
SATURDAY

15th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



Flavian, Patriarch of Antioch, and Saint Elias, Patriarch of Jerusalem, were exiled by the Emperor Anastasius (A.D. 491 to A.D. 518) for strenuously upholding the Decrees of the Council of Chalcedon, affirming the existence of the Two Natures in Jesus Christ, that is, the Nature of God and the Nature of Man. St. Flavian died at Petra in Arabia, and Elias at Aila on the shores of the Red Sea.

APOLLINARIUS



16th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord. The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6

℟: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

Where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me;

He revives my soul. *℟*

He guides me along the right path,

For the sake of his name.

Though I should walk in the valley

Of the shadow of death,

No evil would I fear, for you are with me.

Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. *℟*

You have prepared a table before me

In the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;

My cup is overflowing. *℟*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

All the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell

For length of days unending. *℟*

Sunday

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.



Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Speak, Lord, your servant hears; you have the words of eternal life.

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

Today's readings show us how important it is to stay true to God's message, even when we might not feel like it. In Jeremiah, we come across Hananiah, the false prophet, who pretends to speak on God's behalf, but unlike prophet Jeremiah is really trying to push his own agenda. In the Gospel, Jesus and his followers are exhausted and looking for a place to rest. The crowds follow them, but Jesus doesn't turn them away. Instead, he shows us how to show compassion by teaching and healing them. In the Lasallian context, the Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools, Saint De La Salle, was all about caring for youth through education. He believed that everyone should have the opportunity to learn, no matter their race, class or background. When we read about his life, we also see so many times when he was scorned and rejected by everyone, including his own Brothers. However he didn't let that stop him from following God's message and dedicating his life to helping young people. He never sought self-satisfaction or prestige from this work. So, let's ask God to help us in our own lives and also transform the lives of others, just like Our Founder did.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

22
JUL

MONDAY

16th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

FEAST



MARY MAGDALENE

(d. c. 84)
DISCIPLE OF THE LORD

All four gospels identify her, either alone or as a member of a larger group of women which includes Jesus's mother, as the first to witness the empty tomb, and the first to witness Jesus's resurrection. The Gospel of Luke (8:2-3) lists Mary Magdalene as one of the women who travelled with Jesus and helped, supported his ministry. The same passage also states that seven demons had been driven out of her.

First Reading: Song of Solomon 3:1-4 ... (please see appendix Page 496)

Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

℟ For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, O praise the Lord, Jerusalem! He sends out his word to the earth.

Gospel: John 20:1-2, 11-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (Which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

℞ In 2 Corinthians, Paul talks about how Jesus' love can transform us into something new. He says that when we're united with Jesus, we leave behind our old lives and focus on Him. He encourages us to look at life with a new perspective, and to live with the love and mercy of Jesus. In John 20, we see Mary Magdalene and Jesus after Jesus' resurrection. She was crying when she couldn't find him, but when Jesus showed up and called her by name, her sorrow turned to joy. This encounter shows us how important it is to have faith in Jesus and meet Him in person. When we look at the life of St. Mary Magdalene, she was one of the most important figures in the early Christian Church. She was a true believer in Jesus and her life taught us about the power of finding Jesus and how faith and loyalty can make all the difference. As Lasallians, let us pray today that we may strengthen our commitment to education with faith and the values of compassion and dedication that we see in the life of Saint Mary Magdalene.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Micah 7:14-15, 18-20

Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock that belongs to you, which lives alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old. As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, show us marvelous things. Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

Psalms 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8

℟ *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Because of your love give me life, and I will do your will.

Gospel: Matthew 12:46-50

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, "Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you." But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" And pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.

℞ Micah is a prophet who speaks of God's love and faithfulness to His people, even when they are troubled and sinful. He speaks of God's promise to shepherd them, to lead them to greener pastures, and to perform miracles on their behalf. In this passage, we are reminded of God's infinite love and his willingness to forgive and renew us when we seek Him. The Gospel emphasizes the importance of spirituality and our obedience to God's will. When Jesus hears that His mother and brothers were waiting for Him to speak with him, He responds by saying that those who do His Father's will are His true family, and that our relationship with Him is more important than our earthly relationships. When we look at today's saint, St. Bridget of Sweden, a mystic who lived in the 14th century we see that she devoted her life to prayer and penance. She also devoted her life to serving the poor. As Lasallians, and as ambassadors of Christ we are also called to serve the needy, especially the youth, through education. Thus, let us ask for the intercession of St. Bridget today so that we may be encouraged to cultivate a deep prayer life and serve others with love and compassion in our mission.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



16th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



BRIDGET OF SWEDEN
(1303 - 1373)
WIDOW

Patron saint of Sweden, St. Bridget was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, but after the death of her husband she decided to lead a more ascetical life. She founded the Bridgettine Order and went to Rome where she became outstanding in her practice of virtue. She wrote many works describing the mystical experiences and encouraged all who would listen to meditate on the Passion, and of Jesus Crucified.

24
JUL

WEDNESDAY

16th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREENCHRISTINA OF
TYRE

VIRGIN & MARTYR

St Christina of Tyre, also known as Christina of Bolsena, or in the Eastern Orthodox Church as Christina the Great Martyr, is venerated as a Christian martyr of the 3rd century. Archa-eological excavations of an underground cemetery constructed at her tomb have shown that she was venerated at Bolsena by the fourth century.

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10

The words of Jeremiah, the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin. Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth'; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD." *...(please see appendix Page 496)*

Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17

℟ *My mouth will tell of your salvation, Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."

℟ **"Now I have put my words in your mouth"** At the beginning of first reading, prophet Jeremiah recalls the dramatic and unique experience of being called by God as a young man. God takes the initiative. Jeremiah hears of a huge task set by God for him, that of being a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah is humbled by God's call, but God continues to reassure him, build up his confidence before he reveals the nature of his task; to uproot and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. In other words, he is entrusted with a task of renewal in the society of his time. Through the story of Jeremiah, God invites us today, to contemplate our own vocational journey; to recognize from the beginning God's design for our lives, the challenges we have encountered and will still meet as we go along and the mystery and awesome quality of the tasks before us. God's words are for us as well; "I had set you apart...now you will go...I will be with you...I give you authority." In the Gospel, through the parable of the sower, Jesus highlights the realities we face as we journey along, especially the need to be on guard and to be faithful, in order to be productive apostles today.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 ...*(please see appendix Page 496)*

Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

R: *Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord..

Gospel: Matthew 20:20-28

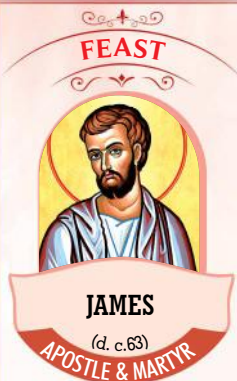
Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

R "Can you drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They answered, "We can." Jesus, while teaching and forming his disciples for their future mission, often stressed this attitude of servanthood which implies spirit of self-denial and suffering. "From the cup I drink you shall drink". Drinking from the same cup symbolizes the intimate union that exists among those who shared the cup, their solidarity with the one who offered the cup. The master knew what was inside the cup, his impending betrayal, passion and death. But the disciples hardly had any idea of it. Instead they were vying to share in the glory of a worldly power. Their answer to his question "can you drink?" was an expression of heroic trust in the master rather than in their own ability, "yes, we can". During early Christian times, it was the heroic witness to the faith that guided the Christian community to grow and continue its mission in society. Following Jesus in the Gospel path will certainly make the disciple face affliction, opposition and rejection. The true disciple experiences the surpassing power and consolation coming from God. Paul shared the same experience. "Trials of every sort come to us, but we are not discouraged". Such afflictions cannot weaken the journey of the disciple, because he continuously draws strength and joy in following the path of the Cross. Are we willing to "drink from the cup" that the Lord offers us today?

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.



16th Week in Ordinary Time
RED



St. James is described as one of the first disciples to join Jesus. Son of Zebedee and Salome, he left everything when Christ called him to be a fisher of men. He was present during most of the recorded miracles of Christ. After Pentecost, he stayed in Jerusalem to preach about Jesus even though it was dangerous to be known as a Christian. He was soon arrested and put to death around 44 AD.

26
JUL

FRIDAY

16th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



ANNE & JOACHIM

PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Joachim and Anne were the parents of Jesus' mother, Mary. Tradition tells that they were respected members of the Jewish community and that they wanted to become parents so much that Joachim went into the desert to fast and pray that God would hear their prayer. It is said that an angel told them that they would soon have a daughter who would become famous throughout the world. They serve as role models for parents and grandparents.

First Reading: Jeremiah 3:14-17

Return, o faithless children, says the Lord, for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the Lord, they shall no longer say, "The ark of the covenant of the Lord." It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; not shall another one be made. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer stubbornly follow their own evil will.

Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12, 13

✠ The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, My Soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.

Gospel: Matthew 13:18-23

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart, this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

✠ "The one who hears the word..." In the Gospel, Jesus explains the parable of the sower to his disciples when they gathered in the house. Different people respond differently to the word of God when they hear it. There is a contrast between 'hearing' the word and 'accepting' it with openness. To 'hear' the Word is not about intelligence, ability to understand or memory to recall. Those who are open to hope and generous in giving receive the Word. Hope requires a long term commitment to a mission. Planting the Word, taking care of its growth, protecting it with vigilance and waiting with patience till it bears fruit are all acts of hope. It is a generous person who undertakes such a journey full of uncertainties and challenges. The parable of the sower seems to resonate with the Lasallian mission of educating the young. According to De La Salle, children are like young plants, tender and vulnerable. They need to be looked after with vigilance and patience. Fruitfulness is a result of this hope and generosity that we bring to our mission of spreading the Word of God.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Jeremiah 7:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Stand in the gate of the LORD's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.' "For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, ...*(please see appendix Page 497)*

Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a

℟ How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30


At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowds, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, "Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn."'

℟ The Holy Scripture often presents God as a God who is kind, merciful and slow to anger. It is God's intention that people who have taken to sinful ways and gone away, come back with repentant hearts. He instructs them in different ways, and patiently waits for their repentance and conversion. Prophet Jeremiah challenged the people of his time who came to the temple to seek refuge there while committing all kinds of sins that displeased the Lord. He showed them that it was far better to be faithful to the covenant principles of love, truth and justice than merely coming to the temple for worship. The continuous existence of evil and our struggle to be faithful in the face of evil is a common predicament people face internally within themselves and externally as well. The continuous influence of evil in society and understanding God's justice is a perennial question that has baffled people of all ages. Jesus when explaining this reality encourages his followers to grow in the spirit of perseverance and courage in living the Gospel values. He also presents God as a God who is patient in dispensing justice and who encourages us to be on guard so that we will not yield to evil influence.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

27
JUL
SATURDAY

16th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE



INNOCENT I
I (d. 417)
POPE

Pope Innocent I was the bishop of Rome from 401 to 417. As a pope, he was seen as the general arbitrator of ecclesiastical disputes in both the East and the West. He confirmed the prerogatives of the Archbishop of Thessalonica, and issued a decretal on disciplinary matters. He defended the exiled John Chrysostom and consulted with the bishops of Africa concerning the Pelagian controversy, confirming the decisions of the African synods.



17th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

Psalms 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

℟: You open Your hand, Lord, and you satisfy us.

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,
And all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
And declare you mighty deeds. *℟*

The eyes of all look to you,
And you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand and satisfy
The desire of every living thing. *℟*

The Lord is just in all his ways,
And holy in all his deeds.
The Lord is close to all who call him,
Who call on him in truth. *℟*

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

Gospel: John 6:1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his

Sunday

disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little" One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people

sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as



they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Ⓡ John's account of the multiplication of the loaves gives some interesting details. A large crowd followed Jesus, because they had seen or heard of his miracles. The timing was before the Passover Feast. The crowd enjoyed as much bread and fish as they wanted. "Gather the pieces... let us not waste" Jesus instructed. There is no mention of any preaching or if Jesus preached at all during this event. Later in the same reading Jesus remarked about the attitude of the people. "You are looking for me because you ate the bread and had all you wanted, not because you understood my miracles. Do not work for food that spoils; instead, work for the food that lasts for eternal life." The miracle of the loaves calls us to make a transformation, a transformation of our earthly needs to heavenly gifts, from temporal to eternal, from interest in things to persons. The miracle is Jesus himself, the bread of life. Jesus takes us beyond what we want or desire. What matters is to receive what God offers us in its totality rather than simply satisfying ourselves with what we immediately need. Do we seek Jesus and love him for the right reason rather than simply seeking and loving what he gives us. In the famous painting of De La Salle distributing bread among the poor by Giovanni Gagliardi, a detail of the young boy eating bread while looking at the one who distributes it seems to capture the idea of this desire for transformation.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

**29
JUL**

MONDAY

17th Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



**MARTHA, MARY &
LAZARUS**

(d. c. 84)
VIRGIN

**DISCIPLE OF
THE LORD**

Martha was the sister of Mary and Lazarus.

She received the Lord into her house and provided for his needs with great care. At her request the Lord raised her brother from the dead. At the time of raising of Lazarus, she declares "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God". She is the patron of house wives, servants, waiters and cooks.

First Reading: Jeremiah 13:1-11

Thus said the Lord to me, "Go and buy yourself a linen loincloth, and put it on your loins, but do not dip it in water." So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the Lord, and put it on my loins. And the word of the Lord came to me a second time, saying, "Take the loincloth that you bought and are wearing, and go now to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a cleft of the rock." So I went, and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me. And after many days the Lord said to me, "Go now to the Euphrates, ... (please see appendix Page 497)

Deut 32:18-19, 20, 21

✠ You forget the God who fathered you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.

Gospel: John 11:19-27

At that time: Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" she said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

℞ Martha is presented in the Gospel as an active person with a sensitive heart. Together with her brother Lazarus and her sister Mary, Martha had the opportunity to associate with Jesus very closely as friends. Her conversation with Jesus not only demonstrates her familiarity with him, but also reveals a deeper level of discipleship. Martha begins her conversation while expressing some disappointment. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus asks her the ultimate question; "Do you believe this?" Martha's answer manifests her growth in faith. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, he who is to come into the world". The conversation turns its focus from Lazarus' death to Jesus, the Messiah, the Resurrection and Martha's proclamation of her belief in Jesus the Christ. The experience of discipleship must grow up to the point of ultimate faith in Jesus Christ, the Saviour and Life. Just as the death of her brother Lazarus led Martha to a firm belief in the Messiah, we too are invited to look at various life experiences, however bitter they may be, as opportunities for growing in faith and experiencing the power and love of God. True love can be experienced only in intimacy with Jesus Christ, which deepens our knowledge and relationship with God.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:17b-22

Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people is shattered with a great wound, with a very grievous blow. If go out into the field, behold, those pierced by the sword! And if I enter the city, behold, the diseases of famine! For both prophet and priest ply their trade through the land and have no knowledge." Have you utterly rejected Judah? Does your soul loathe Sion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, *(please see appendix Page 497)*

Psalm 79:8, 9, 11, 13

Rx For the sake of the glory of your name, free us O Lord..

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever.

Gospel: Matthew 13:36-43

At that time: Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his kingdom all causes of sin and all lawbreakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

R God's plan is the salvation of humanity. In spite of human resistance created by human sin, God continues his salvific activity in the world. In the parable of the wheat and weeds, we are made to understand the presence of good and evil in the world. God wants the just ones to persevere and be constant in their fidelity and commitment in spite of the evil tendencies and powers present in the world. It gives the strong hope that God will intervene in human history to decisively defeat the powers of evil and bring about the triumph of the just. The parable also teaches that the Kingdom of God exists and grows in the world, in all its dimensions. The Risen Christ is Lord in human history and so He is Lord in the present times as well. "It will be the same at the end of the world". Jesus speaks to us of a judgment and punishment. However, the judgment is God's secret and up to the end of the world, both good and evil are in each of us, as well as in institutions. The world is constantly divided between the good and the wicked. Evil is part of the mystery of the cross. In doing what is good and continuing to be faithful, we defeat evil.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

30
JUL
TUESDAY
17th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



PETER
CHRYSOLOGUS
(c.380 - 450)
BISHOP & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Peter Chrysologus was Bishop of Ravenna from about 433 until his death. He is known as the "Doctor of Homilies" for the concise but theologically rich reflections he delivered during his time as the Bishop of Ravenna. He fought paganism and the Monophysite heresy, enforced reforms, and built several churches and ornate altars in his see. He looked after his flock with meticulous care and taught the people with his sermons and writings.

**31
JUL**

WEDNESDAY

17th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



**IGNATIUS OF
LOYOLA**
(1491 - 1556)
PRIEST

Ignatius' early life was led at court and in the army, and later he was converted to a life of holiness. His meditations, prayers, visions and insights led to forming the Society of Jesus. He collected his insights, prayers, and suggestions in his book *The Spiritual Exercises*. The book *De Vita Christi* inspired him to devote himself to God. He is the patron saint of all spiritual retreats as well as of soldiers.

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21

Woe is me, my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of revellers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail? Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

Psalm 59:2-3, 4-5a, 10-11, 17, 18

✠ God is my refuge in the day of my distress.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I have called you friends, says the Lord; for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-46

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

R The first reading from Jeremiah teaches us that honesty and faithfulness are the hallmarks of a prophetic ministry. Jeremiah laments the woes he has to undergo, because he obeyed God. In return for his faithfulness and sincerity, he has received only indignation, anger and bitterness. It is as if God had deceived Jeremiah in calling him to ministry. Jeremiah pleads with God to act immediately and decisively on his behalf. The prophet can approach God with such confidence because he has demonstrated fidelity to Him. Jeremiah did not only serve as a reliable messenger of God's words, but he also embodied them in his life. The prophet assumed that God would support him should he obey the call to ministry, yet instead, he has only experienced abandonment. In verse 19-21 God offers a response to the prophet's complaint. As is often the case in Scripture, God answers the prayers of the people not with the response they want to hear. "I will make you a fortress and a wall of bronze facing them; if they fight against you they will not overcome you; I am with you to free you and to save you." The prophetic response to evil and injustice is to worship, even if all God's people can muster are tears and complaints.

Reflection: Br. HENRY DISANAYAKE FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-6

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD. "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do. Then the word of the LORD came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Psalm 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab

✠ Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob's God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Gospel: Matthew 13:47-53

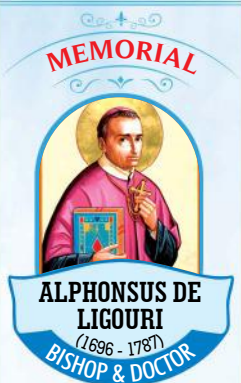
At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes!" And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there.

✠ **"He who desires nothing but God is rich and happy."**—**Alphonsus Liguori**. All of us as believers, when we first get saved, become soft and mouldable clay in the potter's hands. However over a period of time there are those who allow their spiritual life to dry up despite hearing the word of God. The Gospel prompts us to take the time to observe our life, decide on what we should keep we have to leave behind and what other aspects we should keep and cherish. Things can hinder our thinking and relationships with others. Our founder explains; "You know quite well that the more darkness and doubt you experience in your life, the more you will live by faith; and you know that it is faith alone which should motivate the lives and actions of those who belong—Light shines in the darkness for good people, for those who are merciful, kind, and just". (Ps 112:4) **"Stand straight, walk proud, and have a little faith."** - **Garth Brooks**.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



17th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



Born at Naples, he studied law and took his doctor's degree in both civil and canon law, became a priest and founded the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists). In order to promote among the faithful a truly Christian life he spent his time in preaching and in writing, especially about moral theology of which discipline he is looked upon as the master. He is the patron saint of confessors and moral theologians.

2

AUG

FRIDAY

17th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



PETER JULIAN EYMAR

(1811 - 1868)
PRIEST & FOUNDER

Peter Julian Eymard also known as “Apostle of the Eucharist”, his faith journey drew him from being a priest in the Diocese of Grenoble, to joining the Marists, to founding the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for men and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for women. As a Marist, he deepened the devotion of Eucharistic, especially through his preaching of Forty Hours. He was canonized by Pope John XXIII on 9 December 1962.

EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:1-9

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the Lord: Thus says the Lord: Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. You shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently though you have not heeded then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth. The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord.(please see appendix Page 497)

Psalms 69:5, 8-10, 14

℟ In your great love, answer me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your words gladden the heart, O Lord, they give light to the eyes.

Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?” And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house!” And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

℟ God’s ambassadors must not seek to please men, or to save themselves from harm. God faithfully upholds those who uphold His word in faithless times. One of the basic claims we have as Christians is that God is alive and He wants to have a relationship with us. In the Gospel, Jesus’ own kinsmen do not recognize Him as the Messiah or a prophet. They considered Him an ordinary person because they knew Him from birth. People have biases and prejudices. They tend to look down on other people they consider inferior or ordinary. To them, ordinary people do not have special gifts or they remain ordinary all their lives. It does not occur to them that some people grow in wisdom and knowledge and that they too can develop skills to do great things in life. “Show them so much kindness when you give corrections that, though you may cause them pain, they not only will not be angry at you, but will show you gratitude for the good you have done for them.” (Med. 204) **Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives. (Prov: 22: 6).**

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24

Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears." Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying "It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings,(please see appendix Page 498)

Psalm 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34

℟ In your great love, answer me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alléluia, Instruct me, Lord, in your way; on an even path lead me.

Gospel: Matthew 14:1-12


At that time Herod the ruler heard reports about Jesus; and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him." For Herod had arrested John bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because John had been telling him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Though Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and she pleased Herod so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, 'Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.' The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. The head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother. His disciples came and took the body and buried it; then they went and told Jesus.

℞ Jeremiah made it clear that his ministry and his message were not a matter of choice. This was God's command and he only did what God sent him to do. After learning of John the Baptist's death, Jesus sought solitude but was followed by a multitude of people. He had compassion on them, healed their sick, and miraculously fed more than five thousand of them. "Because you are in charge of instructing children, you should make yourself expert in the art of speaking to God, about God and for God."(Med. 64.2). A spark can start a flame and a prayer can lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees. Pope Francis tells us to make prayer a daily habit. He says, "Every day God passes and sows a seed in the soil of our lives" (22). If we are not in the habit of regular prayer, we will miss that seed. What is (22) Must get rid of the green State where the Biblical References are to be found with St. John Baptist de La Salle, prayer always happens when you place yourself in the presence of God. To be open each day to the presence of the living God is deeply rooted in Lasallian spirituality.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

3
AUG
SATURDAY

17th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



WALTHEOF
(d. 1160)
CONFESSOR

Waltheof was born of English nobility. As a child, he felt drawn to churches and the religious life. Following his longheld inclination to contemplation and desiring to dedicate himself entirely to God, he left Scotland and travelled to Yorkshire to join the Augustinian Canons at the monastery at Nostell. He was soon chosen as prior, and led the monks in a more austere rule. He was noted for his endless kindness to the poor.

LYDIA



18th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not." "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

Psalms 78:3 and 4bc, 23-24, 25 and 54

℟: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

The things we have heard and understood,
The things our fathers have told us,
But will tell them to the next generation:
The glories of the Lord and his might. *℟*

Yet he commanded the clouds above,
And opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna to eat,
And gave them bread from heaven. *℟*

Man ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food;
So he brought them to his holy land,
To the mountain his right hand had won. *℟*

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Now, this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

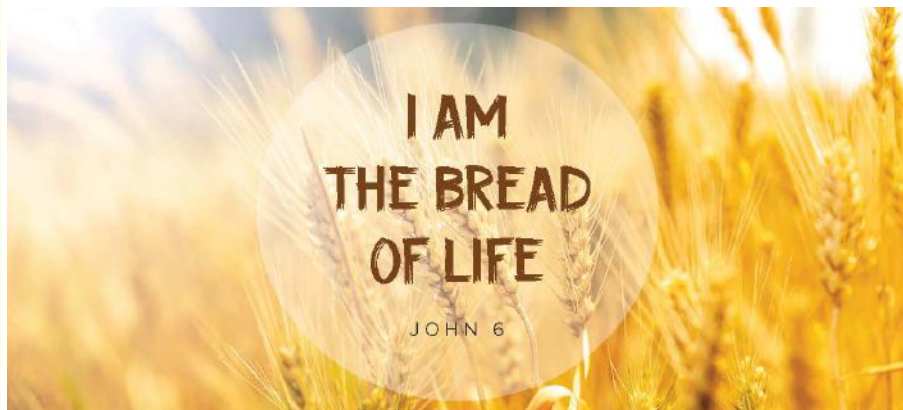
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word is truth, O Lord, sanctify us in the truth.

Sunday

Gospel: John 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.



Ⓜ Arm yourself with prayer rather than a sword; wear humility rather than fine clothes. (St. Dominic) The readings of today point toward justice and holiness. The work of God is to feed, and if we should want to join in that work, we must become providers, doing all we can to see that no one goes hungry and trying as hard as possible to bring people to the Eucharistic table of the Lord. We are called to live as children of light. Bread is the metaphor. Saint De La Salle instructs his Brothers, "You know you are responsible for the instruction of the poor. Imitate the tenderness of this saint toward them and strive to overcome nature when it suggests that you should show more consideration for the rich than for the poor. Jesus Christ will look upon the good you do to the poor as done to himself". (Med. 150.1) Certainly the solution to starvation and malnutrition requires increased production and improved distribution of food. But it also requires a concerted act of solidarity by the nations and peoples of the world. Our sharing in the Eucharist inspires us to such solidarity, as well as to actions which express it; for sincere celebration of the Eucharist must lead to various works of charity and mutual help.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

5

AUG

MONDAY

18th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**DEDICATION OF THE
BASILICA OF ST. MARY
MAJOR**

Erected by Pope Sixtus III, St. Mary Major is the largest church in the world honoring God through Mary.

According to a legend, a wealthy

Roman couple pledged their fortune to the Mother of God. In affirmation, she produced a miraculous summer snowfall and told them to build a church on the site.

To commemorate this event, a shower of white rose petals is dropped from the dome of the Chapel of Our Lady.

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:1-17

In that same year, at the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fifth month of the fourth year, Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: *..(please see appendix Page 498)*

Psalm 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102

℟ *Teach me your statutes, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

At that time: When Jesus heard [of the death of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

℟ **Feast of Our Lady of Snows:** Jeremiah spoke the truth, but it was unpopular while the people preferred to listen to comforting lies rather than painful truth. When we share all that we have, our merciful God gives us more than we ever ask for. The Gospel verse is an abundance story in which God's providence solves a problem that seemed impossibly large. It is also a Eucharistic story with its overtones of the Lord's Supper. The feast of Our Lady of Snows helps us to instill greater devotion to Our Lady, who is our model of faith, hope, love, and holiness. She teaches us how to trust in God's providence, obey His commands, pray with our hearts, serve our neighbours, and suffer with patience. This is why St. De la Salle insists the following; "(1) not to let day go by without reciting the rosary. (2) To celebrate all her feasts with great solemnity (3) to consider her as the principal patroness of our Society, placing ourselves under her protection at the end of our morning and evening prayers." (Med. 151.3) Let us be convinced that all we do to honour Our Lady will be very richly rewarded by God through her. She is your Mother (Jn: 19:27).

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14(please see appendix Page 499)

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9

✠ The Lord is king; most high above all the earth.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. (please see appendix Page 499)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

℟ Shine Forth- Transfiguration of our Lord : The story of The Transfiguration is one of the highlights of Jesus' revelation as the Son of God. This is one of the perks of a believer, the opportunity to see the glory of God even in glimpses. Our badge as believers is the Cross. The process of transformation will only be successful and a lot easier if we constantly listen to God's beloved Son. It gives us hope that as we journey through the ups and downs of life, we will one day see the full display of God's glory. On that day, we regain our very own image – the image of our creator. St. De La Salle recollects, "We must be entirely transformed by the light and fullness of grace and by the possession of the Spirit of God. If any exterior change be noticed in us, it must be as a result of the radiance of the happiness which we experience in the bottom of our heart." (Med. 152.2) "When we are attentive to the light within us and around us, we will gradually see more and more of that light and even become light for others"

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

6

AUG

TUESDAY

18th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

FEAST



THE
TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD

All three synoptic Gospels
Mark (9:2-8),
Matthew (17:1-8),
and Luke (9:28-36)
give us an account of the Transfiguration of Jesus on top of Mount Tabor. It reflects the glory of Jesus upon a mountain through the appearance of Moses and Elijah. It is a manifestation of God — showing Christ's divinity through the display of His uncreated, divine light. Jesus' transfiguration is the symbol and hope of our glory in heaven.

7

AUG

WEDNESDAY

18th Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



SIXTUS II

(d. c. 258)
POPE & MARTYR

Sixtus was bishop of Rome from 257 A.D.

While celebrating Mass in the cemetery of St. Callistus, he was seized by the soldiers under the orders of the Emperor Valerian. He had restored the relations with the African and Eastern churches which had been broken off by his predecessor on the question of heretical baptism raised by the heresy Novatianism.

Together with four deacons, he was beheaded on 6 August 258 A.D.

CAJETAN

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-7

“At that time, declares the LORD, “I will be the God of all the clans of Israel, and they shall be my people.” Thus says the LORD: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: ... (please see appendix Page 499)

Jeremiah 31:10, 11-12ab, 13

℟ *The Lord will keep us, as a shepherd keeps his flock.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A great prophet has arisen among us and God has visited his people!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

At that time: Jesus went away and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me!” And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

℟ The first reading is about God’s promise of restoration and renewal for Israel after their exile and suffering. In this life, we face hardships that can weaken our faith. The story of the Canaanite woman points out to us that things aren’t always what they seem, and that we should not give up as persistence leads to success. We don’t need as much as we think. While many disheartening situations can distress us during our Christian walk, we can always go to the Scripture and let God talk to us. “Since you are obliged to work for the salvation of your neighbour bring to the exercise of your work the same preparation that St. Cajetan brought to fulfil his ministry well. Therefore, study your religion, read good books, apply yourself to prayer with fervour. You must learn the truths of religion thoroughly by study, for your ignorance would be criminal, since it would cause ignorance in those whom you instruct.” (Med. 153.1). A trusting classroom with mutual respect is a thriving classroom content with active, engaging learning opportunities.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that ...*(please see appendix Page 499)*”

Psalm 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

✠ Create a pure heart for me, O God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-23

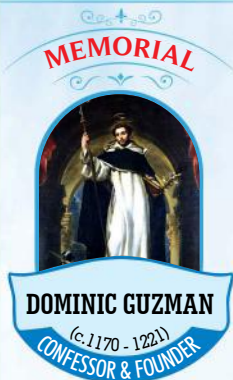
At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

✠ In the Gospel reading, Jesus gives high praise to Peter for professing in faith that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. There is an important lesson to be learned here. We may have deep faith in Jesus as our saviour and proclaim Him as our Messiah yet we might be the hindrance for the total accomplishment of His mission. By our hard-headedness and wickedness, we slow down the coming of the Kingdom. When we proclaim Jesus as Lord and saviour with our lips but we continue to harbour grudges, greed and evil thoughts and desires, we become the new “Satan”. Similarly when we romanticize His message of love, peace, and justice but don’t really work for the liberation of the poor and the oppressed we hinder his mission. We are really foolish when one considers that we have the intellectual knowledge of Jesus but don’t accept Him as Lord in all aspects of our life. Aristotle once said, “those who educate children well are more to be honoured than they who produce them; for these only gave them life, those the art of living well.”

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



18th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



Born in Calaruega, St. Dominic studied theology and became a canon of the Cathedral of Osma. He preached against the Albigensian heresy and because of the example of his own life this bore great fruit. In order to carry on and increase this work he formed the Order of Preachers (Dominicans). The spread of the Rosary is attributed to the preaching of St. Dominic. He is the patron saint of astronomers.

9

AUG

FRIDAY

18th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED



**TERESA BENEDICTA
OF THE CROSS**

(1891 - 1942)

MARTYR

Teresa Benedicta of the Cross also known as St. Edith Stein was a German Jewish philosopher who converted to Catholicism and became a Discalced Carmelite nun.

During the invasion by the Nazis in 1940, she was arrested and sent to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where she was alleged to have died in the gas chamber.

Pope John Paul II canonized her on 11 October 1998. She is one of six copatron saints of Europe.

First Reading: Nahum 1:15; 2:2; 3:1-3, 6-7

Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace! Keep your feasts, O Judah; fulfil your vows, for never gain shall the worthless pass through you; he is utterly cut off. For the LORD is restoring the majesty of Jacob as the majesty of Israel, for plunderers have plundered them and ruined their branches. Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey! The crack of the whip, and rumble of the wheel, galloping horse and bounding chariot! Horsemen charging, flashing sword and glittering spear, hosts of slain, heaps of corpses, dead bodies without end—they stumble over the bodies! I will throw filth at you and treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle. And all who look at you will shrink from you and say, "Wasted is Nineveh; who will grieve for her?" Where shall I seek comforters for you?

Deuteronomy 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41

℟ *It is I who deal death and give life.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are those who are persecuted for right eousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel: Matthew 16:24-28

At that time: Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom!"

℟ Discipleship is a choice. Nobody is forced to take it up. Jesus makes it very clear that it is not an easy way to live. If we believe our crosses are a punishment, what is our belief system? Do we believe that God is a "punishing" God? Or do we realize that we have not made very good choices and our actions have brought consequences to our lives that we have to live with? The reality of being human means that we will suffer, just as we will experience joy, love, peace and comfort. "They must show more mildness toward some, more firmness toward others. There are those who call for much patience, those who need to be stimulated and spurred on, some who need to be reproved and punished to correct them of their faults, others who must be constantly watched over to prevent them from being lost or going astray." (Med. 33.1 & 2) During difficult times, it may be helpful to try to look beyond our cross. We can examine our lives and ask ourselves, who and what brings us joy, love and care. What are the gifts in my life? Even when we are carrying a very heavy cross, Jesus is with us, gifting and gracing us. However, we need to be awake and alert if we are to notice our gifts and graces.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10

The point is this; the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Psalm 112:1-2, 5-6, 7, 8, 9


 *Happy the man who takes pity and lends.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, says the Lord, but will have the light of life.

Gospel: John 12:24-26

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

 All that we have and all that we are belong to God. We have nothing to offer except what God has entrusted to us. Our offering to God is but a response to what God has given to us – the countless blessings we've received – and, most especially, the offering of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins. The proper attitude for offering our gifts to God is not guilt or fear or any form of obligation or coercion, but humility, gratitude and an abiding sense of joy. God made us and called us to bear fruit, but as long as we hold on to the world and our old ways, it is impossible. St. Lawrence showed clearly that his desire for martyrdom was genuine. This he did by expressing joy under torture. "I am telling you the truth: a grain of wheat remains no more than a single grain unless it is dropped into the ground and dies. If it does die, then it produces many grains." (Jn. 12:24). People will hate you, shake you, and break you. But how strong you stand is what makes you.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



18th Week in Ordinary Time
RED

FEAST



LAWRENCE

(d. 258)

DEACON & MARTYR

Lawrence was a deacon in Rome who was sentenced to death by Emperor Valerian because he brought forward the poor as the treasures of the Church and to whom he had distributed the treasure as alms. He was martyred by placing him on a gridiron prepared with hot coals beneath it. During his martyrdom, he cheerfully declared: "I'm well done on this side. Turn me over! He is the patron saint of cooks, chefs, and comedians.



19th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
Praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;
The humble shall hear and be glad. *R.*

Glorify the Lord with me;
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
From all my terrors he set me free. *R.*

Look toward him and be radiant;
Let your faces not be abashed.
This lowly one called; the Lord heard,
And rescued him from all his distress. *R.*

The angel of the Lord is encamped
Around those who fear him, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. *R.*

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, so that we may know the hope to which he called us.

Gospel: John 6:41-51

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you,



whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh!"

R The Prophet Elijah flees because he is afraid. He is tired and hungry. God provides food to nourish him but also to encourage and strengthen him on his journey and the mission specially entrusted to him. The second reading calls us to be imitators of God. We must seek to be holy, as God is holy. We must be able to sacrifice and love. That way others will encounter Christ through their interactions with us. Food is central to life and to relationship. Jesus nourishes us with His word and with his body in Holy Communion. The Eucharist contains both the transformative power for holiness and regulatory power against sin. Saint Augustine communicates this clearly when he said that 'The Son of God became Son of man so that the sons of men could become the sons of God'. The Eucharist remains the engine of our spirituality. Saint De La Salle recounts, "Be very careful not to miss the sacrament of penance. It is this sacrament and the reception of the Eucharist that will support you in your difficulties, and you should regard it as a great happiness to receive the Eucharist frequently."

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

12
AUG

MONDAY

19th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL
(1572 - 1641)
VIRGIN & FOUNDRRESS

Deeply hurt by the death of her husband and children, she took refuge in St. Francis de Sales, her spiritual director. Together, they founded the Congregation of the Visitation for those women who were rejected by other orders because of poor health or age. She encouraged the local authorities to make great efforts for the victims of the plague, and she put all her convent's resources at the disposal of the sick.

First Reading: Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c

On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), the word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the Chebar canal, and the hand of the LORD was upon him there. As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness round it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness. And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the sound of the ...*(please see appendix Page 499)*

Psalms 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14

℟ *Heaven and earth are full of your glory.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, God has called us through the gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 17:22-27

At that time: As the disciples were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed. When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the tax?" He said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?" And when he said, "From others," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are free. However, not to give offence to them, go to the lake and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself."

℞ There are times when we do not recognize that "God is with us" We need to look intently for the signs that God is definitely with us! Let us pray for the trust to believe that God is always with us, especially during the confusing and bewildering times! What is the message that Jesus is speaking to us in today's Gospel? Is He telling us to go fishing and see if we can find a coin in the mouth of a fish? I suspect not. I suspect that Jesus wants us to meet our obligations. If we do not do so, we are not fulfilling what we have promised to do. Our Founder beautifully illustrates, "It is mainly in communities where good example is most notable that have the most power and efficacy. All those who live there together encourage one another to practise what is most holy and most perfect in the Gospel maxims, because when someone does something good, others feel ashamed not to do it." (M. 180.1). "Let each of you, therefore, be encouraged and motivated by the example of the more fervent among your brothers". (Meditations for Sundays and Feasts).

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4

Thus says the LORD: "You, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; Open your mouth and eat what I give you." And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamenatation and mourning and woe. *...(please see appendix Page 500)*

Psalm 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131

℟ *How sweet is your promise to my tongue, O Lord!*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord; and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

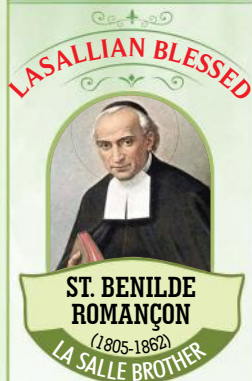
At that time the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me. See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

℟ Feast of St. Benildus: St. Benildus always put particular effort into teaching the Catechism – in this matter, he did not allow any pupil to remain ignorant. He, therefore, took the ones needing extra attention aside and persisted with them, until they had properly learned the teachings and their meaning. Brother Benildus' extraordinary religious piety and love, was evident to everyone – at Mass with the children in the Parish Church, teaching Catechism, preparing boys for First Holy Communion, visiting and praying with the sick and amazing recounts of miraculous cures. He was especially effective in attracting religious vocations. Those who will do anything to purpose in the service of God, must not fear men. The prophet must be faithful to the souls of those to whom he was sent. All who speak from God to others, must obey his voice. Children are a great gift to us. They have the ability to teach us throughout our lives. Most adults think that children should imitate them. Yet, Jesus completely reverses this thought. We adults should strive to have the innocence, joy, frankness, and unconditional love that children naturally embody. I wonder how our lives would be different if we truly followed the example of children.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



19th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



St. Benilde Romançon was declared a saint in 1967. Born in southern France in 1805, he was a quiet student. By the time he was 14, the De La Salle Brothers engaged him as a substitute teacher for their grade school classes. At first, He was rejected as Brother because of his short stature. He was allowed to join the Brothers in 1820. He was a good grade school teacher and later a high school teacher for teens who had never been to school. He was a strict disciplinarian and had a strong religious spirit. Many men joined the Brothers because of his influence. He died in 1862.

14 AUG

WEDNESDAY

19th Week in
Ordinary Time
RED

MEMORIAL



**MAXIMILIAN
MARY KOLBE**

(1894 - 1941)

MARTYR

Maximilian also known as martyr of charity was a Franciscan friar who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp during World War II. He had been active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary and founding or running several other organizations and publications. He was canonised on 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II. He is the patron saint of prisoners and of the pro-life movement.

First Reading: Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10: 18-22

Then he cried in my hearing with a loud voice, saying, "Draw near, you executioners of the city, each with his destroying weapon in his hand." And six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his weapon for slaughter in his hand; among them was a man clothed in linen, with a writing case at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar. Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub on which it rested to the threshold of the house. The Lord called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his side; and said to him, "Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of those who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it." ...*(please see appendix Page 500)*

Psalm 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

⌘ *Above the heavens is the glory of the Lord*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Bend my heart to your will, O Lord, and teach me your law.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name I am there among them."

Ⓜ Everyone makes a mistake. "Everyone falls short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23). But our God is merciful. He forgives our sins if we come to Him with a sincere desire to repent and to amend our life. The gospel passage above is very clear on how to discipline a fellow believer. Listening is the key to healing and reconciliation. It works both ways. God listens to our prayers but we need also to listen to Him. The flock listens to the shepherd and vice versa. In the area of discipline, we firstly need to listen to each other. Each one has a different background and each of us has a story to tell. "It was this gentleness and tenderness for his neighbour that made it possible for Saint Francis to convert so many souls to God." (Med. 101.3) "Do you have these feelings of charity and tenderness toward the children whom you have to educate? If you have for them the firmness of a father to restrain them from misbehaviour, you must also have for them the tenderness of a mother to draw them to you. Learn from this Saint to overcome your passions." (M. 101.3).

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 11:19; 12: 1-6, 10 *...(please see appendix Page 500)*

Psalms 45:10-11, 12, 16

℟ On your right stands the queen, in gold of Ophir.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order; Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. *...(please see appendix Page 501)*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Mary has been taken up into heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy..."*(please see appendix Page 501)*

Readings for the Proper Mass for India.

Judith 13:18-20, 14:9, 1 Samuel 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7,

Galatians 5: 13-17, Luke 1:46-55

℟ Today, we celebrate the solemnity of Mary's Assumption into heaven. This feast is solemnly defined in the dogma of the church. Mary has experienced the fullness of redemption and remains for us a source of deep and lasting hope. The Virgin Mary, with her Magnificat, teaches us how to praise and glorify God. Mary invites us to go beyond our usual mode of magnifying problems and difficulties. Let us fix our gaze and our hearts on her who never abandoned her Son Jesus and who today enjoys the joy and glory of Heaven. And let us entrust ourselves to her so that she might help us journey the paths of life knowing how to recognize the great things that God accomplishes in us and around us, to know how to magnify Him with the hymn of our existence. Saint De La Salle exhorts us to ask of the Blessed Virgin "to be removed and freed from the corruption of the world, and especially to have great purity, which is the true incorruptibility that we should obtain for our bodies. Since the Blessed Virgin possessed this virtue in all its perfection, she can help us very much to preserve it). (Med. 156.2)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



19th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

SOLEMNITY



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII in his Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* invoked papal infallibility and defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory."

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

**16
AUG**

FRIDAY

19th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



STEPHEN I

(969 - 1038)
KING OF HUNGARY

Born in Hungary, Stephen was the first King of Hungary from 1000 until his death. He was a just, peaceful and religious king, keeping strictly to the laws of the Church and always seeking the good of his subjects.

He suppressed a series of revolts by pagan nobles and established a system of tithes to support churches and pastors and to relieve the poor.

First Reading: Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, make known to Jerusalem her abominations, and say, Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem: Your origin and your birth were in the land of the Canaanites; ...*(please see appendix Page 501)*

Isaiah 12:2-6

℟ Your anger has passed, O Lord, and you give me comfort.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, The word of God is living and active; it discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Gospel: Matthew 19:3-12

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?" He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?' So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." They said to him, "Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?" He said to them, "It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery." His disciples said to him, "If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry" But he said to them, "Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can!"

℟ Ezekiel 16 gives a brief summary of the initial birth of the nation of Israel out of Egypt. Israel was born as a babe that could not take care of itself and it was washed, clothed, and taken care of by God. Yet, over time, the nation of Israel forgot all the goodness that God had performed for it, and became idolatrous, for which it was severely punished. God gave us the freedom to marry or not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven. More often than not, people do something to be happy. They marry to be happy. Then they want divorce to be happy. Nothing really gives us real happiness except God. The Gospel reading reveals that even during the time of Jesus, divorce is a very controversial issue. Jesus' stand is very clear. Marriage is sacred. That is why we keep on praying and discerning the will of God in our life. We encourage people to prepare their self very well before they decide to marry. We continue to help couples who are in danger of falling apart. We continue to engage everyone to always look at himself or herself as part of the Body of Christ.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. "If a man is righteous and does what is just and right—if he does not eat upon the mountains or lift up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, does not defile his neighbour's wife or approach a woman in her time of menstrual impurity, does not oppress anyone, but restores to the debtor his pledge, commits no robbery, gives his bread to the hungry and covers the naked with a garment, does not lend at interest or take any profit, withholds his hand from injustice, executes true justice between man and man, walks in my statutes, and keeps my rules by acting faithfully—he is righteous; he shall surely live, declares the Lord GOD. "If he fathers a son who is violent, a shedder of blood, who does any of these things he shall not live. He has done all these abominations; *...(please see appendix Page 502)*

Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

℟ *Create a pure heart for me, O God.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries

Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

At that time: Children were brought to Jesus that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away.

℞ Shifting the blame to someone else is an age old trick in the survival guide book of our lives. The better lesson would be to tell the child to learn to be careful while they walked rather than shift the blame to something that has no control of any situation. The exiles in Babylon were convinced that it wasn't their fault, that they were paying the price for the crimes of past generations. In other words, they believed themselves to be innocent and their treatment at Yahweh's hands to be unjust. In Matthew 19:13-15, Jesus welcomes and blesses the children who are brought to him, and he teaches his disciples that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like children. Jesus values them as precious in God's sight and worthy of his attention and care. He also lays his hands on them, which was a sign of imparting a blessing and healing. So never rebuff anyone; that gives very bad example. On the contrary, speak politely, which is in keeping with the Spirit of God. Let humility and gentleness be always evident in what you say. "A soft answer," says the wise man "breaks down the hardest nature." (De La Salle - Letters)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



19th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



HYACINTH

(1185 - 1257)
CONFESSOR

Hyacinth also known as Apostle of the North was a Dominican priest and missionary that worked to reform women's monasteries in his native Poland. Because of his spirit of prayer and his zeal for the salvation of souls, he was sent to preach and establish the Dominican Order in his native land, Poland. As a result, multitudes were converted, and churches were built. He is the patron saint of those in danger of drowning.



20th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts; she has missed her wine; she has also set her table. She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Psalms 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15

℟ *Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

I will bless the LORD at all times;
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. ℟

Fear the LORD, you his holy ones.
They lack nothing, those who fear him.
The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the LORD lack no blessing. ℟

Come, children, and hear me,
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is it that desires life
and longs to see prosperous days? ℟

Guard your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good.
Seek after peace, and pursue it. ℟

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Look carefully brethren how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

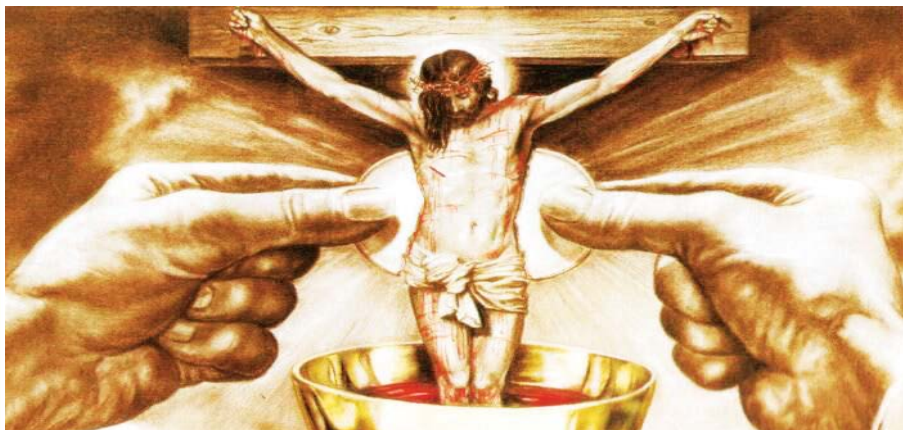
Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him, says the Lord.

Gospel: John 6:51-58

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever."



Ⓜ The theme of the readings is the universal and inclusive nature of God's salvation. God invites all people to share in his wisdom, his life, and his love, regardless of their background, ethnicity, or status. The psalmist invites us to taste and see the goodness of the Lord, who delivers us from all our troubles and fills us with joy. The second reading urges us to live wisely and carefully, making the most of every opportunity to do God's will. Jesus offers himself to us as our spiritual food and drink in the Eucharist, which nourishes our faith, strengthens our hope, and increases our love. He also calls us to extend this communion to all people, especially those who are marginalized or excluded by human standards. He challenges us to overcome our prejudices and barriers, and to welcome everyone as brothers and sisters in Christ. Saint De LaSalle urges us in his meditation by saying: "Jesus Christ, in the Eucharist, is a doctor who heals all our ills. Whatever difficulty or temptation I may have, I have only to come into God's presence and I will be comforted and relieved." (Mental Prayer)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

**19
AUG**

MONDAY

20th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



JOHN EUDES

(1601 - 1680)

CONFESSOR & DOCTOR

Born in Seez, John spent many years preaching as a missionary. He founded the Order of Our Lady of Charity and Congregation of Jesus and Mary also known as The Eudists with the object of educating priests in seminaries and of rescuing women who were in moral danger. He is probably best known for the central theme of his writings: Jesus as the source of holiness; Mary as the model of the Christian life.

First Reading: Ezekiel 24:15-24

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, with one blow I am about to take away from you the delight of your eyes; yet you shall not mourn or weep, nor shall your tears run down. Sigh, but not aloud; make no mourning for the dead. Bind on your turban, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your upper lip or eat the bread of mourners. So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died. And on the next morning I did as I was commanded. Then the people said to me, "Will you not tell us what these things mean for us, that you are acting this way?" ...
(please see appendix Page 502)

Deut 32:18-19, 20, 21

℟️ You forget the God who fathered you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Speak, Lord, your servant hears; you have the words of eternal life.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-22

Then someone came to him and said, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother; also, You shall love your neighbour as yourself." The young man said to him, "I have kept all these; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven then come, follow me." When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

℟️ World Humanitarian Day : We celebrate their unwavering dedication to serve all people in need, no matter who, no matter where, no matter what. On this World Humanitarian Day, we salute the courage and dedication of humanitarian aid workers everywhere. Ezekiel 24:15-23 is a passage from the Bible. In this passage, the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel, and he was given a message about the death of his wife. The Lord instructed Ezekiel not to mourn or weep for his wife, even though she was deeply beloved. This was to serve as a sign to the people, demonstrating that they should not show sorrow to those who have no hope. The Lord wanted to show that even in times of great loss, believers should find comfort and hope in Him. Jesus is inviting us to invest in the kind of treasure that truly gives us happiness that lasts. He is also calling us to follow him because He is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). To Ponder-1. What good must we do to gain eternal life? 2. Do we really need to do something? 3. Isn't faith enough to gain eternal life? 4. Did you do something for the poor? "Be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity." — Maya Angelou

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 28:1-10

The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, say to the prince of Tyre, Thus says the Lord God: Because your heart is proud and you have said, "I am a god; I sit in the seat of the gods, in the heart of the seas;" yet you are but a mortal, and no god, though you compare your mind with the mind of a god. You are indeed wiser than Daniel; no secret is hidden from you; by your wisdom and your understanding you have amassed wealth for yourself, and have gathered gold and silver into your treasuries. By your great wisdom in trade you have increased your wealth, and your heart has become proud in your wealth.(please see appendix Page 502)

Deut 32:26-27, 27 – 28, 30, 35-36

It is I who deal death and life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your words gladden the heart, O Lord, they give light to the eyes.

Gospel: Matthew 19:23-30

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible." Then Peter said in reply, "Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.


R The prophecy in Ezekiel 28:1-10 is a message from the Lord to the prince of Tyre. It begins with a denunciation of the prince's sins, including his pride and self-deification. The Lord emphasizes that the prince, despite his claims, is merely a mortal and not a god. The prophecy also highlights the prince's wisdom, wealth, and success in trade. However, the prince's heart is lifted up because of his riches. For God all things are possible. The prevalent culture of the present age is "to keep up with the Jones'" in terms of accumulating material wealth. In the process of doing so, we neglect our relationship with God. In many instances, earthly treasures have become a hindrance to a deeper and lasting relationship with the Lord. Man has the tendency to be independent, to feel secure in himself, and to be proud of his own achievement. There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, mind, and the purse.-Martin Luther

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

20
AUG
TUESDAY

20th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX
(1091 - 1153)
ABBOT & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Born in Dijon, French abbot and a major leader in the revitalization of Benedictine monasticism through the nascent Order of Cistercians. On account of divisions which had arisen in the Church he travelled through Europe trying to restore peace and unity. He was known as a preacher of the Second Crusade, defender of the faith, healer of a schism, reformer of a monastic Order, and eloquent preacher.

**21
AUG**

WEDNESDAY

20th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



PIUS X

(1835 - 1914)

POPE

Pius X was elected as pope from August 1903 to his death in 1914. He is known for vigorously opposing modernist interpretations of Catholic doctrine, promoting liturgical reforms and orthodox theology. He renewed the true Christian life among the faithful and he fought strenuously against the errors of the Church. He promoted Thomism as the principal philosophical method to be taught in Catholic institutions. He was canonised on 29 May 1954 by Pius XII.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:1-11(please see appendix Page 503)

Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

℟ *The Lord is my shepherd; There is nothing I shall want.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Teach me your paths, my God, make me walk in your truth.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the unusual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market place; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong;(please see appendix Page 503)

℞ The first reading highlights the failure of leadership in Israel. The leaders of Israel are indicted for their failure to care for the nation. The metaphor of shepherding is used to illustrate how these leaders oppressed the people within God’s kingdom. Instead of looking after the needs of the flock, they focused on their own interests, leaving the sheep vulnerable to harm and scattering them throughout the world. Good leaders prioritize the interests of others and ensure their well-being. The parable in the Gospel teaches us that the kingdom of heaven operates differently from human expectations. It is not about how long or how much we work for God; it is about our willingness to serve Him. This parable emphasizes God’s grace and generosity, reminding us that salvation is available to all who come to Him, regardless of their background or circumstances. Saint De La Salle affirms this point by telling us that two qualities are needed by those who lead others. The first is a high level of virtue in order to be models for others. The second is that a great tenderness must be shown by them for those entrusted to their care. They must be very alert to whatever can harm or wound their sheep. (Med. 33.2)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 36:23-28(please see appendix Page 503)

Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

℟ I shall pour clean water over you and you will be cleansed of all your defilement.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Instruct me, Lord, in your way; on an even path lead me.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet! But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet! Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth! For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

℟ Ezekiel focuses on God's plan to revive and restore His people. These verses convey hope and promise after a period of judgment and reproach. God assures that He will cleanse His people from idolatry, give them a new spirit, and enable them to do His will. The land will also be blessed with agricultural abundance. Overall, he conveys a message of redemption, restoration, and the manifestation of God's holiness through His people. In the Gospel reading, those who are not clothed with Christ are not in Christ, and will be judged unworthy just as the man was in the parable of the wedding feast. They will be cast into eternal punishment, and experience the second death. Saint De La Salle instructed his Brothers, "Apply yourself often to remember the presence of God. Look upon this practice as your greatest happiness. Your recollection and self-control should be great enough for you to achieve this. They will be for you a means of overcoming yourself in times of temptation by inspiring you to have continually in mind the will of God. Often recollect yourself in order to renew and strengthen in your mind the remembrance of God's presence. In this we have the surest means of becoming interior".

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



20th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



The papal encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam* by Pope Pius XII in 1954 states that Mary is called Queen of Heaven because her son, Jesus Christ, is the king of Israel and heavenly king of the universe; indeed, the Davidic tradition of Israel recognized the mother of the king as the Queen Mother of Israel. The four Marian antiphons i.e. *Salve Regina*, *Ave Regina caelorum*, *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, and *Regina Caeli* express the queenship of Mary.

23
AUG

FRIDAY

20th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



ROSE OF LIMA

(1586 - 1617)

VIRGIN

Rose of Lima was a member of the Third Order of Saint Dominic in Lima who became known for both her life of severe asceticism and her care of the needy of the city through her own private efforts.

She only allowed herself to sleep two hours a night at most, so that she had more hours to devote to prayer. She wore a heavy crown made of silver, with small spikes on the inside.

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied,(please see appendix Page 504)

Psalm 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R *O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for the great love is without end.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind! This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself! On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets:'

R Ezekiel describes a vision in which he saw a valley filled with dry bones. The passage is often interpreted as a metaphor for the restoration of Israel after the Babylonian exile. The dry bones represent the people of Israel in exile, who were cut off from their land and their God. The restoration of the bones represents God's promise to restore Israel to its land and its relationship with him. The passage is also seen as a metaphor for spiritual renewal and resurrection. In the Gospel Jesus was emphasizing that God desires that worship and obedience would flow from our love for him, and that the whole law and the prophets hang on these two commandments. Saint La Salle reminds the Brothers, "From this day on, let this be your disposition, to desire only God, for our hearts, says St. Augustine, can be at rest only when they rest in God. Have you no attachment to anything, so that you can say that you would have no trouble to give it up? Is there anything besides what concerns God that matters to you and that touches you? Does a sin, for instance, cause you more grief than anything you could suffer? It is by such indications that you will know if you seek only God and if you seek him in truth. (Med. 125.3)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 21:9-14

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife on the Lamb." And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates,(please see appendix Page 504)

Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18

℟ Your friends, O Lord, make known the glorious splendor of your reign.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the king of Israel.

Gospel: John 1:45-51

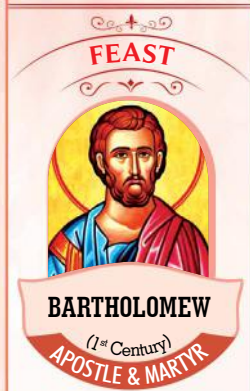
Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered; I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

℟ Feast of St. Bartholomew : The first reading emphasizes the fact that people are saved by God's grace and not by their own achievements. The description is figurative and not to be understood literally. The Gospel explains that the call of Nathanael is a call for everyone to "come and see" Jesus and to become His apostle. It was Philip who actually told Nathanael about Jesus. May we be like Philip who evangelizes other people and may we be like Nathanael who accepted the invitation and recognized Jesus as the son of God; the King of Israel. If we truly believe, Jesus promised that we will see greater things than those we consider great. Saint De La Salle reflects, that in order "to fill himself entirely with the Gospel truths, this saint always carried the Gospel of St. Matthew with him. This was the treasure in which he placed all his confidence. He knew that this divine word alone is able to make the division between the flesh and the spirit. How fortunate you are to carry the holy Gospel with you at all times, for in it is found all the treasures of the knowledge and wisdom of Jesus Christ. Nourish your soul daily with the holy truths contained in this wonderful book." (Med. 159.1).

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



20th Week in Ordinary Time
RED



Bartholomew was one of the 12 Apostles of Jesus. He is mentioned as the sixth apostle in the three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:14), and as one of the witnesses of the Ascension (Acts 1:4, 12, 13). He is traditionally believed to have preached in India and Armenia where he was skinned alive and beheaded by King Astyages. He is the patron saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church.



21st *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

Psalms 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23

℟ *Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

I will bless the Lord at all times;
Praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the Lord my soul shall make its boast;
The humble shall hear and be glad. ℟

The Lord turns his eyes to the just,
And his ears are open to their cry.
The Lord turns his face against the wicked
To destroy their remembrance from the earth. ℟

When the just cry out, the Lord hears,
And rescues them in all their distress,
The Lord is close to the broken hearted;
Those whose spirit is crushed he will save. ℟

May are the trials of the just man,
But from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones;
Not one of his bones shall be broken. ℟

Evil brings death to the wicked;
Those who hate the just man are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
All who trust in him shall not be condemned. ℟

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:21-32

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her

Sunday

with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

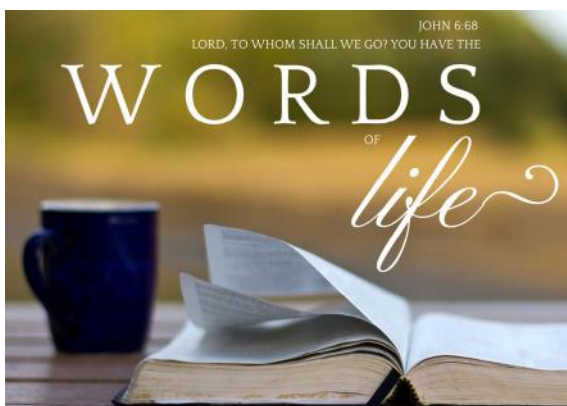
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, so that we may know the hope to which he called us.

Gospel: John 6:60-69

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some

who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God!”



Ⓡ Today's readings put before us two choices; to choose God by believing in him or to choose other Gods of today's world. The ups and downs of life, sometimes present us with moments of choice-making between good and evil; right and wrong; light and darkness; morality and immorality; human opinion and Divine design. However, the major thrust of the readings of this Sunday's liturgy is to re-examine the series of daily choices we make as Christians for God or against God. In the first reading, Joshua the leader of the Israelites, calls on them to make a firm decision in favour of Yahweh as their Lord and God. In this second reading, St Paul, while writing to the Ephesians, gives the criteria for their daily moral choices in the family, parish community, and civil society. The ability to choose or make choices has always been a part of God's plan for mankind. That is why former United Nation's Secretary General, Kofi Annan, once said, "To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there".

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

**26
AUG**

MONDAY

21st Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



**MARY OF JESUS
CRUCIFIED**
(1846 - 1878)
VIRGIN & MYSTIC

Mariam Baouardy or St. Mary of Jesus Crucified was a Discalced Carmelite nun of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church. Born to Greek Catholic parents, she was known for her service to the poor. She fought off a demonic possession for 40 days, received the stigmata, was seen to levitate, had the gift of prophecy and knowledge of consciences. She helped found the missionary Carmel of Mangalore. She was canonized on 17 May 2015 by Pope Francis.

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11b-12

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. ...*(please see appendix Page 504)*

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5

Tell among all the people the wonders of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me.

Gospel: Matthew 23:13-22

At that time: Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it.

R The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Thessalonians, a church that had come into existence out of a pagan culture. Despite the problems they faced, such as trials, persecution, and false teachings, the church was growing in faith, love, and endurance while under persecution. In the Gospel, Jesus' rebuke, addresses various aspects of the scribes' and Pharisees' behaviour. The passage emphasizes their failure to prioritize justice, mercy, and faithfulness. It also condemns their obsession with minor details while neglecting more important matters of the law. It reminds us to focus on the heart and spirit of God's teachings rather than getting caught up in superficial observances. Since, then, God in his mercy has given you such a ministry, do not falsify his word but gain glory before him by unveiling his truth to those whom you are charged to instruct. You have been destined to cultivate these young plants by announcing to them the truths of the Gospel. "Teach them these truths not with learned words, lest the cross of Christ become void of meaning, and all you say to them would produce no fruit in their minds or heart. (Med. 193.3).

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17

Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one deceive you in any way. To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

Psalm 96:10, 11-12a, 12b-13

✠ The Lord comes to judge the earth.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Gospel: Matthew 23:23-26

At that time: Jesus said: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. You blind guides, straining out a gnat and swallowing a camel!" "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and the plate, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and the plate, that the outside also may be clean.

Ⓜ The global message of Paul is that amid suffering, believers must remember the sovereign grace that has rescued them in Jesus Christ. It directs readers to the future and the past, reminding them of how these two, time horizons, affect the present. The future is of particular importance in 2 Thessalonians, as it emphasizes the second coming of Christ. God's steadfast love for his people stretches back to even before the dawn of time. This eternal comfort and good hope through grace strengthens believers to endure adversity, stand fast against the Evil One, and persist in well-doing. The Gospel passage is part of Jesus' teachings where he criticizes the religious leaders of his time for their hypocrisy. He rebukes them for focusing on minor details such as tithing spices while neglecting more important matters like justice, mercy, and faithfulness. The message conveyed in this passage is that true righteousness goes beyond external appearances and rituals. It involves genuine concern for justice, mercy, and faithfulness in one's actions and attitudes. Jesus urges his listeners to prioritize inner purity and righteousness over outward displays of religious observance. By doing so, they can experience true transformation and reflect God's character in their lives.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



21st Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



Raised in a Christian family, Monica was given in marriage to a bad-tempered, adulterous pagan named Patricius. St. Monica is the mother of St. Augustine. She is known for her unceasing prayers and tears for the conversion of her husband (who converted on his death bed), and of her son (who converted after a wild life). She strengthened her faith by her prayer and was outstanding in virtue.

**28
AUG**

WEDNESDAY

21st Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



**AUGUSTINE OF
HIPPO**
(354 - 430)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

Son of Monica, St. Augustine lived an immoral life before his conversion to Christianity, through the fervent prayers of his mother and the help of Saint Ambrose of Milan. As the Bishop of Hippo, he fought against Manichaeism, Donatism, Pelagianism and other heresies. His writings influenced the development of Western philosophy, and indirectly all of Western Christianity. He is the patron saint of theologians. His famous works are The City of God and Confessions.

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command:(please see appendix Page 504)

Psalm 128:1-2, 4-5

℟: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Train me, Lord, to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Gospel: Matthew 23:27-32

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors.

℞ Feast of Saint Augustine of Hippo: His quote is worth remembering. . . “To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.” In wishing the Thessalonians peace, Paul likely has in mind the Jewish concept of “shalom” which is a broad concept that reflects harmony in every area of life. To have peace in every circumstance would mean that their spiritual perspective would supersede every material circumstance such that it brought a harmony even to material difficulties. The Gospel passage also highlights the religious leaders’ selective reverence for past prophets while rejecting or persecuting contemporary ones. Overall, this passage serves as a warning against hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and empty religious practices. It calls for genuine inner transformation and a commitment to justice and righteousness. “In your work you do not have to war against heretics, but against the immature inclinations of children that urge them strongly to evil. You will not overcome these by merely natural learning, but by the Spirit of God and the fullness of his grace, which you will obtain through prayer.”(Med. 161.2)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:17-19

In those days: The word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Dress yourself for work;(please see appendix Page 505)

Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15 and 17

My mouth will tell of your salvation, Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel: Mark 6:17-29

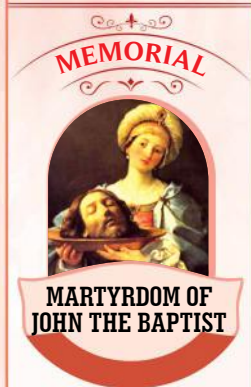
For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "it is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Ⓜ "The courageous and tireless zeal demonstrated by St. John to do away with sin was finally the cause of his death. Is this the reward you hope for in your work?" (Med. 162.3). This passage highlights the importance of God's faithfulness and His call to fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ. It also emphasizes that believers are enriched by God's grace and are not lacking in any spiritual gift. The message conveyed is that God's faithfulness endures despite any challenges or problems faced by believers. This passage highlights how John the Baptist was executed at the whim of a corrupt ruler because he spoke the truth to the powerful. It also shows how those who work for justice in the world or show witness to their faith today, often face difficult and even life-threatening situations. In addition, this passage demonstrates how one bad decision on Herod's part led to another and had an impact on many people.

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



21st Week in Ordinary Time
RED



This feast commemorates the martyrdom by beheading of Saint John the Baptist on the orders of Herod Antipas through the vengeful request of his step daughter Salome and her mother Herodias. His lifestyle was of complete detachment from earthly possessions. His heart was centered on God and the call from the Spirit of God speaking to his heart. Confident of God's grace, he had the courage to speak words of condemnation, repentance, and salvation.

30
AUG

FRIDAY

21st Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

MEMORIAL (INDIA)



JEANNE JUGAN

(1792 - 1879)
RELIGIOUS & FOUNDRESS

St Jeanne Jugan also known as Sister Mary of the Cross, L.S.P., was a French woman who became known for the dedication of her life to the neediest of the elderly poor. Her service resulted in the establishment of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who care for the elderly who have no other resources throughout the world.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*(please see appendix Page 505)*

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11

℟ *The Lord fills the earth with his love.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Because of your love give me life, and I will do your will. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore for you know neither the day nor the hour.

℟ This passage underscores the central role of Christ's crucifixion in Christian theology and highlights how God's wisdom often challenges human understanding. In the Gospel, the parable centres on the attitude one should adopt up to the time when the bridegroom comes. In other words, it is not sufficient to know that one is "inside" the Kingdom, that one "belongs" to the Church: one has to be on the watch and be preparing for Christ's coming by doing good works. It is important to be ready and to have faith in God, so that we can be welcomed into His kingdom when the time comes. Saint De La Salle gives us some very good advice, "Let this be your first concern, then, and the first effect of your vigilance in your work, to be ever attentive to your students to forestall any action that is bad or even the least improper. Help them avoid anything that has the slightest appearance of sin. It is also of great importance that your vigilance over your students serve to make them be self- controlled and reserved in church and at the exercises of piety that are performed in school". (Med. 194.2)

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 ...*(please see appendix Page 505)*

Psalms 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21

℟ *Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

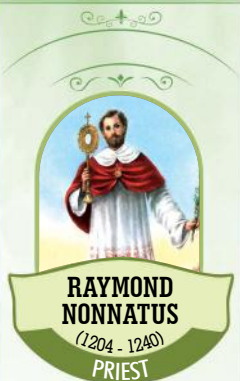
At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: "It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, ...*(please see appendix Page 505)*

℞ Paul reminds the Corinthians that not many of them were considered wise, influential, or of noble birth by human standards. However, God chose those who were considered foolish, weak, and lowly by world's standards to shame the wise, strong, and esteemed. The purpose behind this divine selection was to nullify human boasting and to emphasize that salvation comes from God alone. The message conveyed in this passage is that believers should not base their worth on worldly wisdom or human achievement. Instead, they should find their value in the message of the Cross and recognize that God's wisdom surpasses human understanding. It serves as a reminder that God often works through unexpected means and individuals to accomplish His purposes. This parable teaches us that we should be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us. It's also a firm reminder of God's expectations of His children and how His expectations vary according to our ability. "Great teachers empathize with kids, respect them, and believe that each one has something special that can be built upon." – Ann Lieberman

Reflection: Br. HELDON FERNANDO FSC, India.



21st Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



Born in Catalonia, St. Raymond was the Mastergeneral of Mercedarian Order. He spent his entire estate ransoming Christians from Muslim captors. To keep him from preaching the faith, his captors bored a hole through his lips with a hot iron, and attached padlock. Raymond was eventually ransomed and died while en route to Rome to answer a papal summons. He is the patron saint of midwives, pregnant women, and priests defending the confidentiality of confession.



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

Psalms 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5

℟: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Whoever walks without fault;
Who does what is just,
And speaks the truth from his heart.
Whoever does not slander with his tongue. ℟

Who does no wrong to a neighbour,
Who casts no slur on a friend,
Who looks with scorn on the wicked,
But honours those who fear the Lord. ℟

Who lends no money at interest,
And accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a one shall never be shaken. ℟

Second Reading: James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord; of any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever.

Gospel: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were

Sunday

eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."



Ⓜ The religious leaders closely monitored Jesus. They asked Jesus why His disciples were not following the traditions of the elders such as the washing of hands before eating after coming from the market. Jesus in turn tells them that "nothing that enters one from outside can make that person unclean. It is what comes out from within that makes unclean." What makes us unclean are hearts full of resentment and hatred? What Jesus is trying to say to the religious leaders is that ritual acts of holiness for the sake of the action have no meaning in the eyes of God. As they insist on external purity, they too must equally emphasize inner purity. How do we give importance to the matters that really transform our inner being against external religious practices? Are we moved and directed by love and mercy or rules and regulations?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



22nd Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

LASALLIAN SAINT



**ST. SOLOMON
LE CLERCQ**

(1745-1792)
LASALLE BROTHER

Blessed Brother Solomon Leclercq was beatified on October 17, 1926. Born in 1745, he lived in an exciting time in France, a time of revolution. The common people rose up against the kings of France, and established a more democratic form of government. As a part of this revolution, the new leaders made times difficult for the official religion, Christianity. All Christian organizations became illegal. The De La Salle Brothers and their work were almost totally dismantled. Bro. Solomon was among these Brothers.

He joined the Brothers in 1767, was a devoted teacher and skilled financial manager. These Brothers refused to swear loyalty to this new government. They had to live in secrecy. In 1792, he was arrested by the government, imprisoned with several other church leaders, and, in 1792, executed. He, and his prison companions were martyred about a month later.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5(please see appendix Page 506)

Psalm 119:97-98, 99-100, 101-102

℟ *Lord, how I love your law !*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Your words gladden the heart, O Lord, they give light to the eyes.

Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.

(please see appendix Page 506)

LASALLIAN SAINT



**BL. MARTYRS OF
THE ROCHEFORT**

1794
LA SALLE BROTHER

Brothers Roger, Leon and Uldaric lived in France in the 1790s, the years of revolution in that country. All religious leaders were required to sign an oath of allegiance to the government which would be more binding on a person than his or her allegiance to the Catholic Church. Many priests, brothers, and religious sisters refused to sign such an oath. Some fled the country, others were arrested, put in prison, and tortured; among them were Brothers Roger, Leon and Uldaric. In 1794, 827 of these prisoners endured months of captivity on two boats –no more than large pontoons. Brothers Roger, Leon and Uldaric were three of the 542 who died on these boats. They were in a group of 64 martyrs beatified in 1995. They all died as victims of suffering for the faith during the French Revolution.

℟ In his hometown of Nazareth, Jesus entered the synagogue, stood up, and read the scroll of the prophet Isaiah, "The Spirit of God is upon me because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." From the beginning of his public life, Jesus' eyes looked outwards to the poor, the oppressed, and those in his society who needed help. He saw himself as sent especially by God for them. Jesus speaks these same words to each of us today. He comes to bring us healing, restoration, pardon, and freedom from the oppression of sin, despair, hopelessness, and destruction. Do you believe his word with expectant faith and trust, or with doubt and indifference? The Lord will not refuse to pour out his Spirit on all who trust in him. Ask Jesus to renew in you the joy of the Gospel and the freedom to live each day with trusting faith, joyful hope, and fervent love.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:10-16

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Psalms 145:8-9, 10-12, 13-14

Rx The Lord is just in all his ways

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Teach me your paths, my God, make me walk in your truth.

Gospel: Luke 4:31-37

He went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and was teaching them on the sabbath. They were astounded at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. In the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, "Let us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God!" But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" When the demon had thrown him down before them, he came out of him without having done him any harm. They were all amazed and kept saying to one another, "What kind of utterance is this? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!" And a report about him began to reach every place in the region.

R When Jesus taught he spoke with authority. "He commands the evil spirits with authority and power." He spoke the word of God as no one had spoken it before. When the Rabbis taught, they quoted from other authorities. When the prophets spoke, they used the delegated authority; Thus says the Lord. When Jesus spoke, he needed no authorities to back his statements. He was "authority incarnate," the Word made Flesh. How do you respond to the word of God? Do you hear it with the full assent of faith and obedience? When Jesus spoke even the demons obeyed him. If demons have faith in Jesus, how much more should you believe in the Gospel? Are you eager to be taught by the Lord and to conform your life according to his word? Jesus' word is power and life. May you never doubt Jesus' love and mercy. May the power of His Word bring healing and freedom to your hearts.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



22nd Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



GREGORY THE GREAT

(c. 540 - 604)
POPE & DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Pope Gregory I was the bishop of Rome from 590 to his death.

He is known for instigating the first recorded largescale mission from Rome, the Gregorian Mission, to convert the then-pagan Anglo Saxons in England to Christianity.

He is noted to have collected the melodies and plain chant so associated with him that they are now known as Gregorian Chants.

He is the patron saint of musicians, singers, students, and teachers.

4

SEP

WEDNESDAY

22nd Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



BONIFACE

(370 - 422)

POPE

Pope Boniface I was the bishop of Rome from 418 to his death on 422. He was active in maintaining church discipline and he restored certain privileges to the metro political sees of Narbonne and Vienne, exempting them from any subjection to the primacy of Arles. He was repeatedly opposed by the patriarch of Constantinople who sought to increase his sphere of influence. As a staunch opponent of Pelagianism, he defended the rights of the Holy See

ROSE OF VITERBO

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.(please see appendix Page 506)

Psalms 33:12-13, 14-15, 20, 21

℟ They are happy, the people God has chosen as his own.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Instruct me, Lord, in your way; on an even path lead me.

Gospel: Luke 4:38-44

After leaving the synagogue he entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them. As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Demons also came out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah. At daybreak he departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowds were looking for him; and when they reached him, they wanted to prevent him from leaving them. But he said to them. "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose." So he continued proclaiming the message in the synagogues of Judea.

℟ Have you ever prayed to Jesus to heal somebody close to you? Have you ever brought to Jesus a relative or a friend? Your relationship with Jesus becomes more meaningful when you are able to bring someone to Him. It shows that your faith has matured and is already bearing fruits. Simon Peter humbly asked Jesus to heal his mother-in-law. Jesus went to her and healed her immediately. It is a very good reminder for us that we too must pray to Jesus to heal and enlighten others who are in need. Many are looking for enlightenment and healing from Jesus. Let us not take for granted the power of our prayerful intercession for others. Our prayerful intercession for them can heal and change them. Our founder Saint De La Salle speaks a lot about faith. He spent much time in prayer and meditation to seek God's will. As Lasallians, we are also called to spend time in prayer.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all belong to you, and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Psalms 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

✠ The Lord's is the earth and its fullness.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

✠ As a fisherman, Peter depended on the sea for his livelihood. He knew what he was doing in the sea. He recognized his limitations after he had worked hard and caught nothing. At the feet of Jesus on the seashore, after seeing the miraculous catch, Peter realized that he was a sinner and in need of forgiveness. His momentous gesture of sorrow brought the consoling response from Jesus: "Do not be afraid". Am I willing to follow the instructions of Jesus, even when it seems unlikely to bring a positive result? Do I have the humility to recognize that Jesus has the power to forgive and that I can ask for forgiveness? Is my faith strong enough to take a risk by following Jesus? Our founder Saint De La Salle was not afraid to give up his wealth and possessions in order to respond to God's call in his life. What about you?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

5
SEP
THURSDAY

22nd Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL (INDIA)



TERESA OF KOLKATA
(1910 - 1997)
VIRGIN & FOUNDESS

Born in Albania, Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu or St. Teresa of Kolkata joined the Loreto convent. Feeling 'a call within the call', she left the convent and founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity to care for the hungry, the naked, the aged, the crippled, and the people who are dying of HIV/AIDS and leprosy. Her motto was to give "wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor." She was canonised by Pope Francis on 4 September 2016.

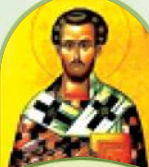
6

SEP

FRIDAY

22nd Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



ELEUTHERIUS

(6th century)
ABBOT

Eleutherius was noted for his wonderful simplicity and spirit of compunction. He was chosen abbot of St. Mark's near Spoleto, and favored by God with the gift of miracles. He also demonstrated the gift of exorcism, and raised a dead man to life. He died in Rome in 585 A.D.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

Psalm 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39-40

℟ The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Your precepts, O Lord, are all of them sure; they stand firm for ever and ever.

Gospel: Luke 5:33-39

Then they said to him, "John's disciples, like the disciples of the Pharisees, frequently fast and pray, but your disciples eat and drink. Jesus said to them, "You cannot make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them, can you? The days will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old garment; otherwise the new will be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. And no one after drinking old wine desires new wine, but says, "The old is good.""

℟ The early Christians were not ready to accept radical figures like Jesus or radical ideas, and neither are today's Christians. We like a tamed and domesticated Jesus but His life and ministry don't really allow for it. He overcame all the obstacles that he faced. Jesus came to bring something radically new to the people he met. He offered them a new understanding of their religion. He often referred back to times past, but moved on to the future, even though it meant parting company with the Baptist and his disciples. Are you ready to try Jesus' way? If you are ready to do that, something incredible will happen. Many of his words and actions brought something new to the lives of his people. Are you willing to accept something new that will change you and make your life better? Then, follow Jesus.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:6-15

I have applied all this to Apollos and myself for your benefit, brothers and sisters, so that you may learn through us the meaning of the saying, "Nothing beyond what is written," so that none of you will be puffed up in favor of one against another. For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift? Already you have all you want! Already you have become rich! Quite apart from us you have become kings! Indeed, I wish that you had become kings, so that we might be kings with you! For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to mortals. We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed and beaten and homeless and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world,(please see appendix Page 506)

Psalms 145:17-18, 19-20, 31

℟. The Lord is close to all who call him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider the wonders of your law.

Gospel: Luke 6:1-5

One sabbath while Jesus was going through the grainfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. But some of the Pharisees said, "Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" Jesus answered, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?' Then he said to them, "The Son of man is lord of the sabbath."

℞ The "Sabbath rest" was meant to be a time to remember and celebrate God's goodness and the goodness of his work, both in creation and redemption. Religious laws are meant to empower the wonder of life. It is not just about the worship and rituals; or expressing deep devotions. God had given the Law to encourage the Israelites to love him and to love others (Mk 12:30 – 31). He had never prohibited doing good on the Sabbath. Jesus' disciples are scolded by the scribes and Pharisees, not for plucking and eating corn from the fields, but for doing so on the Sabbath. In defending his disciples, Jesus argues from the scriptures, that human need has precedence over ritual custom. In their hunger, David and his men ate the holy bread offered in the Temple. Do we have the spiritual confidence to always follow what is good even if it means adjusting our own spiritual lenses to conform to that of Jesus?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



22nd Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



St Regina was a virgin martyr. Her mother died at her birth and her pagan father repudiated her. She then went to live with a Christian nurse who baptized her. Regina helped her by tending the sheep. She communed with God in prayer and meditated on the lives of the saints. She was betrothed to the proconsul Olybrius but refused to renounce her faith to marry him, for which she was tortured and was beheaded at Alesia in the diocese of Autun, called Alise-Sainte Reine after her.



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Psalms 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10

R. My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever,
Who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord who sets prisoners free. *R.*

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
The Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,
The Lord who protects the stranger. *R.*

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
But thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign forever,
The God of Sion from age to age. *R.*

Second Reading: James 2:1-5

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

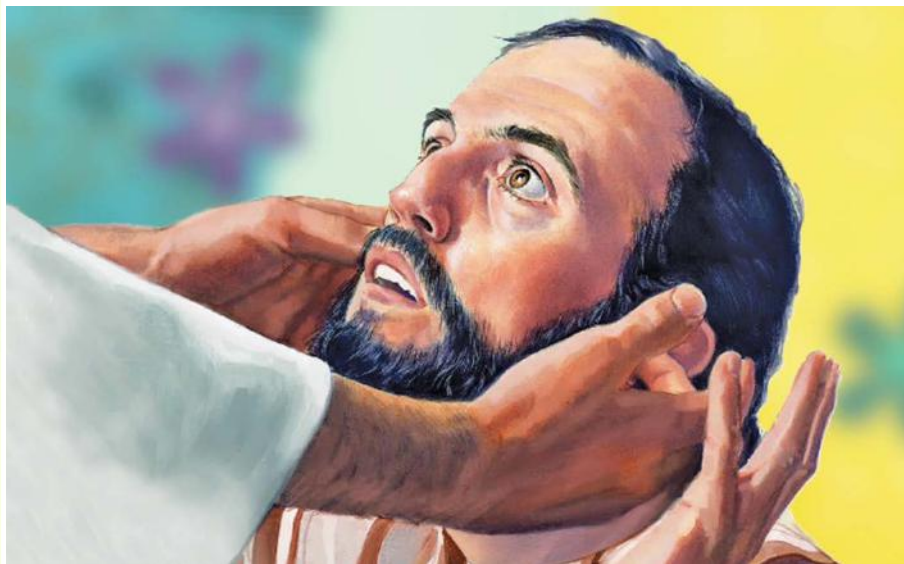
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to stand before the Son of man.

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak!"



® In what way are you deaf and dumb? Do you expect the Lord to heal you in your deafness and dumbness? Jesus takes a man aside and puts his fingers into his ears and he touches his tongue with his own saliva to cure him and to awaken faith in him. The poor man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Gregory the Great from the 6th century writes: "The Spirit is called the finger of God. When the Lord puts his fingers into the ears of the deaf, he was opening the soul of man to faith through the gifts of the Holy Spirit." Even though you cannot see Jesus, in faith you know that He is present. He is ready to listen and desires to speak with you. He is ready to utter the word "Ephphatha." Are you ready?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

9

SEP

MONDAY

23rd Week in Ordinary Time

GREEN



PETER CLAVER

(1581 - 1654)

APOSTLE OF BLACKS

Peter Claver was a Jesuit missionary who, due to his life and work, became the patron saint of slaves, the Republic of Colombia, and ministry to Afro Americans. During the 40 years of his ministry in the New Kingdom of Granada, he personally baptized around 300,000 and heard the confessions of over 5,000 slaves per year. He is an example of the Christian praxis of love and of the exercise of human rights.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that is not found even among pagans; for a man is living with his father's wife. And you are arrogant! Should you not rather have mourned, so that he who has done this would have been removed from among you? For though absent in body, I am present in spirit; and as if present I have already pronounced judgment in the name of the Lord Jesus on the man who has done such a thing. When you are assembled, and my spirit is present with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. Your boasting is not a good thing. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, as you really are unleavened. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Psalm 5:5-6, 7, 12

☩ Lead me, Lord, in your justice.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Make me grasp the way of your precepts, and I will muse on your wonders.

Gospel: Luke 6:6-11

On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come and stand here." He got up and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" After looking around at all of them, he said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so, and his hand was restored. But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

℟ Jesus disapproves of those who focus narrowly on the traditions and laws of religion and then lose sight of God's message. Traditions should not interfere with our compassion for those in need, for "whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4:17). Jesus teaches us to respond to God's call to do good and save lives, by healing the man with paralytic hand. By showing compassion to the man with the withered hand, Jesus points us to a way of holiness that is more than keeping the law and performing rituals. Have you ever thought about doing good and standing for justice and the well-being of others, in spite of outside pressure? Instead of rejoicing that one of those afflicted be healed, do we weaponize the Sabbath and go against people who do good?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Brethren: When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life! So if you have such cases, why do you lay them before those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to settle a dispute between the brothers, but brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers? To have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather suffer wrong? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud—even your own brothers! Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: *...(please see appendix Page 507)*

Psalms 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b

℟ *The Lord takes delight in his people.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 6:12-19

In those days Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. And those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.

℟ Jesus chose twelve men to be his friends and apostles as he began his mission. They were very ordinary people, non-professionals with no wealth or position, common people with no special education or social advantages. Jesus chose ordinary people to do his work extraordinarily well. He chose them not for what they were, but for what they could become under his direction and power. What is God's call in your life? The Gospel conveys to us that God chooses us to do these things because he knows that we can do it. The people who heard about Jesus came to see him and got cured. In faith, they pressed upon Jesus to touch him and to be healed. When you hear the work of God, how do you respond? Do you act with expectant faith or ignore with doubt? Ask the Lord to increase the Spirit of Faith and the Spirit of Zeal to do God's work.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



23rd Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL



NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO
(1245 - 1305)
CONFESSOR

Born in Sant' Angelo, St. Nicholas, an Augustinian friar gained reputation as a great preacher and confessor. He practiced severe mortifications. He was known for obtaining healings for many of the sick who lived in Tolentino, where he spent the last 30 years of his life. St. Nicholas' bread, a roll of dough with a cross in the center, has its origin in the bread he used to give to the sick to eat.

11
SEP

WEDNESDAY

23rd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREENPAPHNUTIUS
THE GREAT(d. c. 350)
BISHOP

Paphnutius was the Spiritual student of Saint Anthony the Abbot. During the persecutions of emperor Galerius, he had his right eye torn out, his left knee crippled, and was sent to work in the mines, all as punishment for his faith. After being rescued, he resumed

his worked against Arianism heresy and to spread the Nicene Creed.

He observed the strictest continence and is said to have distinguished himself by his opposition to clerical celibacy

JOHN CABRIEL
PERBOYRE**First Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:25-31**

Brethren: Now concerning the virgins, I have no command from the Lord, but I give my judgment as one who by the Lord's mercy is trustworthy. I think that in view of the present distress it is good for a person to remain as he is. Are you bound to a wife? Do not seek to be free. Are you free from a wife? Do not seek a wife. But if you do marry, you have not sinned, and if a betrothed woman marries, she has not sinned. Yet those who marry will have worldly troubles, and I would spare you that. This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Psalm 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17

℟ *Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Bend my heart to your will, O Lord, and teach me your law.

Gospel: Luke 6:20-26

"Blessed are you who are poor, woe to you who are rich." A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets."

℞ In the beatitude, Jesus is not saying that poverty is a blessing in itself. What he is saying is that the poor are blessed because God will work to transform their situation. It is often the situation that when a person is vulnerable that a space is created for God to work. How can one find happiness in poverty, hunger, mourning, and persecution? Jesus' way of happiness demands a transformation from within, a conversion of heart and mind through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If we want to be filled with joy and happiness, then we must empty ourselves of all that would shut God out of our hearts. De La Salle found joy in giving up his wealth and possessions for the sake of the poor. He met young children on his travels who were barely surviving and were defenceless against powerful landowners. We too see poor and powerless young people today. Do we become defenders of the poor?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-7, 11-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols we know that “no idol in the world really exists;” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so called gods in heaven or on earth as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God,(please see appendix Page 507)

Psalms 139:1-3, 13-14, 23-24

℟ Lead me, O Lord, in the path of life eternal.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Because of your love give me life, and I will do your will.

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38


“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

℞ “Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.” One person I remember who lived this way was Mohandas Gandhi, a man of peace from India. By no means did Gandhi resort to violence. He showed that the powerless had power. He never fought back instead he would sit and pray. Those words are clearly easier said than done. When it comes right down to it, when someone acts in hate toward you and mistreats you, the last thing you want to do is love them, bless them, and pray for them. But Jesus is very clear on the fact that this is what we are called to do. Love your enemies. Who are the people in your life whom you dislike? Have you done anything to love them? Have you prayed for them?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

12
SEP
THURSDAY

23rd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



HOLY NAME OF MARY

This feast was first observed at Cuenca, Spain in 1513, then extended to the universal Church and assigned to its present place and rank by Pope Innocent XI in 1683 in thanksgiving to God and the Blessed Virgin for the liberation of Vienne, France and the victory over the Turks on 12 September 1683. It is the titular feast of the Society of Mary (Marianists) and of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

13
SEP

FRIDAY

23rd Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

(349 - 407)

BISHOP & DOCTOR

Born in Antioch, John Chrysostom (Golden-mouthed) was perhaps the greatest preacher in the history of the Church. He criticized the rich for not sharing their wealth, fought to reform the clergy, prevented the sale of ecclesiastical offices, called for fidelity in marriage, encouraged practices of justice and charity. He was known for his sermons and writings to explain the faith and to encourage the practise of the Christian life.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-27

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this; that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.

Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6, 8, 12

℟ *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your word is a lamp for my steps and a light for my path.

Gospel: Luke 6:39-42

He also told them a parable: "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

℞ Have you ever realized that you were condemning another person for their faults and then realized that you had just as many faults or more? Jesus uses the example of a failure, to see the log in my eye and the ability to see the speck in other peoples. It is easier to find fault in others than in oneself. Do not remove the speck out of the other's eye for you are in the same situation. The willingness to learn at the feet of the master is a good preparation for leadership roles. If we are to be guides and teachers for others, then we must have a clear vision of where we are going and a map that shows the way. The ability to recognize personal shortcomings can be a grace of prayer! Ask the Lord to flood your heart with his loving-kindness and mercy so that you may only have room for charity and forbearance towards your neighbour.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us."(please see appendix Page 507)

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38

℟ *Never forget the deeds of the Lord.*

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you; because by your cross you have redeemed the world.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

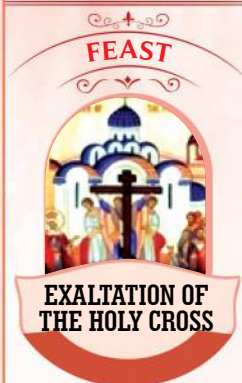
No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

℟ This feast was originally established when Saint Helena, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, discovered the true Holy Cross. Relics of it were presented with great honor and received with much glory throughout the world. De La Salle says in his meditation, "You must in this imitate God to some extent, for he so loved the souls he created that when he saw them involved in sin and unable to be freed from sin by themselves, the zeal and affection that he had for their salvation led him to send his own Son to rescue them from their miserable condition. This is what made Jesus Christ say that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him may not die but may have eternal Life." Do you allow God's love to conquer every unruly passion and addiction that would enslave you to evil and harmful behavior? Do you thirst for new life in the Spirit?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



23rd Week in Ordinary Time
RED



The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates two historical events: the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena in 320 and the dedication in 335 of the basilica and shrine built on Calvary by Constantine, which mark the site of the Crucifixion. It is a celebration and commemoration of God's greatest work: his salvific death on the Cross and His Resurrection, through which death was defeated and the doors to Heaven opened.



24th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Isaiah 50:5-9a

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalms 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

℟: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I love the Lord, for he heard My voice, my appeal;
For he has turned his ear to me Whenever I call. *℟*

They surrounded me, the snares of death;
The anguish of the grave has found me;
Anguish and sorrow I found.

I called on the name of the Lord:
"Deliver my soul, O Lord!" *℟*

How gracious is the Lord, and just;
Our God has compassion.
The Lord protects the simple;
I was brought low, and he saved me. *℟*

He has kept my soul from death,
My eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the Lord
In the land of the living. *℟*

Second Reading: James 2:14-18

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith.

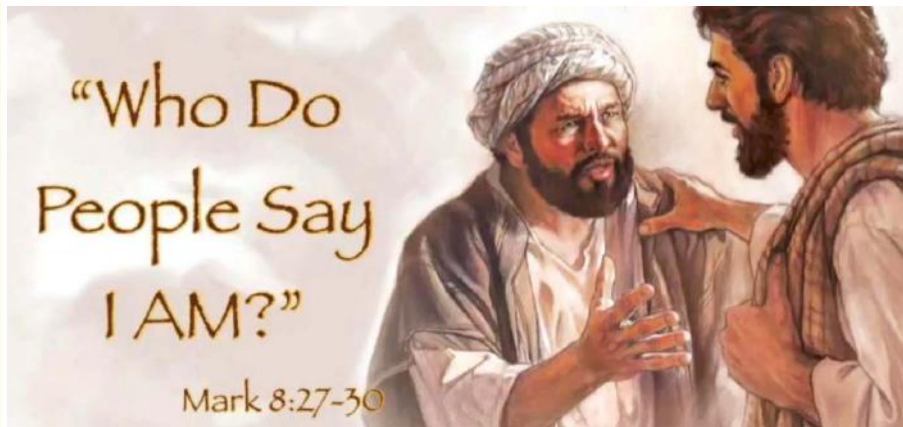
Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the living bread which came down from heaven, says the Lord; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever.

Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.



Ⓜ Who is Jesus to you? Peter has proclaimed his belief that Jesus truly is the long-awaited Messiah. Peter had a very different notion of what it means to be the Messiah, since there were diverse messianic expectations within first-century Judaism. Their expectation was a royal militaristic figure who would drive out the Romans and restore Israel's status as an independent nation. Jesus' way is to bring God's empire, even if it brings the most intense suffering. Peter refuses to accept a suffering Messiah. He didn't want to hear about suffering, rejection, killing but also rising from the dead. It must have been a great shock to Peter to hear himself called Satan! Jesus reveals to us that if we are to accept him as Messiah, we must accept his way of suffering, whenever it comes in our life. We will then be motivated to carry our own cross. Do you accept Him as the Messiah?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

16 SEP

MONDAY

24th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED

MEMORIAL



**CORNELIUS &
CYPRIAN**

(d. 253)
MARTYR

Pope Cornelius was the bishop of Rome from 251 to his martyrdom 253. He laboured to combat the Novatian schism and with the help of St. Cyprian he was able to enforce his authority. He welcomed back those who had apostatized during the persecutions of Decius; the documents that settled this matter prove the final authority of the Pope. In 253 Cornelius was exiled by the emperor Gallus and died of the hardships he endured in exile.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33

Brethren: In the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. *...(please see appendix Page 507)*

Psalm 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17

℟ *Proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Gospel: Luke 7:1-10

At that time: After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. Now a centurion had a servant who was sick and at the point of death, who was highly valued by him. When the centurion heard about Jesus, he sent to him elders of the Jews, asking him to come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they pleaded with him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation, and he is the one who built us our synagogue." And Jesus went with them. When he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends, saying to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof. Therefore I did not presume to come to you. But say the word, and let my servant be healed. For I too am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me: and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well.

℟ Have you ever approached Jesus with confident trust and expectant faith? The centurion who approached Jesus was not only courageous but faith-filled as well. Being a Roman centurion, he took risks by seeking help from a man from Galilee. However he approached Jesus with confidence and humility. He was an extraordinary man because he loved his slave and wanted him to be healed. Jesus commends him for his faith and immediately grants him his request. The Lord is merciful and gracious to all who seek him. We will be drawn close to the Lord Jesus when we have expectant faith and humility. How do you approach the Lord Jesus; with doubt, fear, and disbelief or with trust and confidence? Are you willing to suffer ridicule in the practice of your faith? De La Salle had a strong faith in God's Providence. For sure we will receive what we are longing for when we have strong faith in God.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31a

Brethren: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 4, 5

℟ We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A great prophet has arisen among us, and God has visited his people.

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

At that time: Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

℟ How do you respond to the misfortunes of others? In a number of places, the Gospel records that Jesus was "moved to the depths of his heart" when he met with individuals and groups of people. Jesus is the Lord, not only of the living but of the dead as well. Jesus felt a whole hearted compassion for the widow who lost her son. Through the power of His words, He was able to bring back the life of a dead man and cleanse him from sins. Why was Jesus so moved on this occasion when he met a widow and a crowded funeral procession? Jesus not only grieved at the untimely death of a young man, but also showed the depth of his concern for the woman. As Lasallians, Do you trust in the Lord Jesus to give you everlasting hope in spite of life's struggles and moments of despair? Do you go out of your way to help others?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



24th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



ROBERT BELLARMINÉ
(1542 - 1621)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

Born in Montepulciano, St. Robert, a Jesuit priest was engaged in arguments in defence of the Catholic faith and he taught in the Collegio Romano. He defended the Apostolic See against anti-clericals in Venice and wrote exhaustive works against heresies of the day. He was involved in the controversy between King James I and the Vatican concerning control of the Church in England. He was canonised on 29 June 1930 by Pope Pius XI.

**18
SEP**

WEDNESDAY

24th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



**JOSEPH OF
CUPERTINO**

(1603 - 1663)

MYSTIC

Joseph of Cupertino was a Franciscan friar who is honoured as a Christian mystic and saint. His tendency to levitate during prayer led him to be humble, patient, and obedient, even though at times he was greatly tempted and felt forsaken by God. He was brought before the Inquisition, and sent from one Capuchin or Franciscan house to another. He is the patron saint of Air Travelers, Astronauts and Pilots.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31–13: 13

But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child,(please see appendix Page 508)

Psalm 33:2-3, 4-5, 12, 22

They are happy, the people Whom the Lord has chosen as his own.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Gospel: Luke 7:31-35

“To what then will I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Nevertheless, wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

R Are we open and ready for change? The scribes and Pharisees had closed their hearts to the message of John the Baptist and now to Jesus. It was out of jealousy and spiritual blindness that they attributed John the Baptist's austerities to the devil and Jesus' table fellowship as mingling with sinners. The people who never play by the blinded rules, but live a righteous life, are the ones who get criticized by people who do not live a righteous life. Looking at De La Salle's life, he was not a perfect person, but he worked on himself to prove that he held the wisdom and faith that he needed to influence others with goodness. What can you do to support the people who do the right things? Can you change yourself to look at things positively? As Lasallians, may we continue to stand for truth and be willing to be an agent of change.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ...*(please see appendix Page 508)*

Psalms 118:1-2, 15, 16-17, 28, 21

℟ *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good.*

Gospel Acclamation

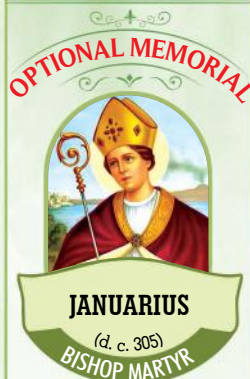
Alleluia, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed these things to children.

Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisees house and took his place at the table. And a woman in the city, who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisees house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair. Then she continued kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "Speak." "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she had anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her sins, which were many, have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ...*(please see appendix Page 508)*

℟ A woman who experienced the forgiveness of Jesus and expressed her love for Jesus whole heartedly is spotted in the Gospel. The Bible depicts her as having lived a sinful life, which means that people of the town knew that she was a public sinner, a prostitute. What she does to Jesus is completely out of the ordinary. Jesus received her love very mindfully to heal her wounded heart. Do you believe that Jesus loves sinners? The story turns to Simon the Pharisee who does not care about this woman. He is not moved by the love this woman is showing Jesus. The Pharisee Simon didn't love Jesus because he hadn't been forgiven his sins. Jesus taught that the more we have been forgiven, the more we love Jesus. How much do you love Jesus? I pray we learn the secret of loving Jesus more through today's message.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



St. Januarius was the bishop of Benevento. During the Emperor Diocletian's persecution, he was arrested while visiting imprisoned deacons.

He and his companions were thrown to the bears in the amphitheatre of Pozzuoli, but the animals failed to attack them. They were then beheaded.

He is the patron saint of Naples, where the faithful gather three times a year to witness the liquefaction of his blood kept in a sealed glass ampoule.

**20
SEP**

FRIDAY

24th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED

MEMORIAL



ANDREW KIM, & CO

(1839 - 1867)
KOREAN MARTYRS

Andrew Kim and Paul Chong were the first Korean martyrs. St. Andrew was assigned to arrange for more missionaries to enter by a water route that would elude the border patrol. He was arrested, tortured, and finally beheaded at Seoul. Among the other martyrs were lay people, men and women, married and unmarried, children, young people, and the elderly who suffered greatly for the Faith and consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church of Korea.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Psalm 17:1, 6-7, 8, 15

℟: I shall be filled, Lord, with the sight of your glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Gospel: Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

℟ For a group of women, including the powerful like Joanna and Suzanna, and the ex-prostitutes like Magdalene, to leave home and travel with a rabbi was scandalous. They were travelling not just supporting Jesus, but risking their reputations by going out on the road with men. Even more scandalous was the fact that women, both respectable and unrespectable, were among Jesus' traveling companions. They showed love and courage to Jesus. What brings them into harmonious company is the love of Jesus. The Gospel tells us that all people who stood by our Lord were amazing and wonderful. How many of us are ready to stand by the people who do good and stand for justice? Jesus was leading men and women who were inspired by his way of life and his teachings. In prayer we can become part of that group; each of us walks with His followers as we engage our lives with His.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Psalms 19:2-3, 4-5

℟ Their span extends through all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord, The glorious company of the apostles praise you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

℟ Saint Matthew faithfully followed Jesus Christ. As soon as he was called Saint Matthew faithfully followed Jesus Christ. On the spot, at the first word, and without even asking for a delay in order to do so? How many times has Jesus Christ perhaps called you? (SJB DLS) Jesus was dining with sinners or the poor. Some religious people found it difficult to accept it but not Jesus. He went to Matthew's house and ate with his guests. All Jesus wanted was that the very good religious people would know their need of His healing and mercy. He knew that unless they knew their own weakness, they would never know the love of the Father. He illustrates this by stating that you don't go to the doctor unless you are sick. We are all like that - people in need. Do you know God's mercy and do you treat your neighbor with mercy?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



24th Week in Ordinary Time
RED

FEAST



MATTHEW

(1st century)
APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Born at Capernaum, St. Matthew was a tax collector when called by Jesus. He wrote his Gospel for Jewish people who had become followers of Christ. He wanted his audience to know that Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised to send to save all people. It is believed that he established Christian communities in Ethiopia and other sections of Africa. St. Matthew is the patron saint for accountants, bankers, and tax collectors.



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

“Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God’s child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected.”

Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6 and 8

℟: Behold, the Lord is the upholder of my life.

O God, save me by your name;
By your power, defend my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
Give ear to the words of my mouth. *℟*

For the proud have risen against me,
And the ruthless seek my life.
They have no regard for God. *℟*

See, I have God for my help.
The Lord sustains my soul.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart,
And praise your name, for it is good. *℟*

Second Reading: James 3:16-4: 3

For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

Sunday

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me!"



® The readings offer profound insights into human desires, wisdom, and Christ's values. It highlights the contrast between the righteous and wicked, warning against the envy and resentment that can arise when we encounter goodness in others. It encourages the pursuit of wisdom aligned with God's will. The call is to pursue divine wisdom while promoting peace and righteousness. In the Gospel, Jesus stresses humility and service, redirecting disciples from selfish ambition to caring for the marginalized. A common theme in these readings is the contrast between worldly desires and God's kingdom marked by humility and service. We are challenged to align our desires with God's will, forsaking envy and embracing humility and service, especially for the less fortunate. These reflections prompt us to self-assessment and a commitment to live in harmony with God's values, leading to growth in wisdom and holiness.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

**23
SEP**

MONDAY

25th Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



PADRE PIO

(1887 - 1968)
PRIEST & STIGMATIST

Padre Pio, also known as Saint Pio of Pietrelcina was an Italian friar, stigmatist and mystic. He was known for exhibiting stigmata for most of his life. Noted for patient suffering, fervent prayer, and compassionate spiritual guidance, he also lent his efforts to the establishment of a major hospital, the "Home to Relieve Suffering." He was reportedly able to bilocate, levitate, and heal by touch. He was canonized on 16 June 2002 by Pope John Paul II.

First Reading: Proverbs 3:27-34

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it. Do not say to your neighbour, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give it"—when you have it with you. Do not plan evil against your neighbour, who dwells trustingly beside you. Do not contend with a man for no harm. Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways, for the devious person is an abomination to the LORD, but the upright are in his confidence. The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous. Towards the scorners he is scornful, but to the humble he gives favour.

Psalms 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5

℟️ Who shall dwell on your holy mountain, O Lord?

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Gospel: Luke 8:16-18

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a jar or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, so that those who enter may see the light. For nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away."

℞ In the ancient world, "light" enabled people to see and work in the dark and to avoid stumbling. The Jews also understood "light" as an expression of the inner beauty, truth, and goodness of God. "In his light we see light" (Psalm 36:9). God's grace not only illumines the darkness in our lives, but it also fills us with spiritual light, joy and peace. Our Lasallian mission is to be light-bearers of Christ to the young and the poor so that they may see the truth of the gospel and avoid stumbling from the ignorance and deception. God's Love and Word is a lamp for our steps, a lamp that shines from the inside of our personalities. Nothing can put it out. We keep our light in secret. We hide our goodness from others. Do you know the joy and freedom of living in God's light? Do you consider God as your light? If so, how does it manifest in your life?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13

The king's heart is stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart. To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice. Haughty eyes and a proud heart, the lamp of the wicked, are sin. The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. the getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapour and a snare of death. The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbour finds no mercy in his eyes. When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge. The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked; he throws the wicked down to ruin. whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.

Psalms 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44

℟ Guide me, Lord, in the path of your commands.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Gospel: Luke 8:19-21

At that time: His mother and his brothers came to Jesus, but they could not reach him because of the crowd. And he was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see you." But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

℟ Jesus never lost an opportunity to teach his disciples a spiritual lesson or truth about the kingdom of God. When many gathered to hear Jesus, he pointed to another and higher reality of spiritual kinship, namely the family of God. While underlining the importance of hearing and obeying the Word of God and prioritizing a spiritual bond with Him, Jesus suggests that true kinship is found in those who follow God's will. Those who follow Jesus Christ and seek God's will enter into a new family, a family of God here on earth and in heaven. In his last words to the Brothers, St. De La Salle was able to say, "I adore the holy will of God in my regard" - a summary of the life of Faith he lived. Do you listen to God's voice and seek God's will in your daily life?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



25th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL



OUR LADY OF RANSOM

The Order of Our Lady of Mercy, which was founded by St. Peter Nolasco, St. Raymond of Penyafort for the ransoming of Christians from Saracen captivity, instituted this feast in thanksgiving to Our Lady. Our Lady of Ransom is invoked for the re-conversion of England from false religious teaching. She is also the compassionate reformer of living sinners from Satan's grasp, and of the suffering souls in Purgatory.

MARTYRS OF CHALCEDON

25
SEP

WEDNESDAY

25th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



CEOLFRID

(642 - 716)

ABBOT

Ceolfrid was an Anglo Saxon Christian abbot who is best known as the warden of Bede from the age of seven until his death in 716.

He was the Abbot of Monkwearmouth Jarrow Abbey, and a major contributor to the project to produce the Codex Amiatinus Bible. On account of his outstanding sanctity and humility, he was sent to assist St. Benedict who was then founding the new abbey of Wearmouth.

**BI. HERMAN OF
REICHENAU**

First Reading: Proverbs 30:5-9

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, or else he will rebuke you, and you will be found a liar. Two things I ask of you; do not deny them to me before I die; Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that I need, or I shall be full, and deny you, and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or I shall be poor, and steal, and profane the name of my God.

Psalm 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163

℟ Your word is a lamp for my steps.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

Gospel: Luke 9:1-6

Then Jesus called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money not even an extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there, and leave from there. Wherever they do not welcome you, as you are leaving that town shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them." They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

℟ Under whose power do you run your lives now? How do you handle power and authority, both spiritual and temporal? Jesus sends out His disciples with power and authority to share His message and perform miracles. They are instructed not to take provisions but to rely on the hospitality of others, demonstrating complete trust in God's providence. This passage challenges us to step out in faith, relying on God's guidance and providence as we carry out His work in the world. Like the disciples, we are called to depend on God's provision as we go forth to share His message of love and grace. St. De La Salle lived his entire life trusting God's providence and serving the young and the poor through education. Can you honor God's Word, recognizing its significance in your lives, and trust in God's guidance as you serve His mission?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What do people gain from all the toil at which they toil under the sun? A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises and the sun goes down, and hurries to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they continue to flow. All things are wearisome; more than one can express; the eye is not satisfied with seeing, or the ear filled with hearing. What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there a thing of which it is said, "See, this is new"? It has already been, in the ages before us. The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them.

Psalms 90:3-6, 12-14, 17

R. O Lord, you have been our refuge, From one generation to the next.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my father will love him, and we will come to him.

Gospel: Luke 9:7-9

Now Herod the ruler heard about all that had taken place, and he was perplexed, because it was said by some that John had been raised from the dead, by some that Elijah had appeared, and by others that one of the ancient prophets had arisen. Herod said, "John I beheaded; but who is this about whom I hear such things?" And he tried to see him.

R Who is Jesus for you? Whom do you seek to please? King Herod had respected and feared John the Baptist as a great prophet and servant of God. John, however, did not fear Herod for his adulterous relationship. Herod, out of impulse and a desire to please his family and friends, had John beheaded. Herod appears as a politician with an eye for publicity and consequently does not want to miss out on contact with somebody who is making news. Herod sought to see Jesus more out of curiosity and fear than out of a sincere desire to know God and his word. Karl Barth tells us that "To understand the scriptures we must stop acting like mere spectators." God's word demands that we engage our lives with him. As Lasallian you are invited "to look upon everything with the eyes of faith, to do everything in view of God, and attribute all to God."

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



25th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



COSMAS & DAMIAN

(d. 303)
MARTYRS

Sts. Cosmas and Damian were two Arab physicians who practised their profession in the seaport of Aegeae. During the persecution under Diocletian, Cosmas and Damian were arrested by order of the Prefect Lysias, who ordered them under torture to recant. However, according to legend they stayed true to their faith, enduring being hung on a cross, stoned and shot by arrows and finally suffered execution by beheading. They are the patrons of physicians and surgeons.

**27
SEP**

FRIDAY

25th Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

LASALLIAN BLESSED



**BL. SCUBILION
ROUSSEAU**

(1797-1867)

LA SALLE BROTHER

Blessed Brother Scubilion Rosseau was born in 1797 and beatified in 1989. The young Jean Bernard Rousseau volunteered to teach religion classes when he was a teen and then joined the Brothers in Paris in 1822. He left France to do missionary work when he was 36 years old. For the next 34 years he worked among the enslaved natives of the island of Reunion off the coast of India. He was dearly loved by the people of this island nation for his kindness and devotion to his students. He was primarily a catechist, a teacher of religion. In his later years, he visited the sick, won sinners over to Christianity, and was highly respected everywhere on the island as a living saint among the people. He died in 1867.

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

Psalm 144:1, 2, 3-4

R: Blessed be the Lord, my rock.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, I have called you friends, says the Lord, because all I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you.

Gospel: Luke 9:18-22

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They answered, "John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "The Messiah of God." He sternly ordered and commanded them not to tell anyone, saying, "The Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."

R Who is Jesus for you - and what difference does he make in your life? Peter's confession that Jesus is the Christ of God signifies a pivotal moment in the disciples' understanding of Christ's identity. However, Jesus instructs them not to reveal this revelation just yet. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter, it could only be God. Through the "eyes of faith," Peter discovered who Jesus truly was. Peter recognized that Jesus was much more than a great teacher, prophet, and miracle worker. Peter was the first apostle to publicly declare that Jesus was the Anointed One, consecrated by the Father and sent into the world to redeem a fallen human race. If you want to share in the victory of the Lord Jesus, then you must also take up your cross and follow where he leads you. What is the "cross" that you and I must take up each day?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 11:9–12, 8

Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart and the desire of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. Remember your creator in the days of your youth before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; in the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grass hopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity.

Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14.17

℟️ O Lord, you have been our refuge, from one generation to the next.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Your word is truth, O Lord, sanctify us in the truth.

Gospel: Luke 9:43-45

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, "Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands" But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

℟️ Jesus prophesied his own betrayal and crucifixion, but the disciples struggled to comprehend His words. Their lack of understanding underscores the difficulty of accepting the inevitability of suffering and death. As it were fallen on deaf ears and uncomprehending hearts because it did not fit their understanding of the Messiah. And they were afraid to ask further questions. Am I deaf to hear the cry of victims of violence and injustice? Am I afraid of searching for truth? Jesus fought against racism and discrimination and battled for the untouchables. The Lasallian spirit of faith is a "spirit that allows one to judge and evaluate things in the light of the Gospel." As Lasallians, we need to hear the message of the cross as a resounding cry of victory. Let us allow ourselves to be witnesses of God's victory in this trying time against violence and injustice in our country.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.



25th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



Born in Bohemia, St. Wenceslaus stood for Christian values in the midst of the political intrigues which characterized 10th century Bohemia. His rule was marked by efforts toward unification within Bohemia, support of the Church, and peace making negotiations with Germany, a policy which caused him trouble with the anti Christian opposition. He was betrayed by his brother Boleslaus and was murdered in the year 935. He is the patron saint of the Czech state.

LORENZO RUIZ



26th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Numbers 11:25-29

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again. Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

Psalms 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14

℟: The precepts of the Lord are right; they gladden the heart.

The law of the Lord is perfect;
It revives the soul.
The decrees of the Lord are steadfast;
They give wisdom to the simple. *℟*

The fear of the Lord is pure,
Abiding forever.
The judgments of the Lord are true;
They are, all of them, just. *℟*

So in them your servant finds instruction;
Great reward is in their keeping.
But who can detect their own errors?
From hidden faults acquit me. *℟*

Form presumption restrain your servant;
May it not rule me.
Then shall I be blameless,
Clean from grave sin. *℟*

Second Reading: James 5:1-6

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

Gospel Acclamation:

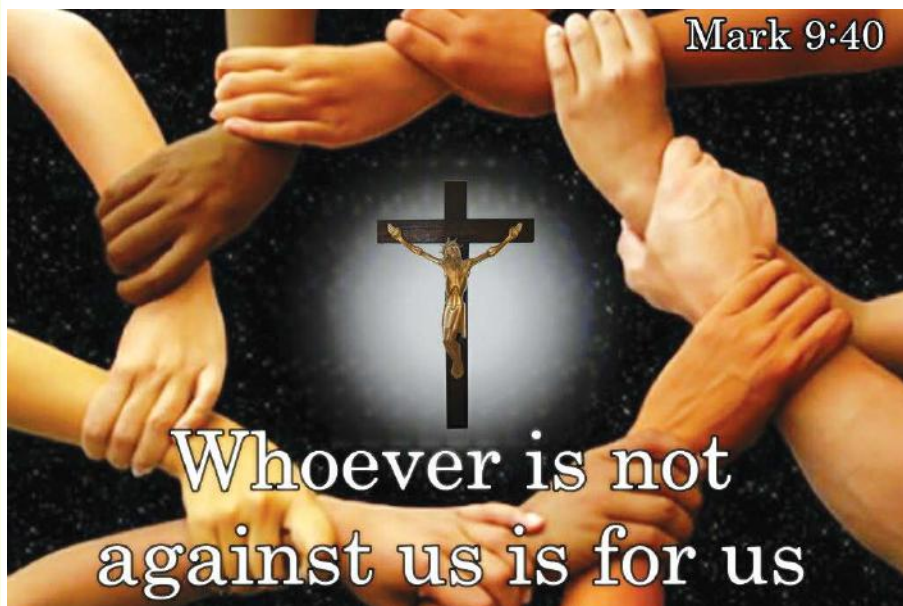
Alleluia, I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward

Sunday

to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.



® Jesus accepts everyone who was performing good deeds. Doing good things in His name will not go unrewarded. John observed that the unknown exorcist invoked Jesus' name and was successful in his healing efforts. This unknown healer recognized the power of Jesus' name, yet he was not a follower of Jesus. John's question might have been motivated by jealousy. We too find jealousy, especially in its destructive form of envy. We see an example of this, raising its ugly head in Moses' assistant and successor, Joshua. The apostles wanted to reserve God's love and healing power to themselves where they would be the "sole owners" and "authorized distributors"! In His reply, Jesus acknowledges that deeds of faith can precede the words of faith. He teaches the disciples that they should not be reluctant to share Jesus' healing powers with others. We also hear the strong warning of Jesus against giving scandal, especially to innocent children, vulnerable members of the community, and beginners in the Faith. Have faith in God and overcome the jealousy.

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

**30
SEP**

MONDAY

26th Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



JEROME

(c. 341 - 420)
HERMIT & DOCTOR

Born at Strido, Jerome is well known for his translation of most of the Bible into Vulgate (the Latin translation of the Bible), and his commentaries on the Gospels. He lived for a time as a hermit, became a priest, served as secretary to Pope Damasus I, and established a monastery at Bethlehem. He was known for his teachings on Christian moral life, especially to those living in cosmopolitan centers such as Rome.

First Reading: Job 1:6-22

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." The Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil." Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have you not put a fence around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, all that he has is in your power; only do not stretch out your hand against him!" So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. One day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in the eldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "....(please see appendix Page 508)

Psalms 17:1, 2-3, 6-7

℟ Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Speak, Lord your servant hears; you have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 9:46-50

An argument arose among them as to which one of them was the greatest. But Jesus, aware of their inner thoughts, took a little child and put it by his side, and said to them, "Whoever welcomes this child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me; for the least among all of you is the greatest." John answered, "Master, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us." But Jesus said to him, "Do not stop him; for whoever is not against you is for you!"

℞ What makes a person great? Is it power, or wealth, or skills, or beauty, or giftedness of one kind or another? This conversation occurred after Jesus told his disciples that He was going to be betrayed. They began arguing among themselves, as to which one among them should be seen as the greatest, the one who should lead when Jesus is gone. In the Kingdom of God, greatness is judged by one's capacity to serve others. Jesus, himself, is our model. He came not to be served, but to serve (Mt 20:28). Saint Paul states that Jesus emptied himself and took the form of a servant (Phil 2:7). God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). If we want to be filled with God's life and power, then we need to empty ourselves of everything which stands in the way — pride, selfseeking glory, vanity, etc. Will you be considered great in God's Kingdom? Are you ready to humble yourself and serve as Jesus did?

Reflection: Br. CHRISTY CROOS FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Job 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23

Job opened his mouth and cursed they day of his birth. And Job said: "Let the day perish on which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.' "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire? Why did the knees receive me? Or why the breasts, that I should nurse? For then I would have lain down and been quiet; I would have slept; then I would have been at rest, with kings and counsellors of the earth who rebuilt ruins for themselves, or with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver. Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child, as infants who never see the light? There the wicked cease from troubling, and there the weary are at rest. "Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures, who rejoice exceedingly and are glad when they find the grave? Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden, whom God has hedged in?"

Psalm 88:2-3, 4-5a, 5b-6, 7-8

℟ Let my prayer come into your presence, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Gospel: Luke 9:51-56

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. But other people did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.

Ⓜ Today's readings call us to true religion and a genuine conversion of heart. If we have a "humbled, contrite heart," then we can commit to change our whole selves through prayer and fasting. In our world today, the practice of religion is often regarded as part of our private lives, something to be kept to ourselves, which should not affect our dealings with others. However, our prayer and our religious observances should permeate our whole lives. This will mean addressing how the way we live affects all people. Two important phrases are significant in this text "When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up" indicating that Jesus is reaching the end. The second phrase "he set his face to go to Jerusalem" indicating that Jesus with unswerving determination is heading to his death on the cross at Calvary. The two volatile and volcanic "sons of thunder", James and John, want Jesus to come down from heaven and burn these Samaritans. Jesus views rejection differently. We must show compassion even in the face of hostility. How do I respond to rejection?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



26th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE



Therese of the Child Jesus is known for her simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life. She practiced the virtues of humility and a firm confidence in God. By her words and example she taught the novices. She offered her life for the salvation of souls and for the spreading of the faith in the missions. She was canonised on 17 May 1925 by Pope Pius XI.

2

OCT

WEDNESDAY

26th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

The feast of the Guardian Angels refers to the belief that each person has an angel who is available to shepherd their soul through life, and help bring them to God. This protection continues throughout our whole life and ceases only when our probation on earth ends, namely, at the moment of death. Our guardian angel accompanies our soul to purgatory or heaven, and becomes our coheir in the heavenly kingdom.

First Reading: Job 9:1-12, 14-16

Job answered his friends and said: "Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be in the right before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise in heart and mighty in strength—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger, who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea; who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; who does great things beyond searching out, and marvellous things beyond number. Behold, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. Behold, he snatches away; who can turn him back? Who will say to him, 'What are you doing?' How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him? Though I am in the right, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser. If I summoned him and he answered me, I would not believe that he was listening to my voice."

Psalm 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15

℟ Let my prayer come into your presence, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I count everything as loss, because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and be found in him.

Gospel: Matthew 18:1-5, 10

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. "Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven.

Ⓜ We do not know what finally happened to these three would be disciples. The first was prepared to follow Jesus but was not prepared to risk it. The second was invited by Jesus but was far too attached to his family and filial duties. The third wanted to follow Jesus but procrastinated. We cannot follow Jesus without risking because "the absence of risk is a sure sign of mediocrity". Neither can we follow Jesus if we are too attached to home and family, even if these attachments are legitimate, because no one can be the absolute center of our life. We cannot follow Jesus if we put off to tomorrow what has to be done today or put off to later what has to be done now. Grace delayed is grace lost.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Job 19:21-27

Job Said: "Have mercy on me, have mercy on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me? Why are you not satisfied with my flesh? "Oh that my words were written! Oh that they were inscribed in a book! ...*(please see appendix Page 509)*

Psalms 27:7-8, 8-9, 13-14

℟ I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12

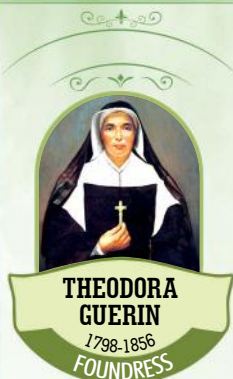
After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

℟ We are God's special creation. It is God who fashions us and who breathes life into us. And how do we respond to this great gift of life? When faced with the many choices we have to make, do we respond in the way of the first man and woman in Genesis, by being swayed by those around us, or do we try and follow Jesus' example and put our relationship with God first? It is difficult: our culture whispers in our ear that, never mind, we cannot survive without the latest mobile phone, television or car. At times we think the only way to get on is to be seen doing great things and sharing them on social media. What seems to come first is worshipping the gods of our world – be it celebrities, consumer goods or personal fitness regimes. When making decisions, rather than looking to the word of God, our reference point is sometimes "what's in it for me?". We need to pray along these lines for "more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of".

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



26th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



St Theodora Guerin was a French American saint. She is the foundress of the Sisters of Providence of the St Mary-of-the-works, Indiana, a congregation of Catholic nuns. Guerin is particularly known for her advancement of education in Indiana and elsewhere, founding numerous schools including St Mary – of – the – woods College in St Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

ADALGOTT OF CHUR

(d 1165)
Bishop Confessor

4

OCT

FRIDAY

26th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



FRANCIS OF ASSISI

(c.1181 - 1226)
STIGMATIST & FOUNDER

Born at Assisi, Francis gave up his inheritance and bound himself to God, embracing poverty and living the life of the gospels. He wore ragged old clothes, begged for food and preached peace. He is the founder of the Franciscans, Poor Clares and the Secular Franciscan Order. He was the one to receive the stigmata and arrange the first live Christmas nativity scene. He is the patron of animals, merchants, and ecology.

First Reading: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: "Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. "Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this. ...*(please see appendix Page 509)*

Psalm 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab

℟ Lead me, Lord, in the way everlasting.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Today, harden not your hearts but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 10:13-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke At that time: Jesus said , "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades. "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

Ⓜ Greater privileges only bring greater responsibilities and greater judgment. Korazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum in spite of their greater "light" rejected the Messiah. Similarly, our cities with a multiplicity of churches and Bibles in every home will have no excuse on Judgment Day if they do not repent and believe. Does this not make us more responsible to the Lord for all the good teaching we have had and the fact that we have a Bible to read. Think of those in other parts of the world who have never heard and those who do not even possess a Bible. Any person living in the United States can tune in to radio or television and hear the Gospel almost every day. Doesn't it stand to reason that there is going to be greater judgment for people in our country than in parts of the world where they haven't had this opportunity?When we fail to respond to God either by indifference, or worse still by opposition, we are bound to suffer disastrous consequences. It might be good to pause and ponder: What are the "miracles" Jesus has wrought in my life? Am I aware of them and have I responded with sincere conversion?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17

Job answered the LORD and said: "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes." And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first daughter Jemimah, and the name of the second Keziah, ...*(please see appendix Page 509)*

Psalm 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130

℟️ O Lord, let your face shine forth on your servant.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little children the mysteries of the kingdom.

Gospel: Luke 10:17-24

At that time: The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it!"

℟️ When the disciples were sent out, they went with some fear and trepidation. They were sent out as lambs among wolves, were to carry nothing, to meet with opposition, rejection and even death. But when they return, they come back with joy carrying their sheaves. The seventy-two rejoice at the success in their ministry. Jesus reminds them of a greater success: their names have been written in heaven, they have been saved. Jesus himself rejoice in the Spirit at the sovereignty of the Father who saves all through his son. Success comes from God. We must be faithful to the mission he has entrusted to us. Initially, what appears difficult, with God's grace is finally overcome. Indeed, when the Lord sends us on his mission, he always rewards us.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



26th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



St. Maria Faustina also known as the "Apostle of Divine Mercy" had a special devotion to Mary Immaculate, to the Sacrament, and to Reconciliation, which led to a deep mystical interior life. Her apparitions of Jesus Christ inspired the devotion to the Divine Mercy and she had an image painted of his Divine Mercy, with red and white rays issuing from his heart. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II on 30 April 2000.



27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

℟: May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
 And walk in his ways!
 By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
 You will be blessed and prosper. *℟*

Your wife like a fruitful vine
 In the heart of your house;
 Your children like shoots of the olive
 Around your table. *℟*

Indeed thus shall be blessed
 The man who fears the Lord.
 May the Lord bless you from Sion.
 May you see Jerusalem prosper
 All the days of your life! *℟*

May you see your children's children.
 On Israel, peace! *℟*

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

But we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Your word is truth, O Lord, sanctify us in the truth.

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They

Sunday

said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her." But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh! So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no one separate." Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.



Ⓡ When the Pharisees tested Jesus on this controversial issue of divorce, His response focused on the "one fleshness" of a married couple. In Jesus' time, a man could divorce his wife for the slightest offense. Jesus' asserts people have corrupted God's definition of marriage: that one man and one woman become unified by a covenant made before God. God who 'from the beginning' in his love created these two individuals now calls them together to commit without reserve to a lifelong union of hearts, so that they are no longer two, but one flesh. The solution to marriage difficulties is not desertion, but forgiveness and a rekindling of love. Technically speaking, Jesus implies that he disapproves of divorce. More plainly, he says that divorce contravenes God's design as expressed in Genesis 1-2. Later, the disciples privately asked Jesus to explain His answer. As was His custom, once He was alone with the disciples, Jesus underscored the salient part of His teaching. He clearly stated that marriage is to be a permanent bond between one man and one woman. To break it off and marry another is adultery. Jesus affirmed (and still affirms) the permanence of the marriage bond. But He also acknowledged that because of the depravity of the human heart, the marriage bond might be severed under certain circumstances. What are those circumstances? That requires us to turn to the "exception clause". Children are the fruits of marriage. Living on the edge of society, children had no social status and no legal rights. Therefore, welcoming those who had no honour, who were powerless, was necessary to enter the kingdom of God. God is experienced not in power but in weakness.



27th Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

MEMORIAL



OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

This feast was instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto in the year 1570, a favor due to the recitation of the Rosary. This victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam.

The origin of the Rosary itself dates to a revelation in a vision by Our Lady herself to St. Dominic Guzman.

First Reading: Galatians 1:6-12 ... (please see appendix Page 509)

Psalm 111:1-2, 7-9, 10

✠ He keeps his covenant ever in mind.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider the wonders of your law.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher" he said, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise.'"

℟ The Good Samaritan is one of Jesus' most famous parables. It's so famous that secular culture still gives the name Good Samaritan to someone who goes out of their way to do a selfless good deed. It also provides a helpful illustration of the moral life, what the Catechism calls life in Christ. To live a fulfilling life in Christ, we need to choose good things for the right reasons and under the right circumstances. Begrudgingly doing good for someone else isn't nearly as fulfilling or good as doing it out of love. Doing good for someone else to get praise and attention also isn't as fulfilling or good as doing it out of love. T.S. Elliot famously wrote, "The last act is the greatest treason. To do the right deed for the wrong reason." If the Good Samaritan helped the man in the story just so that people would think he was a nice guy, the story would not be as compelling. It is his free and upright intention that infuses this story with its power to inspire. The challenge for us is to do good for the right reason. Do we go to Mass, complete our Faith Formation lessons, do the laundry and the dishes, because we feel we have to? Or we do those things as acts of love toward God and our family? A good deed done is a good thing indeed, but a good deed done for the right reason is morally excellent.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Galatians 1:13-24

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Psalm 139:1-3, 13-14, 14-15

℟ Lead me, Lord, in the path of life eternal.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Make me grasp the way of your precepts, and I will muse on your wonders.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

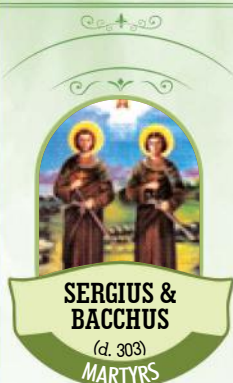
Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

R When it comes to the Lord, we shouldn't worry too much about preparing anything for Him. The preparation needed is just your human presence and spiritual presence because in that way the Lord is already satisfied with you. You don't have to prepare greatly or it doesn't have to be grand for the coming of the Lord because He is simple and He'd already be happy and contented with yourself. You only have to prioritize or focus on what is important or which is better than anything else and that is the Lord. He will be the one to lessen our worries. That's why we shouldn't occupy ourselves in anything else other than the Lord because He always comes first for us. He isn't a lavish type of person that needs to be pampered with grand preparations upon His arrival. Instead He insists in being just contented in what He has, that is us. What are our worries in life? The greatest sin of our world is not its lewdness but its busyness. In a fast forward culture, we fail to understand that there is more to life than merely increasing its speed.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



27th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



Sergius and Bacchus were officers in the Roman army on the Syrian frontier. They were supposedly favorites of the Roman emperor Maximian, whose wrath they incurred by refusing to sacrifice to the pagan god Jupiter because they were Christians. Maximian demoted Sergius and Bacchus, ordering them to be costumed in women's dress and marched through the streets.

They were then severely punished, with Bacchus dying during torture, and Sergius eventually beheaded.



27th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

LASALLIAN SAINT



ST. JAIME HILARIO BARBAL
(1898-1937)
LA SALLE BROTHER

St. Jaime Hilario was declared a saint in 1999. Born Manuel Barbal Cosan 101 years earlier, he grew up in northern Spain. He joined the Brothers when he was 19 and then taught for 16 years. Bro. Jaime had hearing difficulties, so he left the classroom to work as a gardener at the young Brothers'; training center, known as "A House of Formation". A civil war broke out in Spain in the 1930s. The communist party that took control of the state blamed the Catholic Church for many of Spain's troubles. They arrested and killed church leaders. Bro. Jaime was among those to suffer this fate in 1937. He refused to deny his religion, saying to the soldiers ordered to shoot him, "To die for Christ, my young friends, is to live." When two volleys failed to meet their mark, the soldiers dropped their rifles and fled in panic. The frustrated commander then fired five shots at close range and killed Bro. Jaime.

First Reading: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14

Brethren: After fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along with me. I went up because of a revelation and set before them (though privately before those who seemed influential) the gospel that I proclaim among the Gentiles, in order to make sure I was not running or had not run in vain. On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),(please see appendix Page 510)

Psalm 117:1, 2

R *Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, You have received the spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

Gospel: Luke 11:1-4

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

LASALLIAN SAINT



8 SAINLY MARTYRS OF TURON
1934
LA SALLE BROTHER

The Sainly Martyrs of Turon were canonized in 1999. The Spanish Civil War of the 1930s was both political and religious. Many in political power blamed the troubles of the country becoming more modern on the persuasion of religion. They also feared the influence religious leaders had on young people. Therefore, those with military might used it against priests, nuns, and brothers. It was an October day in 1934. In Turón, in northwest Spain, the Brothers defied the ban on teaching religion. They openly escorted their students to Sunday Mass. In an attempt to eliminate the religious zeal of the Brothers, the army arrested them and their priest chaplain, and then shot them all. Brother Cirilo, the Director, was 46 years old and Brother Marciano, the cook, was 39. Brother Julián was 32. The other five brothers were in their twenties. Aniceto, the youngest Brother, was just 22.

R The scripture contains the first part of 'The Lord's Prayer' that we are all familiar with. In our lives, there are some days when we feel over whelmed and happy, and there are some where we feel like God isn't there anymore. Prayer is central to every situation. We should remember God when he blessed us with a wonderful day, not only when we feel like there is no other choice. Prayer is the acknowledgement that our need is not partial; it is total. When we pray, we strengthen our relationship with the Lord. We can be open when it comes to talking to Him, and as we ask for forgiveness we should also learn to forgive those who did us wrong. I believe that what's being said in this Gospel is not really the standard but more of a guide, so we know that we can be fully transparent when we confess to God. What is your prayer intention today?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Galatians 3:1-5

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by words of the law or by hearing with faith? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith.

Luke 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75

Rx Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited his people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Gospel: Luke 11:5-13

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him;’ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything?’ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

R The Gospel states that nothing is impossible if someone is persistent enough to achieve it. The message is as simple, keep trying, keep persisting and praying until you get the desired result you ask for. We should keep on praying to God, because He never gets tired of hearing our thanksgiving and requests. Even though Jesus doesn't always give us what we want, He nevertheless gives us what we truly need and what is really destined for us. There are times when we think that our prayer remains unanswered but we should not lose hope and give up. We should continue praying even though God may not give it today. At the appropriate time God always give us what we deserve. God answers persistent prayer, so never ever give up and keep on believing. Jesus said that God answers prayers when we seek and call upon His mercy. Then, should we just pray when we are in dire need?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



27th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



FRANCIS BORGIA
(1510 - 1572)
CONFESSOR

Born in Gandia, St. Francis was elected as the 4th Duke in 1543. After the death of his wife, he entered the Society of Jesus with the holy resolve of leading a hidden life and of closing the door forever to all earthly honors. As the Superior General, he founded the Collegium Romanum (Gregorian University), advised kings and popes, and closely supervised all the affairs of the rapidly expanding order.

11 OCT

FRIDAY

27th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



JOHN XXIII

(1881 - 1963)
POPE

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli also known as Pope John XXIII was Pope from 1958 to his death in 1963. He established the Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law and summoned the Second Vatican Council. He was noted for his humble simplicity, profound goodness, and deep life of prayer. His Encyclicals *Pacem in terris* and *Mater et Magistra* are well noted for social justice. He was canonized by Pope Francis on April 27, 2014.

First Reading: Galatians 3:7-14

Brethren: Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, ...*(please see appendix Page 510)*

Psalm 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6

℟ *The Lord keeps his covenant ever in mind.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Now will the ruler of this world be cast out, says the Lord; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

Gospel: Luke 11:15-26

At that time: [What Jesus had cast out a demon,] some of the people said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. when a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his spoil. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. "when the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.

℟ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters." We always remember Jesus in times of despair. We ask him things that our hearts want. Yet sometimes when our requests are answered and we're happy in our lives, we tend to forget to thank him. We're sinners, ignorant individuals, yet there he is, willing to open his arms to us if we ask for forgiveness. Despite everything Jesus never abandons us. Lord God, we have troubles and fears. We have doubts and downfalls. Cast them away Lord God. Help us to engage with you and be good followers. We know we don't deserve your love and forgiveness because we're nothing. We're just no-bodies. Yet, your love for us makes us special.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Galatians 3:22-29

Brethren: The Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

Psalms 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

℟ *The Lord remembers his covenant forever.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.

Gospel: Luke 11:27-28

At that time: As Jesus said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

℟ The Gospel shows that actions always speak louder than words. There are so many cases where we applaud God's words, but we do not obey them. We simply hear them, give praise, and ignore them, or in worse case situations we disobey. God tells us that it is better to 'do' than 'say'. An example of this kind of behaviour can be seen today, where most people praise acts of generosity. This is especially prevalent in social media. People will say kind words about the good Samaritan, but will not do as he does. The Gospel shows us that we should not only praise the Good Samaritan, but also follow his lead. Mary's blessedness went well beyond merely her physical relationship with Jesus. Her bond with Jesus was rooted in her openness to the word of God. She heard the word of God and pondered it in her heart. "Mary heard God's word and kept it, and so she is blessed. She kept God's truth in her mind, a nobler thing than carrying his body in her womb.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

12
OCT

SATURDAY

27th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



WILFRID

(c. 634 - 705)
BISHOP

Born a Northumbrian noble, Wilfrid was instrumental in bringing Roman liturgical practice and rules to the region, working influentially at the Synod of Whitby in 664. During his tenure he worked to enforce Roman ritual, founded Benedictine monasteries, and rebuilt the minster of York, all while living a simply and holy life himself. He was a great builder, a lover of learning, and a musician. He is the patron saint of Ripon, England



28th *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

Therefore, I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called on God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepters and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem, because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her. I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her rather than light, because her radiance never ceases. All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands uncounted wealth.

Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

℟️ Fill us with your merciful love that we shall exult.

Then teach us to number our days,
That we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants. *℟️*

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
We shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy for the days of our affliction,
For the years when we looked upon evil. *℟️*

Let your deed be seen by your servants,
And your glorious power by their children.
Let the favour of the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands. *℟️*

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Mark 10:17-30

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your

Sunday

father and mother?" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.



℞ We read that the rich man "went away sad, for he had many possessions." Jesus lamented, "how hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God." He said this, not because wealth is a sin, but because it's so easy for those with wealth to rely on themselves rather than trust in God. We don't know what happened to the young man in Mark's Gospel after his encounter with Jesus. Change is never easy, but Jesus tells us that with God anything is possible. I like to think that the rich man went home and thought about what Jesus asked him to do. Even though he couldn't fully commit that day, perhaps he was able to take a first step by letting go of one possession, and then another and another. What is the first step that we can make today that will move us toward trusting God completely and giving of our whole self? What can we do today so that we don't walk away feeling sad? We want to give Jesus just what we want to, but not what He demands. We want to give Jesus part of our life but not our whole life! Attachment robs us of our freedom.

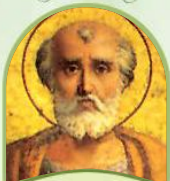
Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

14 OCT

MONDAY

28th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN / RED

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



CALLISTUS I

(d. 222)
POPE & MARTYR

Pope Callistus I, was the bishop of Rome from c. 218 to c. 222. As a pope he regulated the discipline of the sacrament of penance, ruling that penitent sinners were welcome in church. He defended the faith against the Adoptionist and Modalist heresies. Under the reign of Alexander Severus, he was thrown into prison, and then was tortured by starvation in prison and scourged daily. He is the patron saint of Cemetery workers.

First Reading: Galatians 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5: 1

For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. One, the child of the slave, was born according to the flesh; the other, the child of the free woman, was born through the promise. Now this is an allegory; these women are two covenants. One woman, in fact, is Hagar, from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery. But the other woman corresponds to the Jerusalem above; she is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, 'Rejoice, you childless one, you who bear no children, burst into song and shout, you who endure no birth pangs; for the children of the desolate woman are more numerous than the children of the one who is married.' So then, friends, we are children, not of the slave but of the free woman. For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Psalm 113:1-4, 5, 6-7

℟ *May the name of the Lord be blessed for evermore.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your decrees.

Gospel Luke 11:29-32

When the crowds were increasing, he began to say, "This generation is an evil generation; it asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah. For just as Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be to this generation. The queen of the South will rise at the judgment with the people of this generation and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here! The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here!

℟ The Gospel for today is about signs, faith and forgiveness. It shows us how frequently we ask God for proof. At times we are even arrogant enough to demand proof of his existence and his love. This Gospel tells us, that firstly, one must always have faith in God and his plan even when one does not understand all that happens around him. Secondly if a person desires proof all he must do is look around and surely, he shall find it. Finally, despite our arrogance and demands, if we repent God shall always forgive. As Lasallians we must respect persons. This means that one must hold no resentment or prejudices against another person. Regardless of a person's race, religion or age, financial or social status, they should be treated with love and kindness. All people are made in the image and likeness of God and so they all possess a God given dignity. Any negative act committed against one of our brothers and sisters is a negative act committed against God.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Galatians 5:1-6

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Listen! I, Paul, am telling you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. Once again I testify to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obliged to obey the entire law. You who want to be justified by the law have cut yourselves off from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

Psalms 119:41, 43-45, 47-48

Rx Lord, Let your love come upon me.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.

Gospel: Luke 11:37-41

While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner. Then the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you."

R In Jesus' time, observing the law was strictly followed as the Pharisees were the religious leaders who drew up the rules. Jesus did not take the rules literally, but instead, observed the underlying meaning of the tradition. In this reading he refers to the spirituality and the inner goodness of the person. No matter how organized or clean the outside is, the inner person and his good acts are all that matters. The last statement of Jesus also tells us to be charitable and to always render our service to our fellow neighbors when they are needed most. What is important? Is it the intention or the outcome? Why? We humans tend to regard the exterior but God scrutinizes the heart. It is there that we meet God. Giving alms is the best antidote against greed.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

**15
OCT**

TUESDAY

28th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

OPTIONAL



TERESA OF AVILA

(1515 - 1582)
VIRGIN & DOCTOR

Born at Avila, Teresa joined the Carmelite Order and made great progress in the way of perfection and enjoyed mystic revelations. With the help of St. John of the Cross she reformed most of the Carmelite convents and founded new ones. Her famous writings *The Interior Castle* and *The Way of Perfection* shows the depth of her spiritual doctrine and her own experiences. She is called *doctrinxmystica* or *doctor of mystical theology*.

16 OCT

WEDNESDAY

28th Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**MARGARET MARY
ALACOQUE**

(1647 - 1690)

APOSTLE OF SACRED HEART

Born in France, she joined the Visitation Sisters where she led a life of the way of perfection and was granted mystical revelations especially concerning the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She communicated Our Lord's wish that the faithful receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month and observe the Feast of the Sacred Heart on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi. She was canonised on 13 May 1920 by Pope Benedict XV.

First Reading: Galatians 5:18-25

But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Psalm 1:1-4, 6

℟ *Any one who follows you, O Lord, will have the light of life.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.

Gospel: Luke 11:42-46

“But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe the mint and rue and herbs of all kinds, and neglect justice and the love of God; it is these you ought to have practiced, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! For you love to have the seat of honor in the synagogues and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces. Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without realizing it!” One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, when you say these things, you insult us too.” And he said, “Woe also to you lawyers! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not lift a finger to ease them.

℟ “You impose on people burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves do not lift one finger to touch them”. This Gospel shows how the Pharisees believed only in themselves and they practiced hypocrisy instead of love, mercy and compassion. Little did they know that God wanted them to be fair to other people and love Him. The Pharisees believed that they were the holy ones. They also claimed that they should be given respect by the other people. That's why they wanted to have the best seats in the synagogue. The Pharisees were experts in the law and its implementation. However they themselves didn't practice what they preached. How much of what we preach is in vain or not practiced? “the spirit of faith is a spirit that allows one to trust in God loving presence and providence, when acting out God's will.” This means that we should always love God and trust Him with all our heart. Our life is a gift from God that shouldn't be taken for granted, we should cherish it, and always seek guidance from the Lord. Seeking guidance is always done in our prayer moments.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 1:1, 3-10

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6

✠ *The Lord has made known his salvation.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! O praise the Lord, Jerusalem ! He sends out his word to the earth.

Gospel: Luke 11:47-54

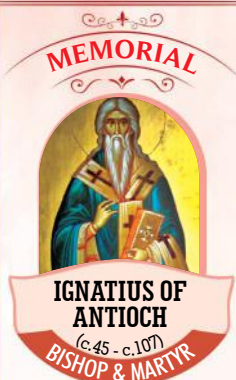
Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your ancestors killed. So you are witnesses and approve of the deeds of your ancestors; for they killed them, and you build their tombs. Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' so that this generation may be charged with the blood of all the prophets shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary, Yes, I tell you, it will be charged against this generation. Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge; you did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.' When he went outside, the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile toward him and to cross examine him about many things, lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

✠ Today's Gospel talks about the conflict between Jesus and the other religious authorities during that time. They are criticizing Jesus. For me, today's Gospel is about not about being blind to wrong doings but doing what is right at all times. We need to teach our fellow men that God is always fair, and that our every action will always have corresponding consequences. I pray that we should always have God in our mind especially in justice related matters.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



28th Week in Ordinary Time
RED



St. Ignatius was the successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Antioch. On his way to Rome, he wrote seven magnificent letters to various churches concerning the Person of Christ, his love for Christ, his desire for martyrdom and on the constitution of the Church and Christian life. He is the first writer to use the term Catholic Church. He was condemned to death by wild beasts during the Emperor Trajan's persecution.

18 OCT

FRIDAY

28th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED



FEAST



LUKE

(d. c.74)

EVANGELIST

Luke, the inspired author of the third Gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles, was a native of Antioch in Syria and a physician. He accompanied St. Paul on a considerable part of his missionary journey. Luke's Gospel emphasizes the fact that Christ is the salvation of all human, especially of the repentant sinner and of the lowly. Legend says that he painted the Blessed Virgin's portrait. He is the patron saint of artists.

First Reading: 2 Timothy 4:10-17b

For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it.

Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 17-18

✠ Your saints, O Lord, make known the glory of your reign.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 10:1-9

After this the Lord appointed seventy - two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

✠ The Gospel tells us that we should be thankful for what we have and know what we deserve. We need to extend the widest range of help and spread the kindness and likeness of the Lord. This kindness does not know how to complain nor does it show negative actions towards what is being given to you. We need to learn to treat everything as a blessing. How do you know that you have enough? "...the spirit of faith is a spirit that allows one to trust in God's loving presence and providence when acting God's will." It means to have faith. It also means trusting God's will. God is present to those who are following and recognizing His will. Even in very difficult moments in our lives, we must learn how to trust, to trust that every pain will end. Everything will be made perfect.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Psalms 8:2-3a, 4-7

R You gave your son power over the works of your hand.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed these things to children.

Gospel: Luke 12:8-12

“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God; but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God. And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, do not worry about how you are to defend yourselves or what you are to say; for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say.”

R As Christians, we slowly discover that we are “imperfect beings”. We learn, that most of the time, we are distorted by the demands of daily life and that we quickly become weak and cry out for help. But we must be reminded that “God’s processes always require wrecking your[our] plans before your[our] plans wreck you[us].” Faith is something that will exceptionally help us get through all those demands for we get to go places only by God’s grace; that is why we must never be ashamed of proclaiming God and His plan of salvation, we must never deny the existence of Jesus in our hearts. He lives within us and we all know that. How do we make God known?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



28th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



PAUL OF THE CROSS
(1694 - 1775)
CONFESSOR & FOUNDER

Born in Ovada, St. Paul was known as one of the most popular preachers of his day, both for his words and for his generous acts of mercy. He founded the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ (Passionists), whose members combined devotion to Christ’s passion with preaching to the poor, and rigorous penances. He often spent many hours in prayer and adoration and carried with him a large wooden crucifix in honor of our Lord’s Passion.



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Psalms 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22

*R. **May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.***

For the word of the Lord is faithful,
And all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right,
And his merciful love fills the earth. *R.*

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
Who hope in his merciful love,
To rescue their souls from death,
To keep them alive in famine. *R.*

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
He is our help and our shield.
May your merciful love be upon us,
As we hope in you, O Lord. *R.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to

Sunday

them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."



Ⓜ Pride is something that we all struggle with. It was pride that caused the angel Lucifer to rebel against God and be kicked out of heaven and become the Devil. All because of pride, Adam and Eve also wanted to become God like, so they disobeyed Him and took the fruit they were commanded not to eat. Pride causes us to sin in so many ways each day. We think we deserve the best piece of cake or the biggest slice of pizza. We think we should get the best grade. We think we're better at our job than other employees. We want people to notice how well dressed we are, how funny or how wise we are. Pride turns us inward, the result being, we don't see the needs of the people around us and thus we don't serve them. Pride is a major issue in all of our lives and we are called to put pride aside if Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord. Instead of struggling with pride we are called to live with humility, while serving others and putting their needs before our own. Praise God that our Savior Jesus Christ is our perfect example of humility and service!

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

21 OCT

MONDAY

29th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



HILARION THE GREAT
(c. 291 - c.371)
ABBOT

Hilarion was an anchorite who spent most of his life in the desert according to the example of Anthony the Great.

He is considered by some to be the founder of Palestinian monasticism. Most of his time was spent in reading and in meditating upon holy Scripture. He lived a life of hardship and simplicity in the desert. He introduced the eremitical life and founded several monasteries in Palestine.

First Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,(please see appendix Page 510)

Psalm 100:1, 2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5

℟ *He made us, we belong to him*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God!"

℟ God's words are actually the food of our soul. The Gospel is informative and teaches us a lot. It points out how we can get caught up in what we own and what other people have. It's all about greed and how possessions dominate and take us over. If we could only remember that wealth, honour and pride are the three obstacles to our faith. We are all equal in the eyes of God, and what we have is a gift, given to us not only for the good of ourselves but for the benefit of the world, the community and neighborhood. Wealth is just a temporary thing that will have little importance on judgement day. We should always remember that in this world it is not bad to be rich, but we should also be rich in faith, love and hope as these things can help us to nourish our faith and will always lead us closer to God. What is your real treasure in life?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 2:12-22

Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Psalm 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14

Rx The Lord speaks of peace for his people.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia Your words, Lord, are spirit and life. You have the words of eternal life.

Gospel: Luke 12:35-38

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. “If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves”

R The Gospel reading today calls on us to be alert to the Lord’s coming and his presence. It is a call to be faithful and to be attentive to the Lord, whenever the Lord comes and knocks. We think of the Lord coming at the end of our lives, but there is a sense in which the Lord comes and knocks on the door of our lives every day. Jesus is telling us that if we are faithful to him, if we are attentive to the various ways that he comes and knocks on the door of our lives, he will serve us in ways that will amaze us. In giving to the Lord, we will receive from him in great abundance.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



29th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



JOHN PAUL II

(1920 - 2005)
POPE

Karol Józef Wojtyła also known as Pope John Paul II was the Pope from 1978 to 2005. He was influential in ending Communist rule in all of Europe. He significantly improved the Catholic Church’s relations with Judaism, Islam, and the Eastern Orthodox Church. He upheld the Church’s teachings on matters such as right to life, artificial contraception, the ordination of women, and a celibate clergy. He was canonised on 27 April 2014 by Pope Francis.

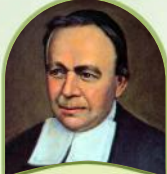
**23
OCT**

WEDNESDAY

29th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

LASALLIAN BLESSED



**BL. ARNOLD
RÈCHE**

(1838-1890)

LA SALLE BROTHER

Brother Arnold Rèche was born in 1838 and beatified in 1987. He grew up in a poor family in France, working as a stableboy, coachman, and construction worker. He was drawn to the De La Salle Brothers because of his religious spirit. He joined them in 1862 when he was 34. He learned math, science, agriculture and religion while teaching at a boarding school in Rheims, the town in which the founder of the Brothers, St. John Baptist de La Salle, grew up. When France was at war in the 1870s, he cared for the wounded from both sides. The Brothers asked him to train their new members, and many held him in great esteem. He had the amazing ability to sense what others were thinking. The Brothers remembered him saying often that the Holy Spirit of God “strengthens a person’s heart.” When he died in Rheims in 1890, he had a reputation for holiness.

First Reading: Ephesians 3:2-12

For surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs,*(please see appendix Page 510)*

Isaiah 12:2-6

℟ with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life.

Gospel: Luke 12:39-48

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?” And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions. But if that slave says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming, and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the maser of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what this master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating. From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

℟ In today’s Gospel, Jesus simply tells us that things come in the most unexpected ways. We may see things come in most unexpected ways because God knows what we are going through. It’s a reminder for us to open our hearts and minds and remember that God knows when we are happy and when we are struggling. He is there every day and is cognisant of everything we feel and do. Unknown to us He makes sure we get through each day, but we must remember that He is with us not just in our happy and joyful moments but also in the lowest points in our lives. Are you convinced that God is really present every day in your life? How?

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19

✠ The Lord fills the earth with his love.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord I know them and they follow me.

Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law’

✠ Jesus can bring division among people - those with him and against him. He can bring division also inside each of us. When prophet’s issue challenges they always disturb the peace. It is the same with Jesus. However the division is not created by the prophets or Jesus, it is a natural outcome of listeners making different decisions about whether to follow Jesus or not. Just so, Jesus declared “Whoever is not with me is against me” (Luke 11:23). Prayer is a time to look at the different desires and actions of our lives. In prayer we ask the grace to ‘know him more, love him more and serve him more faithfully in our lives’. Jesus came to gather together the scattered children of Israel. He prayed that we may all be one just as he and the Father are one. At his birth, the angels announced peace to all on earth. Yet in today’s reading Jesus seems to say that he has come not to give peace on earth but division, whereby families would be divided and intimate blood ties between parents, children and relatives would be rent asunder. This can and does happen. There are conflicts between family members but the only way to resolve them is to imitate the life of Jesus and opt clearly for Him. Historically, St. Francis of Assisi stripped himself naked in public, renouncing his inheritance, because of the great call from Jesus asking him to build his church!

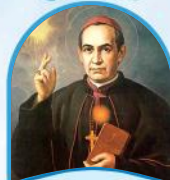
Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

**24
OCT**

THURSDAY

29th Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**ANTHONY MARY
CLARET**

(1807 - 1870)
BISHOP, CONFESSOR & FOUNDER

Born in Sallent, St. Anthony spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia. He founded the congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Claretians). He established the *Libreria Religiosa*, whose purpose was to provide medals, rosaries, and other religious items. He successfully reformed the clergy and the laity and spread devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He was canonised on May 7, 1950 by Pope Pius XII.

25
OCT

FRIDAY

29th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



**CRISPIN &
CRISPINIAN**

(d. 286)
MARTYRS

Crispin and Crispinian were brothers who preached Christianity to the Gaul by day and made shoes by night. They earned enough by their trade to support themselves and also to aid the poor. They refused to yield to the persecutors of the Faith who wanted Crispin and Crispinian to apostatize. They were both beheaded in Rome. They are the patron saints of cobblers, curriers, tanners, and leather workers.

First Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Psalm 24:1-6

℟ *These are the people who seek your face, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

Gospel: Luke 12:54-59

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time? 'And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? Thus, when you go with your accuser before a magistrate, on the way make an effort to settle the case, or you may be dragged before the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer throw you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.'

℟ Today Jesus says: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you know that it is likely that rain soon will fall." At a young age, we all learn to be attentive and alert to the weather. One of the first things I do in the morning when I get up is to look out the window to see what the weather is. Then as I get dressed, I listen to the radio for the weather forecast. The forecast tells me how to dress appropriately for the day. However, Jesus is upset and frustrated with the crowds who have gathered to listen to him preach. Jesus simply wants us to be attentive to the many signs in our lives. Some of the signs we receive are from God. Other signs or clues may come from the people in our lives, be they family, friends or strangers. Then there are the signs we can glean from all the turmoil and pain in our lives and in our world. Though many of these signs are violent, painful and tragic, there also is great beauty, love and self-giving in the midst of all the pain and tragedy.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 4:7-16

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children,(please see appendix Page 511)

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

℟ I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

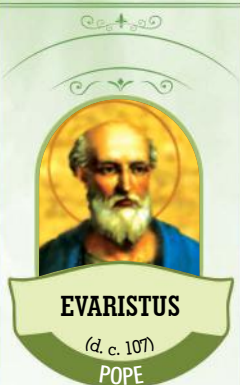
At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did!" Then he told this parable "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See, here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'

℞ Imagine that we are the fig tree. From a seed, we have grown up tall and proud. We were expected to bear fruit because that is the purpose of the one who planted us. If not, we will just be cut down for good. Now the fruit-bearing part is like repentance for our sins. If we don't repent for our sins, God will "cut us down". We know we are sinners and God is here for us. What would you do if you got a second chance in your life? To understand this, we need to know our purpose in this world and seek for His guidance. Here, we find that we share in the on-going creative mission of God in the world. We are called to be instruments of God's salvation. We participate in the programs that save the lost, the last and the least in the society.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



29th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



Pope Evaristus was the bishop of Rome from c. 99 to his death c. 107. It is said that he divided the city of Rome into 25 parishes or titles, each under its own Presbyter. He also decreed that whenever the Pope preached he was to be surrounded by seven Deacons. He regulated the formal ceremonies for the consecration of the churches, which had been handed down from the Apostles.



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter II

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labour, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Psalms 126:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6

Rx What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
We thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
On our tongues, songs of joy. *Rx*

Then the nations themselves said, "what great deeds
The Lord worked for them!"
What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad. *Rx*

Bring back our exiles, O Lord, As streams in the south.
Those who are sowing in tears
Will sing when they reap. *Rx*

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
Bearing seed for the sowing;
They come back, they come back with a song,
Bearing their sheaves. *Rx*

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

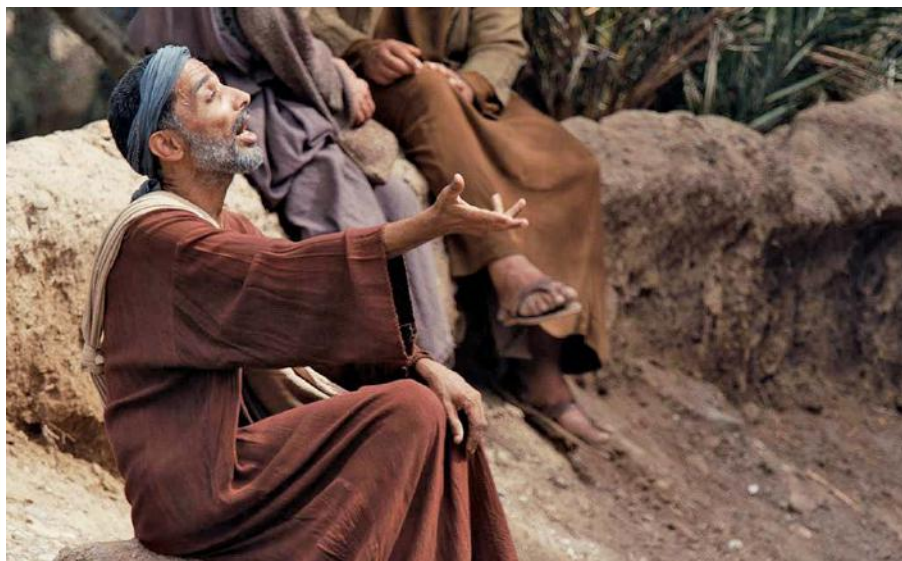
Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who received him, he gave power to become children of God.

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

As Jesus and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.



✠ A relationship with Jesus allows us to have the courage to believe, in times of need and in times of fulfillment. Bartimaeus is a blind man seeking to be able to see again. He confides in Jesus to make that happen. He shows his faith by stepping up and calling for Jesus to heal him. He shows courage in being able to approach and ask for something so grand. He shows that he believes in a higher power and he trusts that he will be taken care of. It is a perfect example of why I believe in my faith. I try to attend Mass and pray as much as I can, but, sometimes, life just happens and you don't always have the time. That's when believing strongly in your faith comes into play. I know that I may not always be as dedicated as I want to be, but at least I know that I believe in something bigger than all of us and that I have something and someone to follow.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

28
OCT

MONDAY

30th Week in
Ordinary Time

RED

FEAST



SIMON & JUDE

(1st century)
APOSTLE & MARTYRS

Simon was one of the apostle of Jesus who was called Zealot because of his zeal for the Jewish law. He is thought to have preached in Egypt. He was supposedly martyred by being cut in half with a saw.

St. Jude, known as Thaddaeus was the one who asked Jesus at the Last Supper why He would not manifest Himself to the whole world after His resurrection. Legend claims that He was beaten to death with a club.

First Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5

℟ *Their span goes forth through all the earth.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord, The glorious company of the apostles praise you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 6:12-16

Now during those days he went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, and Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

℟ Are you choosing carefully and without judgement the kind of people that you will allow to be part of your life? The Gospel is all about how God chooses his disciples and apostles to be part of his journey. Those people need not be wealthy or be high powered professionals but capable of doing God's assignments with extraordinary work. The Gospel tells me that God chooses us to do these things because he knows that we can do them. It is like when we choose someone to be part of our lives, we choose them because we know that they will help us, especially with those things that we think that we could never do. I pray that God will give us strength, wisdom and guidance in everything we do.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 5:21-33

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Psalm 128:1-2, 2-3, 4-5

℟. O blessed are those who fear the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, sanctify us in the truth.

Gospel: Luke 13:18-21

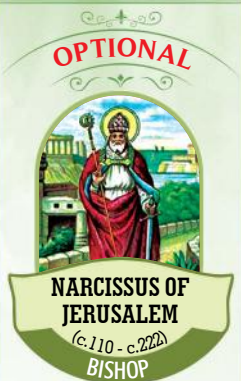
He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what should I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

℞ Perhaps today Jesus is reminding us that we are called to be "leaven" in today's world. As Christians, we are called to share the love of Jesus with every person we meet. There are a multitude of ways to be leaven in our world. It may just be by sharing a smile, offering to help someone with their grocery bags, being a "listening ear" for a friend or family member who is struggling, or laughing with a friend who is struggling. Today Jesus is telling us that the Kingdom of God is in our midst! From this day, will we build up the Kingdom of God or will we ignore it? The question is: will we be "leaven" in our corner of the world? Only we can decide!

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



30th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



Narcissus was renowned for his virtues and miracles. He proposed the adoption of the Roman custom of celebrating Easter on a Sunday, and not with the Jewish Passover. When he was falsely accused of allegations, he forgave his accusers, but left Jerusalem and lived in seclusion for several years. He was known for his constant prayer and his exhortations to the faithful for unity and peace to the churches outside his jurisdiction.

**30
OCT**

WEDNESDAY

30th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



GERARD MAJELLA
(1726 - 1755)
CONFESSOR

Gerard was a Redemptorist lay brother who became known for his extraordinary supernatural gifts of bilocation, prophecy, ecstasies, visions, and infused knowledge. He was most successful in converting sinners, and was widely known for his sanctity and charity. He was canonised on December 11, 1904 by Pope Pius X. He is the patron saint of mothers, pregnant women, unborn children, the prolific movement, and lay brothers.

**SATURNINUS
OF CAGLIARI**

First Reading: Ephesians 6:1-9

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honour your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "That it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Father, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.(please see appendix Page 511)

Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14

℟ *The Lord is faithful in all his words.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us.' Then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

℟ We know quite well what Jesus wants of us. We have been taught time and time again and pretty much know what it means to be good. We have listened to Jesus' teaching, heard the ten commandments and so on. But when faced with temptation and the choice between doing good and sin, how often do we actually have the courage and the strength to do what is right. How often when faced with problems in life do we take the easy way out. Look exactly at what Jesus is telling us is required. He tells us it is better to be broken, bruised, nailed, torn, blinded...than come out with every part of our body intact at the cost of having sinned. Salvation is in fact expensive.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, brothers, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, *...(please see appendix Page 511)*

Psalm 144:1, 2, 9-10

℟. Blest be the Lord, my rock.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord; peace on earth and glory in the highest.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

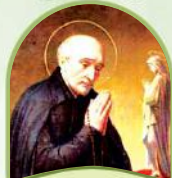
At that time: Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

℞ The Gospel is all about Jesus' courage and faith. He stood firm by His promise of protecting Jerusalem, and nothing could make Him do otherwise. Jesus is true to His words and promises. As far as we are concerned, we must adhere to the goal of our duties, in such a way, that our deeds and intentions should always be for the good of the majority. Nothing should stop us from doing what's best and right. We pray for Jesus' guidance in leading us down the path of faith where fear is not anywhere within us.

Reflection: Br. JOSEPH JEYAKANTHAN FSC, Sri Lanka.



30th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



ALPHONSUS RODRIGUEZ
(1532 - 1617)
RELIGIOUS BROTHER

St. Alphonsus Rodríguez was a Jesuitlay brother who labored as a hall porter for twenty-four years. Obedience and penance were the hallmarks of his life, as well as his devotion to the Immaculate Conception. He experienced many spiritual consolations, and he wrote religious treatises, very simple in style but sound in doctrine. His holiness and prayerfulness attracted many to him, including St. Peter Claver. He is the patron saint of Majorca.

1

NOV

FRIDAY

30th Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

SOLEMNITY



ALL SAINTS DAY

The feast of All Saints' Day commemorates all the saints of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on those saints recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. It was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in 609 AD.

First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, having the seal of the living God,(please see appendix Page 511)

Psalm 24:1-6

☩ *Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.*

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God: and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account, Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. .

☩ The solemnity of All Saints Day calls us to look at our real call as Christians. The Christian is called to live his/her life as children of God. How do we live as children of God? In order to become holy all our actions and speeches need to be holy, "As he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, 1 Peter 1:15". Today's Gospel shows us how to live the holy life. The saints show us the way to follow the footsteps of Jesus in a holy way. They have lived in this world as holy people and have thus become saints. The first step for living a holy life is following the word of God "You have already been cleansed by the word I have spoken to you. John 15:3" So let us believe in God's word and make Jesus's word central to our lives. Let us act and speak according to the word of God and live holy lives, to show the world that the Christian life is a life that is set apart and reserved to give glory to God.

First Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9 (Isaiah 25:6a, 7-9)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,(please see appendix Page 512)

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

℟ The Lord is my light and my help.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, This is the will of my Father, says the Lord, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day.

Second Reading: Romans 5:5-11

Hope will not let us down, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. When we were still helpless, at the appointed time, Christ died for the godless; You could hardly find anyone ready to die even for someone upright though it is just possible that, for a really good person, someone might undertake to die. So it is proof of God's own love for us, that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. How much more can we be sure, therefore, that, now that we have been justified by his death, we shall be saved through him from the retribution of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more can we be sure that, being now reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. What is more, we are filled with exultant trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

Gospel: John 6:37-40 (Matthew 25:31-46)

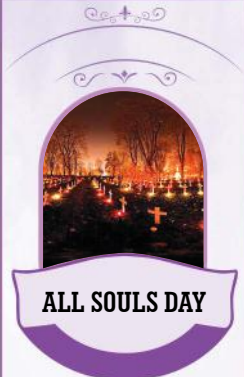
Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

℟ In the journey of life, death is inevitable and it never shows any partiality. It calls us to be always ready. In the presence of death there is no waiting. Death has a way of keeping us from putting our hopes in this world. When a family member or a friend dies it leaves an indelible mark on us. It makes us sad and sometimes pessimistic. But, the life of a Christian gives us hope of something better awaiting us, that one day we will be united with Jesus and all our old acquaintances in heaven. As Christians we believe that death is not the end of life but the beginning of a new life. The main aim of remembering the dead today is our hope that they live as resurrected persons with Christ. As we remember and pray for the dead let us look at ourselves and ask if we are ready to meet our death? Are we worthy to meet Jesus? If not let us analyze what is blocking us, purify ourselves, and be ready meet Jesus as he wanted us to meet Him.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



30th Week in Ordinary Time
VIOLET



All Souls' Day is a day for commemoration of all the faithful departed, those baptized Christians who are believed to be in purgatory because they died with the guilt of lesser sins on their souls. Roman Catholic doctrine holds that the prayers of the faithful on earth will help cleanse these souls in order to fit them for the vision of God in heaven, and the day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance.



31st *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter III

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

So that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Psalms 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51ab

℟: I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength;

O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. *℟*

My God, my rock where I take refuge;

My shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.

I cry out, "praised be the Lord!"

And see, I am saved from my foes. *℟*

The Lord lives, and blest be my Rock!

May the God of my salvation be exalted.

The Lord give great victories to his king,

And show merciful love for his anointed. *℟*

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, I have called you friends, says the Lord, because all I have heard from my Father, I have made known to you.

Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

One of the Scribes asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” Then the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength’; and ‘to love one’s neighbour as oneself’,—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that no one dared to ask him any question.



Ⓜ Today’s Gospel speaks about two things the love of God and the love of human beings. We must love God as Mary Magdalene did. She loved so much that Jesus had to say to her “Do not hold on to me”, John 20:17. Just as Mary did we must love God without holding anything back. She never hesitated to show her love for Jesus. We must love our God not partially, but with all our heart and mind. How can we show the world that we are loving God? If we love our fellow human beings only then can we show the world that we are wholeheartedly loving God. So let us love our neighbours with our words and deeds. Loving God and loving human beings goes hand in hand.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

4

NOV

MONDAY

31st Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



CHARLES BORROMEO

(1538 - 1584)

CARDINAL & ARCHBISHOP

Charles was a leading figure of the Counter Reformation combat against the Protestant Reformation together with St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Philip Neri. He was responsible for significant reforms in the Catholic Church, including the founding of seminaries. He became a true shepherd of his flock and frequently went around his diocese, called synods, and worked for the good of Christian morality. He is the patron saint of bishops, catechists and seminarians.

First Reading: Philippians 2:1-4

Brethren: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, and participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Psalm 131:1, 2, 3

℟️ Keep my soul in peace at your side, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciple, and you will know the truth, says the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 14:12-14

At that time: Jesus said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

℟️ Today Jesus calls us to give generously without any hidden motives. Let us analyze our generosity in giving. Do we give in any of the following ways?

- The duty of giving to others, like paying income tax. One gets satisfaction from this grim duty.
- Giving in self-interest. Such giving is not generosity as it is rationalized selfishness.
- Giving in order to feel superior. It usually hurts a recipient.
- Giving because one cannot help it.

We must give as God gives. God gave because he so loved the world – and so must we. When we give, we must not think about the reward. If we think about the reward while we give then there will no reward. We must give because we love. If our generosity is because of love then it is the one which God wants from us.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalms 22:26-27, 28-30, 31-32

℟. You are my praise, O Lord, in the great assembly.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Accept the word of God for what it really is: the word of God and not the word of men.

Gospel Luke 14:15-24

One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Ⓜ Today's Gospel tells us that the master who arranged the banquet asked his servants to compel the people to come to it. God's love is a compelling love. Even though we are not worthy of his love he is loving us. We are called to give back what belongs to God but sometimes we make excuses. We say that we have no time to give to God because we must attend to our duties, we are too busy trying out new things, or that we are overcome by sorrow or loss. God compels us to be with him. He doesn't accept these silly excuses. It is only when we show love for Him and give importance to Him that we are worthy of our calling. So let us try and give importance to God and His presence rather than giving lame excuses.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



31st Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



ZECHARIAH & ELIZABETH

PARENTS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Sts Zechariah and Elizabeth were the parents of John the Baptist. Zechariah was a priest and Elizabeth was the cousin of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In the Gospel of Luke we are told, "Both were righteous the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly" (Luke 1:6). Elizabeth and Zechariah never stopped praying that God would bless their marriage with a child, even though it seemed impossible as they grew elderly. Their lives teach us to trust always in God

BERTILLA

6

NOV

WEDNESDAY

31st Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN144 LASALLIAN
BLESSEDS

- 7 Blessed Brothers of
Almería
- 5 Blessed Brothers of
Valencia
- 44 Blessed Brothers of
Barcelona
- 5 Blessed Brothers of
Santa Cruz de Múdela
- 4 Blessed Brothers of
Consuegra
- 5 Blessed Brothers of
Lorca
- 39 Blessed Brothers of
Tarragona
- 19 Blessed Brothers of
the Madrid - Grinon
- 16 Blessed Brothers of
the Madrid -
Sagrado Corazón

First Reading: Philippians 2:12-18

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmuring and arguing, so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.(please see appendix Page 512)

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

℟ *The Lord is my light and my help.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Through the gospel God called us. So that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish. Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Ⓜ Jesus calls every Christian but before he/she takes that decision, they need to look forward to the possible cost they are going to pay. To be Christian we need to give importance to the one who called us. We must also be ready to suffer and finally we must carry the cross, the cross that he needs to us carry. Sometimes we give more importance to earthly matters rather than the real importance of our call. We are called to focus on the call that we took to be nearer to Christ. To love Christ is to love our neighbour. To love our neighbour, we first need to give up ourselves lest selfishness becomes a barrier. So, we need to think of the cost and to break our personal barriers which hinders us from following in the footsteps of Christ. When we walk in his footsteps we believe that we are not walking alone but with the one who called us. So let us not worry about the personal gains or failures, just follow Christ without worrying.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Philippians 3:3-8

For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh,(please see appendix Page 512)

Psalm 104:2-7

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Our savior Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life through the gospel.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

R In the parable of lost sheep, Jesus teaches us as Christians that we should live in the modern world caring for the lost and the marginalized persons who live in the periphery of our society. God is always waiting for us and searching for us to be returned to him. We can show that we are returning to him by working for the welfare of the marginalized and the poor. In the parable of the lost coin a poor peasant woman lost a coin, a significant amount of money, and she goes in search of it. Since the coin had been sewn to her dress its absence represents a loss of face. It is like how we feel when we suffer a setback that deflates us or gets us down. It takes a lot of work to return to the full feeling of worthiness that we had before. Jesus is like the poor woman looking for a lost coin as he in fact is seeking out lost sinners. Jesus is teaching us that searching for the lost coin is a sheer necessity and not a privilege. It is the same for Christians working for the poor and caring for the people who have gone astray. Bringing them back to normality is a necessity one. So, let us care for the one who has gone astray, let us forgive those who have done terrible deeds against us and let us be like God in search of the lost sheep

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



31st Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN



WILLIBRORD

(658 - 739)
BISHOP CONFESSOR

St. Willibrord also known as the "Apostle to the Frisians" was the first Bishop of Utrecht. He founded the monastery of Echternach, Luxembourg, to serve as a center of missionary endeavors, and extended the efforts of missionaries into Denmark and Upper Friesland. After the death of Radbod, St. Willibrord along with St. Boniface, undertook the repairs and rebuilding of churches and the work of conversion in Frisia

8

NOV

FRIDAY

31st Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



GODFREY

(1050 - 1115)
BISHOP

Godfrey was the Abbot of Nogentsous Coucy, in the diocese of Rheims, in the province of Champagne. He rebuilt, restored, and revitalized the abbey, bringing people to the Order of St. Benedict, and order to the people. He was noted for his rigid austerity with himself, those around him, and in his approach to his mission as bishop. He was an enforcer of clerical celibacy and also a fierce lifelong opponent of drunkenness and simony.

First Reading: Philippians 3:17–4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5

℟: I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house."

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! The word of God is living and active; it discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Gospel Luke 16:1-8

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

Ⓜ In the kingdom of God, some do charitable work in order to reduce the difficulties of others. Many times, when opportunities arise we do not take the initiatives because we fear the difficulties and problems. We worry about our safety and security rather than the welfare of the needy and the down trodden people. We feel that if we are prudent we will avoid the difficult situations. But Jesus tells us that the Good Samaritan behaved in a prudent manner. In order to help others we need to be prudent like the Good Samaritan. Let us be prudent by using the best methods for achieving good goals and let us work for the betterment of the kingdom of God who is calling us to live for others.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from....*(please see appendix Page 512)*

Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9

✠ The Lord of hosts is with us; The god of jacob is our stronghold.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:9-13, 16-17

For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Seek good, and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord will be with you.

Gospel John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

℟ "If anyone destroys God's temple God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple", 1 Corinthians 3:17. Every human being is a temple of God. Is our temple pure and sacred or is it like the Temple of Jerusalem at the time of Jesus? By our spiritual union with Jesus we become the temple of the living God. Do our actions lead others to recognize that our bodies are temples of God? So in dealing with others let us do what is pleasing to God, especially the poor and marginalized. Let us loudly tell through our loving works that we are temples of God where the Holy Spirit dwells.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



31st Week in Ordinary Time
WHITE

FEAST



DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

The feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome is the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. It is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome and the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome. It marks the dedication of the cathedral church of Rome by Pope Sylvester I. St. John Lateran is the parish church of all Catholics, because it is the pope's cathedral.



32nd *Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Green

Year B

Psalter IV

First Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16

So Elijah set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, "Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink." As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, "Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand." But she said, "As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die." Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth." She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

Psalms 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10

℟: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever,
Who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
The Lord who sets prisoners free. *℟*

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,
The Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the Lord who loves the just,
The Lord who protects the stranger. *℟*

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,
But thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign forever,
The God of Sion from age to age. *℟*

Second Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28

For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has

Sunday

appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Watch and be ready, for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44

As Jesus taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”



® The Gospel of the day teaches two things, firstly how we should not live and secondly how we should give. In relation to the first one, we should not seek prominence in society but serve others, we should not think highly of ourselves but practice humility and obedience like Jesus, we should not make religious connections for our self-advancement or self-gain. In relation to the second one, real giving should be a sacrificial one, and not spring from the fact that we have an abundance that we can give from, we should give to others even though we have very little, and we should give fully. If we are humble and give ourselves fully and generously without any hindrance, then Jesus will do wonders in our lives. So let us be humble and give generously without holding back anything.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

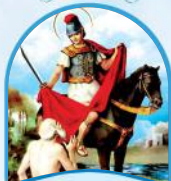
11 NOV

MONDAY

32nd Week in
Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



MARTIN OF TOURS

(c.316 - c.397)

BISHOP

Born in Pannonia, Martin gave up his career as a soldier and founded a monastery in Liguge where he lived the religious life under the guidance of St. Hilary. As bishop of Tours, he was active in the suppression of the remnants of Gallo Roman religion. He is known for using his military sword to cut his cloak in two, to give half to a beggar clad only in rags in the depth of winter.

First Reading – Titus 1:1-9

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our savior; To Titus, my true child in a common faith; Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour. This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. For, a bishop, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospital, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trust worthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

Psalm 24:1-2,3-4b, 5-6

✠ *These are people who seek your face, O Lord*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

Gospel: Luke 17:1-6

At that time, Jesus said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent, you must forgive him.'" The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "if you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be rooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

✠ According to today's Gospel there three things are needed for good Christian living. Firstly, we should not be bad models for others to follow, our words and deeds should be the right ones. Secondly, we need to be forgiving and in this way build a just and good society. Forgiveness blesses both giver and receiver. Thirdly, we need to have faith. How can we show our faith? By being good models to others and by showing forgiveness we will be able to show our faith to others. So, let us be good models by forgiving other people's mistakes and correcting our own weaknesses. In this way we can guide young people and create a better church for tomorrow.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Psalms 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29

℟️ The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your words gladden the heart, O Lord, they give light to the eyes.

Gospel: Luke 17:7-10

“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

℟️ Today’s Gospel tells us that we can never put God in our debt and can never have any claim on him. When we have done our best, we have done only our duty; and a person who has done their duty has done only what, in any event, they could be compelled to do. It may be possible to satisfy the claims of the law; but every law knows that nothing can ever satisfy the claims of love. Let us serve God without expecting anything and have the mind of St. Paul “through honour and dishonour, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true”; 2 Corinthians 6:8. Let us lovingly work for the good of the Kingdom of God without expecting anything in return.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



32nd Week in Ordinary Time
RED



Born in Ukraine, Josaphat worked to bring unity among the faithful, and bring strayed Christians back to the Church. He believed unity to be in the best interests of the Church, and by teaching, clerical reform, and by his personal example won the greater part of the Orthodox in Lithuania to the union. He suffered martyrdom at the hands of his enemies while trying to insure the safety of his servants.

13 NOV

WEDNESDAY

32nd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



**STANISLAUS
KOSTKA**
(1550 - 1568)
RELIGIOUS

Stanisław Kostka was a Polish novice of the Society of Jesus. He had a great devotion towards St Barbara who seems to have accompanied by two angels, entered his room with the Blessed Sacrament when he was attacked by a demon. As a novice, he was known for his cheerful sanctity, angelic innocence and purity of thought and speech. He is invoked against palpitation and those dying without receiving the Viaticum.

**FRANCIS XAVIER
CABRINI**

First Reading: Titus 3:1-7

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

℟ The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, teach me your paths, my God, make me walk in your truth.

Gospel Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well!"

℞ Today's Gospel poignantly demonstrates how human beings often show ingratitude. Often when a person gets what they want, they never come back again and give thanks for what they have received. We have received many things from our parents. When we were babies a week's neglect would have killed us. There were years when we were dependent on our parents for literally everything. Yet the day often comes when an aged parent is viewed as a nuisance. Many young people are unwilling to repay the debt they owe to their parents for the great care they gave them. Often, we are ungrateful to our fellow-men. It often happens that a friend, a teacher, a doctor or a surgeon does something for us which it is impossible to repay but the tragedy is that we often do not even try to repay it. Often, we are ungrateful to God. In time of great need we pray with desperate intensity but as the time passes we forget about God. At this moment in time let us pause for a minute to thank our parents, fellow men and finally God who gives life to everything.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Philemon 7-20

I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.(please see appendix Page 513)

Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

℟ *He is happy who is helped by Jacob's hand.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Instruct me, Lord, in your way; on an even path lead me.

Gospel Luke 17:20-25

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say 'Look here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you." Then he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. They will say to you, 'Look there!' or 'Look here!' Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must endure much suffering and be rejected by this generation.

℞ The kingdom of God is within you. That is to say, the kingdom of God works in men's hearts; it does not produce new things, but new people. It certainly was not in the hearts of the Pharisees who were attacking Jesus, but the Scriptures show us that the kingdom of God should be on our minds. We are supposed to pray for the kingdom to come and hope for a revolution in the hearts of men. So let us recognise every person as the kingdom of God and respect them. As Jesus is present in every human being we need to respect them. Each life is a gift from God. We can honour his gift by cherishing our own lives as well as respecting and valuing the lives of others.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

**14
NOV**

THURSDAY

32nd Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



**LAURENCE O'
TOOLE**
(1125 - 1180)
ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN

St. Laurence O'Toole was Archbishop of Dublin at the time of the Norman invasion of Ireland. He played a prominent role in the Irish Church Reform Movement of the 12th century and mediated between the parties during and after the invasion. He was most widely known for his piety, charity, and prudence, and was respected as a negotiator. He reformed much of the administration and clerical life in his diocese.

15 NOV

FRIDAY

32nd Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**ALBERT THE
GREAT**

(c.1200 - 1280)
BISHOP & DOCTOR

St. Albertus Magnus also known as St. Albert the Great was a Dominican friar and bishop who was known for his intellectual abilities. He was a respected philosopher, scientist, theologian and teacher. He introduced Greek and Arabic science and philosophy to medieval Europe. During his life, Albert wrote thirty eight volumes covering topics ranging from philosophy to geography, astronomy, law, friendship and love. He is the patron saint of scientists.

First Reading: 2 John 4-9

I was overjoyed to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we have been commanded by the Father. But now, dear lady, I ask you, not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but one we have had from the beginning, let us love one another. And this is love that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment just as you have heard it from the beginning you must walk in it. Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh; any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist! Be on your guard, so that you do not lose what we have worked for,*(please see appendix Page 513)*

Psalms 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18

℟ They are happy who follow God's law !

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.

Gospel Luke 17:26-37

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed all of them. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed all of them it will be like that on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, anyone on the housetop who has belongings in the house must not come down to take them away; and likewise anyone in the field must not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left. Then they asked him, "Where, Lord?" He said to them, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather."

℟ Today's Gospel calls us to reflect on four things. Firstly, we need to have patience, we need to learn to light the candle of patience and wait. God takes his own time. Secondly, the coming of Christ is certain but its time is quite unknown. Speculation is vain. We must not leave our ordinary work to follow false speculation. Thirdly, nobody can grant your salvation, the judgement of God is an individual judgement. We cannot discharge our duty to God by proxy nor even by association. So, everybody must be responsible in their duty. Fourthly, we must be ever ready, we must live our lives as best we can, so that whenever he comes whether it be morning, midday or in the evening he will find us ready. So, let us be patient, non-speculative, responsible in our duty and always ready to meet him without delay.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: 3 John 5-8

Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you; they have testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; for they began their journey for the sake of Christ, accepting no support from non-believers. Therefore we ought to support such people, so that we may become co-workers with the truth.

Psalm 112:1-6

℟ *Happy the man who fears the Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Your precepts, O Lord, are all of them sure; they stand firm for ever and ever.

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

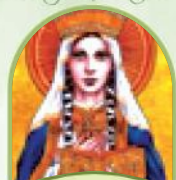
℟ Today's Gospel tells us about the persistent widow who did not give up until she got justice. It invites us to be persistent in our prayer and our initiatives. Sometimes we give up because nothing is going according to plan or our wishes are not coming true. We must recognize that God is like a Father who cares for his child in a broader way. Often a father has to refuse the request of his child, because he knows that what the child asks for would hurt rather than help. God is like that. We do not know what will happen in the next hour, let alone next week, month or year. Only God sees the full picture, therefore, only God knows what is good for us in the long run. That is why Jesus said we must never be discouraged in prayer. We will never grow weary in prayer and our faith will never falter if, after we have offered to God our prayer and requests, we add the perfect prayer, "thy will be done".

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

16
NOV
SATURDAY

32nd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



MARGARET
OF SCOTLAND
(c.1046 - 1093)
QUEEN

Margaret of Scotland also known as "The Pearl of Scotland" worked tirelessly to bring justice and relief to the poor of Scotland. She dignified the court, providing an example of purity and reverence that led others to follow in her path. She also built churches and encouraged practices of religious devotion.

She attended to charitable works, serving orphans and the poor every day and was washing the feet of the poor in imitation of Christ.

GERTRUDE THE GREAT



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green

Year B

Psalter I

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

“At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

Psalms 16:5 and 8, 9-10, 11

℟: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
 You yourself who secure my lot.
 I keep the Lord before me always;
 With him at my right hand, I shall not be moved. *℟*

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
 Even my flesh shall rest in hope.
 For you will not abandon my soul to hell,
 Nor let your holy one see corruption. *℟*

You will show me the path of life,
 The fullness of joy in your presence,
 At your right hand, bliss forever. *℟*

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Watch at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of man.

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples, “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling

Sunday

from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.



Ⓜ The readings of the day speak about the hope and preparedness. How does one speak about hope when one is threatened from all sides? We are people who know that their master will come, but we do not know when. We live in the shadow of eternity. There is no reason for fearful and hysterical expectation. However there is a need for preparedness and this in turn leads to readiness. We must so live our lives that it does not matter when He comes. Our whole lives are to be lived to the glory of God and the good works that we are to do are the ordinary every-day things of being a believer living one's life in the presence of God. It presents us with the task of making sure that every day of our lives. We are fit to see him and that at any moment we are ready to meet him face to face. All life becomes a preparation to meet the Lord. The wise man, is the one who never forgets that he must be ready when the summons comes, and if that is the situation, for him the end will not be terror but eternal joy. Are we wise men who do his work faithfully without delay?

18 NOV

MONDAY

33rd Week in
Ordinary Time
WHITE / GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



**DEDICATION OF THE
BASILICAS OF PETER
& PAUL**

This feast celebrates the dedications of two of the four major basilicas of Rome.

St. Peter's Basilica was originally built in 323 by the emperor Constantine.

The basilica was constructed over the tomb of Peter the Apostle. St. Paul's Basilica is located outside the original walls of Rome. It was also originally built by the emperor Constantine though it was destroyed by fire in 1823. The Basilica was built over St. Paul's grave.

First Reading: Revelation 1:1-4; 2: 1-5

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what, must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne. "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lamp stands: "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false.(please see appendix Page 513)

Psalm 1:1-4, 6

℟ Those who prove victorious, I will feed from the tree of life.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Open my eyes, O Lord, that I may consider the wonders of your law.

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God

℟ Today's Gospel teaches us two important points. Firstly real necessity leads the person to get what he needs even though the people wanted him to be silenced. He did not keep quiet though but started to shout louder so that others came to know his needs. Secondly if you have real concern for others, you take a break from what you are doing and help the other person so that their needs are fulfilled. Even though Jesus was teaching he stopped and listened to the cry of the blind man. Jesus did not give what He himself wanted but the real need of the blind man. Are we ready to ask what our real needs are? Are we ready to stop and listen to the cry from the person who is not really able to express what their real needs are? People admire individuals with great minds but they those with pure heart. Are we persons of mind or heart?

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works; you have a name of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God. Remember then what you received and heard; obey it, and repent. If you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you. Yet you have still a few persons in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes; they will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.(please see appendix Page 513)

Psalm 15:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5

Rx Those who prove victorious I will allow to share my throne.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Make me grasp the way of your precepts, and I will muse on your wonders.

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

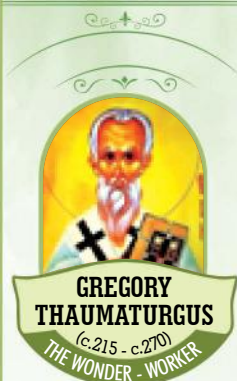
He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost!"

R In today's Gospel story, the meeting of Zacchaeus and Jesus, we are told that no matter what our circumstances are, Jesus came to find and save the lost. In Jewish Law if voluntary confession was made and voluntary restitution offered, the value of the original goods had to be paid plus one fifth extra. (Lev 6:5, Num 5:7) Zacchaeus was determined to do far more than the law demanded. He showed by his deeds that he was willing to change by offering half of his belongings to the poor and paying back four times as much to anyone he had cheated. Zacchaeus teaches us that when you make a good effort to experience Jesus, you are rewarded. So, we need to go beyond our expectation in order to prove the presence of Jesus within us. We need to voluntarily give to other people, our time, energy and love. Only then will we be able to prove that our lives are filled with the presence of Jesus. Let us limit our needs, serve others and help make the world a better place.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

19
NOV
TUESDAY

33rd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



Born in Neocaesarea,
Gregory

Thaumaturgus was known for his eloquent preaching so much so that he was able to build a church. He was a much-sought-after arbiter for his wisdom and legal knowledge and ability, and he advised his flock to go into hiding when Decius' persecution of the Christians broke out in 250. He participated in the synod of Antioch, against Samosata, and fought Sabellianism and Tritheism.

He is invoked against floods and earthquakes.

20
NOV

WEDNESDAY

33rd Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



FELIX OF VALOIS

(1127 - 1212)
CONFESSOR & CO-FOUNDER

Born in Valois, Felix renounced his possessions and retired to a dense forest where he gave himself to prayer and contemplation. Along with St. John of Matha, he founded the Order of the Holy Trinity for the Redemption of Captives (Trinitarians or Redemptionists) in order to ransom Christians held as slaves by Moors in Spain and Northern Africa. He devoted himself to the promotion of Regular Observance and for the redemption of bondsmen.

First Reading: Revelation 4:1-11(please see appendix Page 514)

Psalm 150:1-6

℟ *Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Train me, Lord, to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Gospel: Luke 19:11-28

As they were listening to this, he went on to tell a parable, because he was near Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. So he said, 'A nobleman went to a distant country to get royal power for himself and then return. He summoned ten of his slaves, and gave them ten pounds, and said to them, 'Do business with these until I come back'. But the citizens of his country hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to rule over us'. When he returned, having received royal power, he ordered these slaves, to whom he had given the money, to be summoned so that he might find out what they had gained by trading. The first came forward and said, 'Lord your pound has made ten more pounds'. He said to him, 'Well done, good slave! Because you have been trustworthy in a very small thing, take charge of ten cities'. Then the second came, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made five pounds'. He said to him, 'And you, rule over five cities'. Then the other came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound. I wrapped it up in a piece of cloth, for I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man; you take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow'. He said to him, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked slave! You knew, did you, that I was a harsh man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow?'(please see appendix Page 514)

℟ Today's Gospel gives us four points in life. Firstly it tells us that God trusts. In this reading the King gave his servants money and then went away and left them to use it in a manner they thought best. Secondly it tells us that God always tests us. This trust was a test of whether or not a man was faithful and reliable in little things. Sometimes a man justifies, being inefficient in the ordinary routine affairs of life by claiming that "he has a mind above trifles". God has not. It is precisely in these routine duties that God is testing us. Thirdly it tells us that God's reward that the faithful servants received, was not one which they could enjoy by sitting down and folding their hands and doing nothing. One was put over ten cities and another over five. The reward of work well done was more work to do. Fourthly if you use your talents, you will be given more to do. If you don't use them then what is given will be taken away. In Christian life the opportunities are given to work for the betterment of the world not to sit and watch. So let us work harder for the betterment of the world.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 5:1-10

Then I saw in the right hand of the one seated on the throne a scroll written on the inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." Then I saw between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders a Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne. When he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, each holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. They sing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slaughtered and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and people and nation; you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign on earth."

Psalm 149:1-4, 5-6, 9

✠ You made us a line of kings and priests to serve our God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Bend my heart to your will, O Lord, and teach me your law.

Gospel: Luke 19:41-44

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. Indeed, the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up ramparts around you and surround you, and hem you in on every side. They will crush you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave within you one stone upon another; because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God."

℞ We very often speak about our success and achievements, rather than looking into ourselves for the purpose we are called. The people of Jerusalem speak highly about the success and glory of the temple rather than its purpose which was to give peace to the people who lived there, care for the poor and needy and provide for their peaceful existence. However the people of Jerusalem always made the lives of the poor more difficult by inflicting immense suffering on them. They were expecting God to come but when God came to them, they did not recognize Him. God comes to the lives of the people in ordinary small events rather than great and glorious ones. We need to see God in ordinary everyday events and the ordinary people that we regularly meet. Let us be more attentive to the small and ordinary events in our lives.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

**21
NOV**

THURSDAY

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

WHITE

MEMORIAL



**THE
PRESENTATION OF
MARY**

The feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary is associated with an event recounted not in the New Testament, but in the apocryphal Protoevangelium of James. According to that text, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, who had been childless, received a heavenly message that they would have a child.

In thanksgiving for the gift of their daughter, they brought her, when still a child, to the Temple in Jerusalem to consecrate her to God.

22
NOV

FRIDAY

33rd Week in
Ordinary Time
RED

MEMORIAL



CECILIA

(c. 250)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

Born in Rome, Cecilia presented herself as a perfect example of Christian womanhood who preserved her virginity and suffered martyrdom for the love of Christ. She converted her husband into Christianity and developed a ministry of giving proper burial to martyred Christians. She was beheaded for her actions because she refused to sacrifice to false gods. She is regarded as the patroness of musicians, because she heard heavenly music in her heart when she was married.

First Reading: Revelation 10:8-11

Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll; and he said to me, "Take it, and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach, but sweet as honey in your mouth." So I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. Then they said to me, "You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

Psalm 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131

℟ Your promise is sweet to my taste.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia ! Because of your love give me life, and I will do your will. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 19:45-48

Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there; and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers. Every day he was teaching in the temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him; but they did not find anything they could do, for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.

℟ Like Jesus, we are called to rise against the injustices done to the poor and the vulnerable. When the injustice was done in the Temple, he did not hesitate to drive them away and do it with authority. Doing our duty everyday is satisfactory, but it is in time of difficulty especially when someone wants to hinder or stop us from what we are saying or doing, that doing our duty matters most. Jesus was teaching in the Temple courts when there was a price on his head. This was sheer defiance. At that moment the authorities could not arrest him, for people hung upon his every word. But every time he spoke, he took his life in his hands and he knew well that it was only a matter of time until the end would come. The courage of the Christian should match the courage of his Lord. His abiding message is that we should never be ashamed to show who we are and whom we serve.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 11:4-12

I, John, was told: “[Behold, my two witnesses;]” These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may ...*(please see appendix Page 514)*

Psalms 144:1, 2, 9-10

℟ *Blest be the Lord, my rock!*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Gospel: Luke 20:27-40

At that time: There came to Jesus some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the widow and raise up offspring for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first took a wife, and died without children. And the second and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children and died. Afterwards the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.” And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die any more, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him.” Then some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” For they no longer dared to ask him any question.


℟ Questions arise from life experiences. When Jesus lived on earth many questions were posed to him “Who is great? What have I to do to get eternal life? Do we need to pay the taxes to Caesar? She is an adulteress, what shall we do now?” Jesus answered these questions in different ways. Sometimes he answered by just keeping quiet. Many times, he gave answers. Sometimes he answered the questions by asking questions. Jesus used arguments, as a method to answer the questions posed by the people whom he was arguing with. He did this so that they could understand. He talked to them in their own language, he met them on their own ground, and that is precisely why the common people gladly listened to Him. We will be far better teachers and far better witnesses for Christ when we learn to do the same. So, let us live life faithfully and carefully read the signs of the times in order to teach and answer people in a better way.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

23
NOV
SATURDAY

33rd Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



CLEMENT I
(d. c. 100)
POPE & MARTYR

Clement was the third Pope after St. Peter to rule the Church, at about the end of the 1st century. He wrote a renowned letter to the Corinthians with the object of preserving peace and concord among them. During the time of Emperor Trajan while leading a ministry among fellow prisoners, he was executed by being tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea. He is the first Apostolic Father of the Church.

**COLUMBAN,
BL. MIGUEL
AUGUSTIN**



Christ The King

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Green
Psalter II

La  Salle

Year B

First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed..

Psalm 93:1abc, 1d-2, 5

℟: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

The Lord has robed himself with might;

He has girded himself with power. *℟*

The world you made firm, not to be moved;

Your throne has stood firm from of old.

From all eternity, O Lord, you are. *℟*

Truly your decrees are to be trusted.

Holiness is fitting to your house,

O Lord, until the end of time. *℟*

Second Reading: Revelation 1:5-8

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David!

Gospel: John 18:33b-37

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own

Sunday

nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."



® Let us learn to have the heart to serve others. Today, we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King. Christ is the king of simplicity, humility, justice, honesty and truth. He worked for the marginalized of his time. He cared for the poor, lepers, gentiles, widows, prostitutes and all the outcasts of his time. Today we live in a world where the government works for the rich and the wealthy, they waive the loans of the industrialists and the rich people while neglecting the poor and the marginalized. Let us follow the footsteps of Jesus and speak the truth. Let us pray that in the coming years we may have a Government which speaks the truth. Let us pray that we have leaders who go in search of the missing sheep in the country as well as in the church. May Jesus become the King of our hearts and let us live like him.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

25
NOV

MONDAY

34th Week in
Ordinary Time

GREEN



**CATHERINE OF
ALEXANDRIA**
(4th century)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

Born in Alexandria, Catherine was known to have converted 50 pagan philosophers who were summoned to debate with her on pro Christian arguments. Sentenced to be executed on a spiked wheel, she touched the wheel and it shattered. Unable to torture her to death, the emperor beheaded her. She was invoked as the patro-ness of students, teachers, librarians and lawyers. She is one of the 14 Holy Helpers, venerated especially in Germany and Hungary.

First Reading: Revelation 14:1-3, 4-5

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless.

Psalm 24:1-6

℟ *Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Gospel: Luke 21:1-4

He looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

℞ Today's Gospel tells us that there are two things that determine the value of a gift. First there is the spirit in which it is given. A gift which is given unwillingly, a gift which is given with a grudge and a gift that is given for the sake of prestige or of self-display loses more than half its value. The only real gift is that which inevitably comes from the loving heart, that which is given because the giver really wants to give it. Second is the sacrifice which it involves. That which is a mere trifle to one man may be a vast sum to another. The gifts of the rich, as they flung their offerings onto trumpets, did not really cost them much; but the two lepta of the widow costs her everything she had. No doubt, the rich gave having nicely calculated how much they could afford; she gave with utterly reckless generosity until she could give no more. So let us give to others with a spirit of giving and give until it hurts. Then only the God who is secretly with you will appreciate your kindness.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 14:14-19

Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand! Another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to the one who sat on the cloud, "Use your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." So the one who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped. Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and he threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of God.

Psalms 96:10-13

℟️ The Lord comes to rule the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Gospel: Luke 21:5-11

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

Ⓜ Today the world has many false prophets and false religious leaders. They say to ordinary people that they should follow them, that this is the way forward in life. When new things and attractions come on stream, people are attracted to them and very often become devotees. Many people falsely collect money and accumulate wealth while using the name of God to justify it. Jesus knows all these things and sternly warns us to read carefully into the ordinary events of our lives and follow him more faithfully. We also have a duty to guide people along the proper path they should travel in the future.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



34th Week in Ordinary Time
GREEN

OPTIONAL



BL. JAMES ALBERIONE

(1884 - 1971)

PRIEST & FOUNDER

Born in Fossano, Bl. James while doing Adoration in Alba, suddenly felt the need to do something for the people of the 20th century. Hence, he founded the Society of St. Paul, the Daughters of St. Paul, The Pious Disciples of the Divine Master and The Sister of Jesus the Good Shepherd to spread the word of God and help in personal devotions through modern media technology and published materials.

JOHN BERCHMANS

27 NOV

WEDNESDAY

34th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



**VIRGILIUS OF
SALZBURG**

(c. 700 - 784)

BISHOP CONFESSOR

Vergilius of Salzburg also known as the "Apostle of Carinthia" was an Irish churchman and early astronomer. As a noted intellectual, he believed that the earth was a sphere, which brought him into conflict with St. Boniface of Mainz who twice denounced him to Rome. He laboured successfully for the upbuilding of his diocese as well as for the spread of Christianity in neighbouring heathen countries, especially in Carinthia.

First Reading: Revelation 15:1-4

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended. And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: "Great and amazing are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, King of the nations! Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your judgments have been revealed."

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 7-9

℟. How great and wonderful are all your works, Lord God almighty.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Watch and be ready, because you do not know on what day the Son of man is coming.

Gospel Luke 21:12-19

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

℞ Are we reading the bible peripherally or meaningfully? If we read peripherally, we may miss the context and the real meaning of the word of Jesus. Jesus was completely honest. "This," he said to his disciples "is what you must expect if you choose to follow me." A follower of Jesus will have a strong commitment to him. Jesus is looking for disciples who will follow him and make Him the most important part of their lives so that he is in control of every part. It is not easy, it is not a bed of roses and it has many challenges. Jesus promised his disciples that they would never meet their tribulations alone. A prison can be like a palace, a scaffold like a throne and the storms of life like a pleasant spring when Christ is with us. So, let us be with Jesus in times of difficulty and become a witness to him on earth.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19: 1-3, 9

After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority; and the earth was made bright with his splendor. He called out with a mighty voice, 'Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! It has become a dwelling place of demons, a haunt of every foul spirit, a haunt of every foul bird, a haunt of every foul and hateful beast. Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "With such violence Babylon the great city(please see appendix Page 515)

Psalm 100:1-5

Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Watch at all times, praying that you may have the strength to stand before the Son of man.

Gospel Luke 21:20-28

“When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfillment of all that is written. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

R When trouble comes into our life, we always start to blame ourselves or others. What we fail to understand is that these troubles and difficulties should only make us stronger and improve our talents and our characters. During the recent pandemic many people had no work, some at times went hungry and many who were in hospital with respiratory problems found it difficult to breathe. However after going through all these troubles they were able see God in the ordinary human beings who helped them in their difficulties. In the same way, when we come across difficulties, we should face them with the courage which God has given to us. The tribulations are the opportunities that mould us to be a better persons. We are not alone. We are with Jesus who is always with us in times of tribulation. Let us face them happily.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

28
NOV
THURSDAY

34th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



St. Catherine was a member of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul and a Marian visionary. She is believed to have relayed the request from the Blessed Virgin Mary to create the famous Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces. She spent her life in humble and obedient service as the portress, and worked with the sick in a convent outside of Paris. She was canonized on July 27, 1947 by Pope Pius XII

29
NOV

FRIDAY

34th Week in
Ordinary Time
GREEN



HUBERT

(c.656 - 721)
BISHOP

Hubert, the first Bishop of Liege in Belgium, is credited with the conversion of the last of the pagans in the Ardennes. As an eloquent preacher, he extirpated the last trace of idolatry among the people with such zeal that he came to be called as the Apostle of the Ardennes. He is the patron of hunters and healer of hydrophobia because of his apparition of a luminous crucifix in the antlers of a hunted stag.

First Reading: Revelation 20:1-4, 11-21: 2

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.(please see appendix Page 515)

Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6, 8

℟ *Here God lives among men.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

Gospel: Luke 21:29-33

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the tress; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

℞ Today's Gospel is asking us to be on the watch at all times as we live forever in the shadow of eternity. The Christian must be a person who lives in a permanent state of expectation. We should always be ready to meet God, because that day will eventually come. It means seeking him with an undivided heart and mind. It means not allowing anything, no matter how blessed or wonderful it may be, to distract us from preparing to hear from God. It means making conscious choices that align with your faith and values. This might mean saying "no" to certain things so that you can say "yes" to what truly matters. So make sure you are ready to be in the presence of God.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.

First Reading: Romans 10:9-18

Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11

✠ The decrees of the Lord are truth. and all of them just.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-22

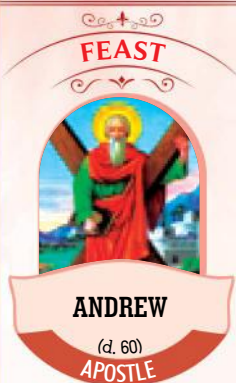
As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

✠ Jesus chose ordinary fishermen to be the fishers of men for God. The fisherman should have qualities that makes them better fishermen as well as fishers of men for God. A fishermen must have patience as he has to wait for fish to bite. In the same way it takes time to bring people to God. They will not change immediately, so we have to be patient, we have to wait. Perseverance is a quality a fisherman must have as he has to cast the net again and again to catch fish. This demands continuous effort. Continuous effort is the hallmark of a good teacher especially when students are finding a subject difficult or are struggling. A fisherman has to wait for the right moment. A teacher has to wait for the right moment to instill ideas into the hearts of the children so that will bear fruit. So on this day we ask the Lord to grant us the qualities of patience, perseverance and eyes to pick the right moment.

Reflection: Br. ROBERT PROVING FSC, India.



34th Week in Ordinary Time
RED



ANDREW
(d. 60)
APOSTLE

Born at Bethsaida, Andrew was formerly a disciple of John the Baptist and then followed Christ. With Philip he introduced the Gentiles to Christ and he was the apostle who pointed out the boy with loaves and fishes. Tradition has it that after Pentecost he preached the gospel to many different places and finally suffered death to an X-shaped cross in Achaia. He is considered the founder and the first bishop of the Church of Byzantium.



1st Sunday of Advent

Violet

Year C

Psalter I

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalms 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

℟: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

O Lord, make me know your ways.

Teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth, and teach me;

For you are the God of my salvation. ℟

Good and upright is the Lord;

He shows the way to sinners.

He guides the humble in right judgment;

To the humble he teaches his way. ℟

All the Lord's paths are mercy and faithfulness,

For those who keep his covenant and commands.

The Lord's secret is for those who fear him;

To them he reveals his covenant. ℟

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Sunday

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."



® 'What the caterpillar calls the end of the world, someone else terms a butterfly.' Advent is an invitation to all the baptised to participate in the birth of our Lord Jesus. We are called to be attentive and prepared for the second coming of the Lord. No one knows exactly when, where and how, but it is sure to happen. On my part, I have to be ready when I am summoned. This advent is another opportunity for me to ask myself 'have I fulfilled my duties in favour of God's service?' If yes, let me continue to do good in God's sight. If 'no' is the answer, let me use this advent to repent through prayer, self-denial, and works of generosity towards our brethren, staff and students especially the poor and needy.

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

2

DEC

MONDAY

1st Week of
Advent

VIOLET



BIBIANA

(d. c. 363)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

Born in Rome, Bibiana spent most of her time in prayer and fasting. After the death of her parents, she was turned over to a woman named Rufina who tried to force her into prostitution. Upon her refusal to co-operate, she was ordered to be tied to a pillar and beaten with scourges, laden with lead plummets. She endured the torments with joy, and died under the blows inflicted by the hands of the executioner.

**DEDICATION
OF SPRINGFIELD
IN ILLINOIS
CATHEDRAL**

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9

℟ Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia! Come to save us, Lord our God, let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-11

At the time: When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, appealing to him, "Lord, my servant is lying paralysed at home, suffering terribly." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion replied, "Lord I am not worthy to have you come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go' and he goes, and to another, 'Come' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he marvelled and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I tell you, with one in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.

℟ Can I surprise God with my faith? Jesus was overwhelmed by the faith he saw in the centurion. Centurion is a model for those who hold high authoritative positions in the society, institutions and schools. Look at him, how he is moved to ask for help when he finds out that one of his servants has fallen sick. His faith in Jesus has moved him to do so. Being compassionate is a quality of a leader. It means being thoughtful and aware of what others' lives and experiences are like. Am I in a position to ask for help for my fellow brethren? Does my faith motivate me to ask in prayer for the needs of my students? How do I surprise God with my simple faith?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 (61:1-3)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;(please see appendix Page 515)

Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

✠ In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27

Brethren: If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. For though I am free from all, that I might win more of them.(please see appendix Page 516)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Gospel: Luke 10:21-24 (Mark 16:15-20)

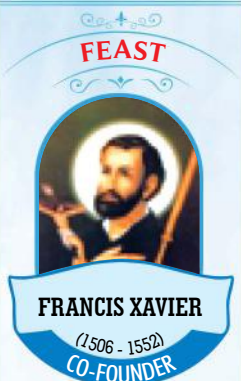
At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.

✠ Jesus rejoiced. Jesus rejoiced on the return of the seventy-two, who found that Jesus is the one who came from the Father, through the miracles they performed in Jesus' name. Jesus was full of joy when he said, "revealed to infants." Who are these infants? They are those who approach God with a childlike faith, humility, and receptiveness. Can Jesus rejoice over me - "(say your name here)"? Further, Jesus says, 'Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.' The disciples are 'blessed' because, in Jesus, they are beginning to recognize the long awaited Messiah. Do I ever count my blessings thanking God for the gifts of life, love, vocation, mission etc.?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



1st Week of Advent
WHITE



Francis Xavier also known as Apostle to the Far East was a co-founder of the Society of Jesus. He led an extensive mission into Asia, mainly in the Portuguese Empire of the time and was influential in evangelization work, most notably in India. He lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and spent countless hours ministering to them, particularly to lepers. He preached in the street and taught catechism to the children.

4

DEC

WEDNESDAY

1st Week of
Advent
VIOLET

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



JOHN OF
DAMASCENE

(c. 650 - c. 753)
PRIEST & DOCTOR

Born in Damascus, John wrote works expounding the Christian faith, and composed hymns which are used in liturgy. As a priest, he counselled various bishops in matters of faith and doctrine.

He is known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images. He wrote *The Fountain of Wisdom*, the first real compendium of Christian theology, along with other works defending the orthodox faith, commentaries on Saint Paul the Apostle, poetry, and hymns.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.(please see appendix Page 516)

Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5, 6

R. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, The Lord is our judge, the Lord our lawgiver, the Lord our king and our saviour.

Gospel: Matthew 15:29-37

After Jesus had left that place, he passed along the Sea of Galilee, and he went up the mountain, where he sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the maimed, the blind, the mute, and many others. They put them at his feet, and he cured them, so that the crowd was amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel. Then Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat; and I do not want to send them away hungry, for they might faint on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where are we to get enough bread in the desert to feed so great a crowd?" Jesus asked them, "How many loaves have you?" They said, "Seven, and a few small fish." Then ordering the crowd to sit down on the ground, he took the seven loaves and the fish; and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all of them ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full.

R. In the first portion of the Gospel, Jesus heals the lame, the crippled, the blind, the dumb and many others. However these deeds were not considered miracles or indeed were less acknowledged according to the scholars of the day. Why? There is a much more important lesson to all the believers in the next portion of the gospel. Yes. Miracles do happen with Jesus and he is always associated with miracles. But, with the feeding of the people in the wilderness, Jesus also wants to teach a lesson to the disciples. Miracles will definitely happen, if I share with others what I have for my own benefit. There are many who long to experience Jesus in my classroom, school, community and neighbourhood. Can I share my time, space and belongings with them? Can I perform a miracle today in Jesus' name by sharing?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 26:1-6

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “we have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD God is an everlasting rock. For he has humbled the inhabitants of the height, the lofty city. He lays it low, lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust. The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.”

Psalm 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a

R. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

Gospel: Matthew 7:21, 24-27

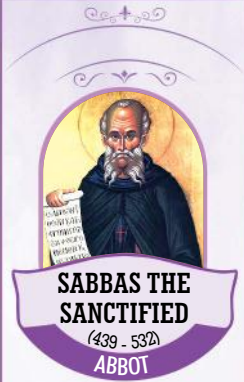
At that time: Jesus said to his disciple, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on that house, And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it!”

R Actions speak louder than words. What you do is more important than what you say, because the things you do show your true intentions and feelings. Faith without action is dead, says St. James. De La Salle was deeply committed to providing education to the poor and marginalised youth of his time, and he believed that faith should be lived out through concrete actions. He encouraged his followers and educators to actively engage with students and their communities, embodying the teachings of Jesus Christ through their work. And there are many more examples in our Institute and the Church as well, where holy men and women laid down their lives, even unto death, for the sake of their faith and for what they believed in. Do I have such faith that motivates my actions in day-to-day activities?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



1st Week of
Advent
VIOLET



St. Sabbas was a Cappadocian-Syrian monk, who lived mainly in Prima. He was the founder of several convents, most notably the one known as Mar Saba. He led a peaceful uprising of 10,000 monks who demanded the end of the persecutions of Palestinian bishops of Anastatius I. He also travelled to Constantinople where he successfully pled for clemency for Samaritans who were in revolt. He is considered as one of the founders of Eastern monasticism.

6

DEC

FRIDAY

1st Week of
Advent

VIOLET

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



NICHOLAS

(d. 350)

BISHOP

Nicholas was an early Christian bishop from the maritime city of Myra in Asia Minor. His legendary habit of secret giftgiving gave rise to the traditional model of Santa Claus.

He is said to have rescued three girls from being forced into prostitution by dropping a sack of gold coins through the window of their house. He is known to have saved three innocent soldiers from wrongful execution.

First Reading: Isaiah 29:17-24

Thus says the Lord God: Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be regarded as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see. The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off, who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right. Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: "Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the God of Israel. And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction".

Psalm 27:1, 4, 13-14

℟ *The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Behold, our Lord shall come with power; he will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-31

At that time: As Jesus passed on, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

℟ "Miracles are not the proofs, but the necessary results of revelation" says Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Jesus not only said, "I am the light of the world" but he also restored sight to the blind men who asked him for mercy. This is a miracle of prayer. Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Whenever we ask in prayer, especially for the mercy of the Lord, we need to believe that we've received it already. Do we truly believe that Jesus has the power and the desire to heal us? Have you ever cried out to Jesus but He didn't seem to hear you? Jesus does hear us and "touch" us. We need to be alert and attentive to how Jesus may come to us. May we have the faith to place our confidence and hope in Him!

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

Gospel Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

Truly, O people in Zion, inhabitants of Jerusalem, you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when he hears it, he will answer you. Though the Lord may give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself any more, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' He will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and grain, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. On that day your cattle will graze in broad pastures;*(please see appendix Page 516)*

Psalms 147:1-6

℟ Happy are all who hope in him.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near.

Matthew 9:35-10: 1, 5, 6-8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

℟ "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few," Jesus is aware of fulfilling his Father's mission in preaching, teaching and healing when he inducts his disciples into the same vocation. This vocation journey still continues in the Church. There are times when we need the Lord to heal us in our brokenness and thus come before him in his healing presence. There are other times in our lives when the Lord sends us out, as he sent out his disciples, to bring his healing presence to others who are wounded. We are always wounded healers. We need the Lord to heal our wounds, and use us to be channels of his healing presence to others. As De La Salle says, "you are ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ in the work that you do, you must act as representing Jesus Christ himself." Who will we reach out to today?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



1st Week of
Advent
WHITE



Born in Gaul, St. Ambrose was a noted preacher, teacher, and writer of liturgical hymns. He stood firm against paganism and Arians. His preaching helped convert Saint Augustine of Hippo, whom Ambrose baptized and brought into the Church. He called and chaired several theological councils during his time as bishop, many devoted to fighting heresy.

The title Honey Tongued Doctor was initially bestowed on Ambrose because of his speaking and preaching ability.



2nd Sunday of Advent

Violet

Year C

Psalter II

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Psalm 126:1-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6,

R: What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion,
We thought were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
On our tongues, songs of joy. *R*

Then the nations themselves said,
"What great deeds
The Lord worked for them!"
What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad. *R*

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
As streams in the south.
Those who are sowing in tears
Will sing when they reap. *R*

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
Bearing seed for the sowing;
They come back, they come back with a song.
Bearing their sheaves. *R*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness,

Sunday

how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



Ⓜ John prepares the way by doing what a herald does: he proclaims a message. He proclaims the coming of our Lord by calling the people to repent and be baptised. If Advent is a time of preparation for the Lord so that "All flesh will see God's salvation," the way to prepare and to bear fruit worthy of repentance is by sharing with those in need, dealing with people honestly and using power justly. John came "preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." The message of forgiveness of sins addresses all people everywhere in every age, because all have sinned and thus are alienated from God. The primary need of every person is reconciliation with God through the forgiveness of sins. De La Salle said that you must first of all dispose your own hearts to be entirely filled with zeal in order to render your words effective in those whom you instruct. In other words you must do this to prepare others for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

9

DEC

MONDAY

2nd Week of
Advent
WHITE

SOLEMNITY

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a dogma promulgated by Pope Pius IX in *Ineffabilis Deus* which states that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Her soul was created in a state of original sanctity, innocence, and justice. This feast marks the dawn of the New Covenant, celebrating the gracious preparation by God to receive the Saviour and Lord.

First Reading: Genesis 3:9-15, 20(please see appendix Page 516)

Psalm 98:1, 2-3a, 3b-4

✠ *Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders.*

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children ...*(please see appendix Page 517)*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women.

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

✠ An important article of our faith is that Mary was conceived without original sin. This refers to the fact that the Ark of the Covenant was made of incorruptible wood, and even those who carried it were thought to be sanctified. The honour we give to Mother Mary or through any other Marian doctrine, is not only to her but through her, to her Son. De La Salle writes, "let us recognize that in the Most Blessed Virgin there was never any action that did not make her worthy of God, that her soul was always filled with him, so that he might prepare her to hold and to form within herself the body of God." (Reference) It is the same with us, he says, when we receive Holy Communion. Do we prepare and long to receive this holy sacrament and give due respect with our actions?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand for ever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Sion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Psalm 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12a, 12b-13

Rx The Lord our God comes with might.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The day of the Lord is near; be hold, he comes to save us.

Gospel: Matthew 18:12-14

At that time Jesus said to his disciples, "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

R Despite the fact that the shepherd was tending a hundred sheep, he instinctively knew that one of his sheep was missing. He was determined to find it and bring it back to the flock. As we know, the shepherd leaves the ninety nine sheep and goes in search of the lost one. Jesus gives us an image here of God as shepherd which is an image that everyone can relate to. In this parable Jesus is telling us of the infinite love that God has for each of us and how God will seek us out when we need Him most. It's always humbling to think of God rejoicing over the one that was lost and then found. Every single person matters and is loved infinitely in the eyes of God. Jesus never gives up looking for us or longing for our return. Pray for a lost sheep who is far away from God's love.

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



2nd Week of
Advent
VIOLET

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



MILTIADES

(d. 314)
POPE MARTYR

Pope Miltiades (was the bishop of Rome from 311 to 314. It was during his pontificate that Emperor Constantine the Great issued the Edict of Milan (313), giving Christianity legal status within the Roman Empire.

At the Lateran Council, during the schism with the Church of Carthage, he condemned the rebaptism of apostatised bishops and priests teaching of Donatus Magnus. He underwent great sufferings during the time of Maximian persecution.

OUR LADY OF LORETO

11 DEC

WEDNESDAY

2nd Week of
Advent
VIOLET

OPTIONAL MEMORIAL



DAMASUS I

(c.304 - 384)
POPE

Pope Damasus I was the bishop of Rome from October 366 to his death. He presided over the Council of Rome that determined the canon or official list of sacred scripture.

He spoke out against major heresies including Apollinarianism and Macedonianism and encouraged production of the Vulgate Bible with his support for Jerome. He helped reconcile the relations between the Church of Rome and the Church of Antioch, and encouraged the veneration of martyrs.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:25-31

To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10

✠ *Bless the Lord, O my soul.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Behold, the Lord comes to save his people; blessed are those prepared to meet him.

Gospel: Matthew 11:28-30

At that time: Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light!"

✠ Jesus expects us to give all of ourselves to him but, when we do so, we discover that what he asks is absolutely right for us. To follow Jesus is not to carry a great weight, but to experience a great sense of liberation. If we have not found that experience yet, then we are not yet carrying the yoke of Jesus. What makes Jesus' yoke easy and His burden light, according to scholars, is that in Jesus' own active obedience, He carried the burden that we were meant to carry. His perfect obedience is applied to us through faith. Our obedience to Jesus then becomes our "spiritual worship." The life lived by faith is a much lighter yoke and a much easier burden to carry than the heavy and burdensome yoke of self-righteousness. What concerns, worries or anxieties are on my mind today that navigate me away from Jesus?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Isaiah 41:13-20

I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you." Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; you Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff; you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory. When the Poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the LORD will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive. I will set in the desert the cypress, the plane and the pine together, that they may see and know, may consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Psalms 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab

✠ The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in mercy.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Shower, O havens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Gospel: Matthew 11:11-15

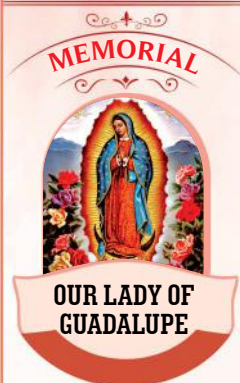
At the time: Jesus said to the crowds, "Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he, For the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

✠ The angel's message troubled Mary. It was leading her into uncharted waters, into a life of unimaginable risk. She is willing to take the risk, and to trust God's invitation. Christmas highlights the belief that God is in all of us. We can ignore that, or we can help God be found in all of us. God is often deeply hidden but nevertheless is active through each of us for each other. In the visit of Mary, God came close to Elizabeth in the ordinary and homely moments of everyday life. These Advent and Christmas days give us the space to allow the huge eternal mystery to become part of the everyday. Remember that we are not alone in doing our mission. By coming together we achieve great heights. Can I bring Jesus to the people I meet today and be a sign of hope to them in their lives?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



2nd Week of
Advent
RED / VIOLET



The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe narrates the apparition of Virgin Mary to a peasant Juan Diego on the Hill of Tepeyac. She sent him to the bishop of Mexico to build a chapel. As a sign, she provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop. On the tilma where the roses had been, appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

13 DEC

FRIDAY

2nd Week of
Advent

WHITE/RED

MEMORIAL



LUCY

(c.283 - 304)
VIRGIN & MARTYR

Raised in a pious family, St. Lucy was betrothed to a pagan. As a sign of her rejection, her fiancé denounced Lucy as a Christian to the governor. He sentenced her to forced prostitution, but this was thwarted by divine intervention, she was next ordered to be burnt but proved impervious to the flames. Finally she was martyred by having a sword thrust to her throat. She is the patron saint of the blind.

First Reading: Isaiah 48:17-19

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord your God, who teaches you for your own good, who leads you in the way you should go. O that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your prosperity would have been like a river, and your success like the waves of the sea; your offspring would have been like the sand, and your descendants like its grains; their name would never be cut off or destroyed from before me.

Psalm 1:1-4, 6

R *Anyone who follows you, Lord, will have the light of life.*

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, See, the king, the Lord of the world will come. He will free us from the yoke of our bondage.

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

R Jesus is highlighting the harsh reality of being judged by others. John the Baptist was deemed to be too radical for his ascetic way of life and Jesus himself considered too ordinary. Our world is full of prejudices and preconceived notions. Jesus desires us to be free of our prejudices and instead be rooted in and guided by His truth. It is important, as Jesus urges us again, that we really try to listen to the essence of what Jesus left us, his vision of the Kingdom. Very few of us hear the message without some form of filtering due to the history or our personal experiences. How much am I willing to put myself out for others? Am I imprisoned in my comfort zone? Do my actions and deeds as a De La Salle Brother bear witness to my being a follower of Christ?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11

Hear this, O house of Jacob, who are called by the name of Israel, and who came forth from the loins of Judah; who swear by the name of the Lord, and invoke the God of Israel, but not in truth or right. For they call themselves after the holy city, and lean on the God of Israel; the Lord of hosts is his name. The former things I declared long ago, they went out from my mouth and I made them know; then suddenly I did them and they came to pass. Because I know that you are obstinate, and your neck is an iron sinew and your forehead brass. For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you, so that I may not cut you off. See, I have refined you, but not like silver; I have tested you in the furnace of adversity. For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for why should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.

Psalms 80:2, 3, 15-16, 18-19

℟️ God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! The day of the Lord is near; look, he comes to save us.

Gospel: Matthew 17:9, 10-13

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." And the disciples asked him, "Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He replied, "Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

℟️ It is obvious that Jesus is referring to John as the second coming of the prophet Elijah. But the majority of the people then did not recognize the call of John to renew their lives because they were busy with the things of this world. At times, we also do not understand what Jesus is saying to us. At times, it may be difficult for us to hear Jesus' voice. The busyness and noise in our lives can make us deaf to what Jesus may be saying to us. Can I open the "ear of my heart?" Further, the disciples needed help to recognise a true prophet in their midst. There is a call to recognise who is truly prophetic and has the courage and conviction to follow that. Sometimes we too need help in discerning what and who is prophetic. Am I aware of the prophetic role of my vocation?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

**14
DEC**

SATURDAY

2nd Week of
Advent
WHITE

MEMORIAL



**JOHN OF THE
CROSS**
(1542 - 1591)
DOCTOR

Born at Fontiveros, John was a Carmelite friar who was persuaded by St. Teresa of Avila to be the first to undertake the reform of his Order and founded the Discalced Carmelites., which cost him much hard work and trials. His famous writings Spiritual Cantic, The Dark Night of the Soul, and The Ascent of Mount Carmel depicts mysticism and spirituality. He is the patron of Contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Violet

Year C

Psalter III

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singings on a day of festival.

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcde, 5-6

R. Shout, and sing for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
For the Lord God is my strength and my song,
And he has become my salvation.”
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. *R.*

“Give thanks to the Lord,
Call upon his name,
Make known his deeds among the peoples,
Proclaim that his name is exalted. *R.*”

“Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
Let this be made known in all the earth.
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
For great in your midst is the Holy one of Israel”. *R.*

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

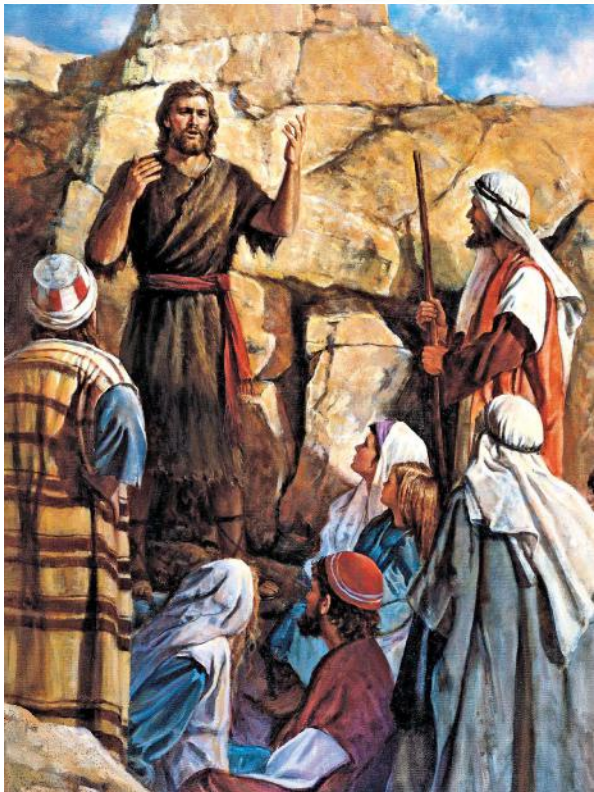
Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to preach the good news to the poor.

Sunday

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

And the crowds asked Jesus, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all



were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

℞ He is the voice in the wilderness pointing the way to Jesus the Saviour. It's not about him and his baptism. What counts is the baptism Christ will inaugurate: "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire". "Those who teach others are merely the voice which prepares hearts; it belongs to God himself to prepare them by his grace to receive him," says De La Salle. (Reference) John's words show that he views poverty neither as an accident nor as the fault of the poor. In his time, as in ours, the earth produced more than enough goods to feed and clothe everyone. John called not only the wealthiest but also the merely comfortable to treat their accumulation of goods as directly related to the seriousness of their repentance. Our repentance should not spring from fear but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God.

16 DEC

MONDAY

3rd Week of
Advent
VIOLET



ADELAIDE

(d. 999)

WIDOW

Born a princess, Adelaide was a Holy Roman Empress by marriage to Emperor Otto the Great. She used her position and power to help the poor, to evangelize, especially among the Slavs, and to build and restore monasteries and churches. She was a principal agent of the work of the preschism Orthodox Catholic Church at the end of the Early Middle Ages in the construction of the religious culture of Central Europe.

First Reading: Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a

In those days: Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe. And the Spirit of God came upon him, and he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your encampments, O Israel! Like palm groves that stretch afar, like gardens beside a river, like aloes that the LORD has planted, like cedar trees beside the waters. Water shall flow from his buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters; his king shall be higher than Agag, and his kingdom shall be exalted. And he took up his discourse and said, "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who see the vision of the Almighty, falling down with his eyes uncovered: I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.

Psalms 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7cd, 8-9

℟ *Teach me your paths, O Lord.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-27

At that time: When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

℟ A person with 'authority' is not just someone who necessarily hold power over others. The exercise of genuine authority is not to control, but on the contrary, to be an agent in releasing the potential that is in people, to be an empowering agent. Jesus's tactic demonstrated that He was more cunning than even the politically-shrewd Jewish leaders. He was better at framing issues than they were and exceeded them in the skill of political discourse. He stood for the truth and said only what was true, while also exceeding them in the skill of political discourse. Jesus did not wield coercive authority. He invited people to follow him. He came to serve not be served. He came to give life, life in its fullness. He came to lead people into the full development of all they could be and were meant to be. How do I respond to this invitation from Jesus?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Genesis 49:2, 8-10 ...*(please see appendix Page 517)*

Psalm 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17

℟ *In his days shall justice flourish and great peace forever.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father the of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jothan the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon. Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportations to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

℟ The genealogy of Jesus is there for a reason. Just as God spoke his Word and began his work of creation, so the advent of Jesus Christ in the world marks the beginning of God's ultimate work of redeeming those broken, bruised, and groaning creations. The new beginning in the story of God's relationship to his creatures brought about by the advent of Jesus into the world. Jesus had holy and not so holy, public sinners, outcasts and the type of people you wouldn't associate with in his family line. In our family tree we might erase them or pretend they never existed. This list is God's list of favourites and of co-workers. All can be partners with God in the coming of the kingdom and that includes me and you. Can I associate with people who are left behind by society? Do I get along with only a certain group of people?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

**17
DEC**

TUESDAY

3rd Week of
Advent
VIOLET



LAZARUS

(1st century)

Lazarus was the brother of St. Martha and St. Mary of Bethany. He was the man whom Jesus raised from the dead after having been dead and in his tomb for four days. There are many legends regarding his life and death. One of the tradition says that he became a missionary to Gaul and the first bishop of Marseilles. During the persecution of Domitian, he was imprisoned and be-headed in a cave.

**JOSEPH
MANYANET I
VIVES**

18 DEC

WEDNESDAY

3rd Week of
Advent
VIOLET



WINEBALD

(702 - 761)
ABBOT

Born a prince, Winebald spent seven years in Rome recovering and studying before finally returning to England. He was placed in charge of seven churches, including one at Erfurt. Along with the brothers founded a double monastery for the training of priests and as a center of learning. He joined the League of Attigny, a confraternity of prayer established by Archbishop of Metz.

He is the patron saint of construction workers.

FLANNAN

First Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." Therefore, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when it shall no longer be said, "As the Lord lives who brought the people of Israel up out of the land of Egypt," but "As the Lord lives who brought out and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the land of the north and out of all the lands where he had driven them." Then they shall live in their own land.

Psalm 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Ruler of the House of Israel, who gave to Moses the law on Sinai; come and save us with outstretched arm.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angle of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son; and you are to name him Jesus, for he will this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Ⓜ He was a new man, "fully God, fully man." He was, is and forever will be, the Immanuel. This truth is not enough to save, but without it there is no salvation, no Gospel, no hope of humanity's return to God's glorious presence. The birth of Christ is a glorious display of God's condescending love to man, and God's gracious plan to raise the weakest sinner to the heights of glory through the one who took on flesh in order to ransom sinners and bring them to God. This passage is also a picture of how God provides us with opportunities and situations to better ourselves, but we may not see them because we are either not looking or we are so consumed by our past experiences or future expectations. Do we wait for God's intervention for the circumstances that throw us into the unknown?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25 ...*(please see appendix Page 517)*

Psalms 71:3-4, 5-6, 16-17

My lips are filled with your praise, with your glory all the day long.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Root of Jesse, set up as a sign to the peoples, come to save us now. Delay no more.

Gospel: Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order to Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so?' *....(please see appendix Page 517)*

R Zechariah was speechless because of his lack of faith. His obstinacy to believe isolated him especially from his family and fellow-priests. As Lasallians faith draws us into communion with people of all faiths. We share much in faith, and forge links which bind us in prayer, mission and brotherhood. Zechariah was never deserted by God and with the birth of John his faith returned and God looked favourably on him. "Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged of man," says Rabindranath Tagore. A child may often bring us to faith, where faith is missing. How privileged we are then to be commissioned by God himself to instruct the hearts of the children. Being with your students is an opportunity to be close to life, to mystery and to God. Does anything hinders me from accepting the children as they are?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



3rd Week of Advent
VIOLET



NEMESIUS

(d.250)
MARTYR

St. Nemesius was a martyr who gave his life for his faith in ancient Alexandria. During the persecution of Decius, Nemesion, an Egyptian, was apprehended at Alexandria upon an indictment for theft. He easily cleared himself of that charge, but was immediately accused of being a Christian, and after being scourged and tormented more than the thieves, was condemned to be burnt with the robbers

**20
DEC**

FRIDAY

3rd Week of
Advent
VIOLET



DOMINIC OF SILOS

(c.1000 - 1073)

MONK

Dominic of Silos Spanish monk, to whom the Abbey of Santo Domingo de Silos, where he served as the abbot, is dedicated.

Inspired by the reforms of Cluny, he proceeded to rebuild the monastery, both spiritually and physically. He turned the monastery into a center of book design, scholarship, and significant charity. He raised funds to ransom Christians taken prisoner by the Moors. He is the patron saint of prisoners, pregnant women, and shepherds.

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

℟: *Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy- the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

℞ Mary had to have a deeply personal relationship with God. It was this relationship that enabled her to trust and say "yes" to what God was asking her to do. Mary from a young age must have trusted God in all things. And thus, she would trust God even in this surreal and frightening situation. Christmas highlights the belief that God is in all of us. We can ignore that, or we can help God be found in all of us. God is often deeply hidden but active through each of us for each other. In the visit of Mary, God came close to Elizabeth in the ordinary and homely moments of every day. We can bring Jesus to someone who is in real need of a listening ear or a helping hand. That's how the joy of advent is passed on.

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

Song of Solomon 2:8-14 (or Zep 3: 14-18)

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me; 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

Psalm 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21

✠ Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; O sing him a song that is new.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Morning star, radiance of eternal light, sun of justice, come and enlighten those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

℟ What a glorious way God connected two different promises delivered by the angel Gabriel about two precious women. He promised Zechariah that his son would be filled by the Spirit from the womb. He also promised Mary that Elizabeth was pregnant and that this pregnancy was the confirmation of God's miracle. Mary's faith was strengthened and both women were blessed. Advent has a host of promises from God which can be accepted only by faith. Until we begin to act on our faith it often remains small and at times unblessed. That active faith then opens the door for God's blessing and confirmation. So what promise of advent in your heart is not acted upon because of your doubt? Why not prayerfully re-examine and then act in response to God's word of his second coming? Will he say "blessed are you to believe and act on my word?"

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

21
DEC
SATURDAY

3rd Week of
Advent
VIOLET

COMMEMORATION



PETER CANISIUS

(1521 - 1597)
RELIGIOUS & DOCTOR

Peter Canisius was a Dutch Jesuit Catholic priest who was known for his strong support for the Catholic faith during the Protestant Reformation in Europe. He was sent to Germany where for many years he worked to defend and to strengthen the Catholic faith by his writings and preaching. He had great diplomatic ability, often serving as a reconciler between disputing factions. He was canonised on 21 May 1925 by Pope Pius XI.



4th Sunday of Advent

Violet

Year C

Psalter IV

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Now you are walled around with a wall; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the ruler of Israel upon the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

Plasm 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19

R. O God, bring us back; let your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
 Enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
 Rouse up your might and come to save us. *R.*

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
 Look down from heaven and see.
 Visit this vine and protect it,
 The vine your right hand has planted,
 The son of man you have claimed for yourself. *R.*

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
 The son of man you have confirmed as your own.
 And we shall never forsake you again;
 Gives us life that we may call upon your name. *R.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Sunday

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."



® Father Damien deVeuster, (St. Damien of Molokai) a Belgian priest, began working with lepers on Molokai. He and the lepers constructed a chapel for worship. Each Sunday Father Damien would begin his sermon with these words: "You lepers know that God loves you." This went on for years. Finally, one Sunday Father Damien began his sermon this way: "We lepers know that God loves us." He had contracted leprosy. Yet he went on loving and serving until his death in 1898. (Dr. William R. Bouknight) At different periods of our life, we have each experienced Christmas differently. As we mature in faith, we realise that Christmas is not about what gifts we receive but Who we receive into our lives. How have we prepared ourselves to receive him and how have we prepared ourselves to be received by him?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

23
DEC

MONDAY

4th Week of
Advent
VIOLET

COMMEMORATION



JOHN OF KANTY

(1390 - 1473)
CONFESSOR

Born in Kanty, John was an outstanding professor of the Catholic faith. He excelled in personal holiness and in charity to his neighbour. He was well known for his generosity and compassion toward the poor, especially needy students at the university. He subsisted on what was strictly necessary to sustain his life, giving alms regularly to the poor. He is the patron saint of the Canons Regular of Saint John Cantius

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6

Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I sent my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

Psalm 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

R *Look up and raise your heads, because, your redemption is drawing near.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

Gospel: Luke 1:57-66

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbours. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

R John the Baptist played a unique role in the history of God's people. His primary title is Precursor. His mission was to go ahead of the Messiah and proclaim his coming. He is presented as a man of total honesty and integrity. John's life has a special meaning for all of us. We are, through our baptism, also called to be precursors of the Lord, in a more special way as Brothers, to herald the coming of Jesus to our students through our actions. Our lives individually and as a community are meant to send out a message and an invitation: "come and share our experience of faith, love and fellowship." What messages do I send out to others by the way I live my life in community, school and other mission centres?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, ...*(please see appendix Page 518)*

Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29

✠ I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death!

Gospel: Luke 1:67-79

At that time: Zechariah, father of John, was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

℞ We have been given all the gifts we need to lead good lives. When we fall short we can pick ourselves up and start again. The sacrament of reconciliation can be a great gift of healing at such times in our lives. How do we miss it? De La Salle says, "For how long has Jesus been presenting himself to you and knocking at the door of your heart to make his dwelling within you, and you have not wanted to receive him? Why? Because he only presents himself under the form of a poor man, a slave, a man of sorrows." (Reference) He further adds, "If you wish to profit by the coming of Jesus Christ in you, let him be the master of your heart, and be docile to whatever he might require of you." (Reference) Can I let him in so that he might take hold of my being?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



4th Week of
Advent
VIOLET



ADELE & IRMINA

(d. 735)
FOUNDRESSES

Princesses Irmina and Adela were daughters of St. Dagobert II, King of the Franks. After the death of her fiancé, St. Irmina founded a Benedictine convent in the old castle of Honrien at Trier. She was the generous benefactor to Celtic and Saxon monks. Her sister, St. Adela founded the convent of Palatiolum outside of Trier and served as its first abbess.

**25
DEC**

WEDNESDAY

4th Week of
Advent
WHITE

SOLEMNITY



**NATIVITY OF THE
LORD**

The Feast of the Nativity of the Lord focuses especially on the newborn Child, God becoming human, who embodies for us all the hope and peace we seek. The nativity is described in the Biblical gospels of Luke and Matthew. The two accounts agree that Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, his mother Mary was betrothed to a man named Joseph, his foster father, and that his birth was caused by divine intervention.

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10 ...*(please see appendix Page 518)*

Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6

℟ *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6...*(please see appendix Page 518)*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A hallowed day has shone upon us: Come, O nations, and adore the Lord; for today a great light has come down to earth.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from god, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only begotten Son from the father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, ...*(please see appendix Page 519)*)

Night Vigil Mass Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 11-12, 13

℟ *Unto us is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

℞ What is Christmas? It's a demonstration of the unconditional love of God. Love being his nature, he loves us profoundly and unconditionally. This unconditionality means a lot. A creator becomes a creature. According to William Barclay, "Jesus came to tell them [His children] not of the justice that would pursue them forever, but of the love which would never let them go away from him." What is the spirit of Christmas? De La Salle says, "Be convinced that as long as you remain bound in your heart to poverty and to everything that can humble you, you will do good for souls," and "Only the poor come looking for us. They have nothing to offer us but their hearts ready to accept our instructions. Let us love what is most humiliating in our profession in order to share in some way the lowliness of Jesus Christ at his birth."

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59

In those days: Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and sings among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Psalm 31:3bc-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17

✠ Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God, and has given us light.

Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22

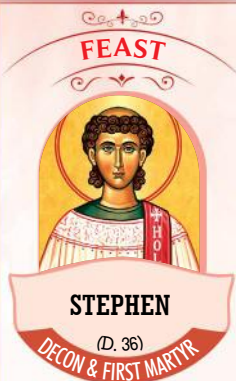
At that time: Jesus said to his apostles, "Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

✠ De La Salle writes on St. Stephen the first martyr, "was he not filled with faith when, following the recommendation given by Jesus Christ, he pardoned his enemies and begged God not to impute to them the sin they were committing by putting him to death and when, in the fervour of his prayer, he saw the heavens opened and the Son of God made man at the right hand of God, his Father? This is how faith ought to make you act and how you ought to make known by your conduct, as he did, that you are true disciples of Jesus Christ, having only God in view in all your actions and announcing... In all this what must strengthen your zeal as well as your faith is the fact that you announce these truths in your position as ministers of God."

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



4th Week of
Advent
RED



St. Stephen traditionally venerated as the protomartyr or first martyr of Christianity, was according to the Acts of the Apostles a deacon in the early church at Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy at his trial, he made a speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and was then stoned to death. He is the patron saint of altar servers.

27
DEC

FRIDAY

4th Week of
Advent
WHITE

FEAST



JOHN

APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

Son of Zebedee and Salome, he was called by Jesus during the first year of His ministry, and travelled everywhere with Him. He was the only one of the Twelve present at the Crucifixion of the Lord and the first to reach the tomb of the Risen Lord. During the era of the new Church, he worked in Jerusalem and Ephesus. He outlived the remaining apostles and was the only one to die of natural causes.

First Reading: 1 John 1:1-4

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12

✠ Rejoice in the Lord, you just.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The glorious company of the apostles praise you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 20:1a, 2-8

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.

✠ "The other disciple whom Jesus loved" is John the evangelist. But he is not named, and so he can stand for me and you because we too are loved by Jesus. I rest in the warmth of this love. "Saint John was so specially loved by Jesus Christ that he is called his well-beloved disciple above everyone else. Saint John, not wishing out of humility to name himself in his Gospel, does not call himself anything but the disciple whom Jesus loved," writes De La Salle, "You are in a state where you need to be honoured by the friendship of Jesus. Cherish especially, then, this favourite virtue of Jesus, so that the divine Saviour may love you tenderly and take pleasure in being with you, for his delight is to be with pure people." (Reference) Am I true to my love for Jesus?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 John 1:5–2:2

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Psalm 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8

Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The noble army of martyrs praise you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

Ⓡ A sad feast, remembering Herod’s bloodthirsty massacre and the heartbreak of the babies’ mothers. “Today let us honour the innocence of these holy children, who had the privilege of dying before knowing evil and being able to do it. How fortunate they are, for their life was consecrated to God at an age when evil had not yet taken possession of their heart,” writes De La Salle. (Reference) These little children died not only as martyrs but also by taking the place of Jesus Christ. We can have the same opportunity as them, by giving our lives, to prevent Jesus Christ from dying in us. Sinners, says Saint Paul, crucify Jesus Christ anew. As we recover from Christmas, other parts of the world are suffering from war, bombings, bloodshed and bereavements. Lord, keep my heart open to the griefs that confront me, especially my own short-comings.

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.



4th Week of
Advent
RED

FEAST



**THE HOLY
INNOCENTS**

MARTYRS

The Massacre of the Innocents is the incident in the nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew (2:16-18) in which Herod the Great, king of Judea, orders the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem when he tried to kill the infant Christ. The Catholic Church has claimed the children murdered in Jesus’s stead as the first Christian martyrs, and their feast as Holy Innocents Day.



Holy Family of Jesus Mary & Joseph

White

Year C

Psalter II

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

For the Lord honours a father above his children, and he confirms a mother's right over her children. Those who honour their father atone for sins, and those who respect their mother are like those who lay up treasure. Those who honour their father will have joy in their own children, and when they pray they will be heard. Those who respect their father will have long life, and those who honour their mother obey the Lord; My child, help your father in his old age, and do not grieve him as long as he lives; even if his mind fails, be patient with him; because you have all your faculties do not despise him. For kindness to a father will not be forgotten, and will be credited to you against your sins;

Psalms 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10

R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning
For the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out
To the living God. *R.*

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
Forever singing your praise,
Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
Whose heart is set on pilgrim ways. *R.*

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob.
Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
Look on the face of your anointed. *R.*

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly.

Sunday

HOLY FAMILY FEAST SUNDAY

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his



mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

® Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Fittingly falling within the season of Christmas, we continue to call our attention to the profound reality of God becoming man. Here we are reminded of the humanity of Jesus as the son of Mary and Joseph. The Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement. They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God. De La Salle writes, "be gentle as a mother and as firm as a father to the child in your care so that through you he may grow in knowledge of God."

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

**30
DEC**

MONDAY

5th Week of
Advent
WHITE



**SABINUS &
COMPANIONS**
(c. 373)
MARTYRS

Sabinus the Bishop of Spoleto, along with his companions were apprehended in Assisi for revolt and thrown into prison by the Governor Venustianus. During the persecution, Diocletian ordered all Christians to sacrifice to the gods or be put to death. While imprisoned, he healed and converted many to Christian faith. As punishment for spreading Christianity, he had his hands amputated and beaten to death by the guards.

**ANYSIA OF
SALONIKA**

First Reading: 1 John 2:12-17

I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven on account of his name. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young people, because you have conquered the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young people, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live forever.

Psalm 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10

Let the heaven rejoice and the earth be glad.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.

Gospel: Luke 2:36-40

There was also a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

R The life of Jesus as he grew from childhood to manhood was hidden for thirty years in an obscure village. In this hidden time, Jesus grows. He becomes strong, filled with wisdom and God's favour. Any successful person will tell you that one of the keys to his or her success in life is the ability to prioritise well. It is important for us to realise that not every good thing that we can do, should be done. At first this can be difficult to accept but it is quite logical when we think it through properly. Both of these abilities lead us to ask ourselves, how we prioritise our prayer lives. A hidden time with the Lord is not a waste of time. We draw graces upon us and our community from prayer. How faithful am I to my personal prayer?

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

First Reading: 1 John 2:18-21

Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; ...*(please see appendix Page 519)*

Psalm 96:1-2, 11-12, 13

✠ Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

℞ In the beginning, we were created in the image of God. Human beings are meant to be like God in character and motivation. Sin has defaced that image, so that, far from being God's children, we are like rebels living as if we control our own destiny. But, it is a love that brings light to everyone. If I allow it to shine on me, I begin to see everyone from the divine point of view. I see the potential of each person to become nothing less than a daughter or son of God. As we end this year let us examine ourselves. Strip off the old man today, and put on the new man, as Saint Paul exhorts you to do, and ask God, following the advice of the same Apostle, to renew in you tomorrow the spirit of your state and of your profession. (De La Salle)

Reflection: Br. THARSHAN PERIES FSC, Sri Lanka.

**31
DEC**

TUESDAY

5th Week of
Advent
WHITE

COMMEMORATION



SYLVESTER I

(d. 335)
POPE

Pope Sylvester I was the bishop of Rome who reigned entirely under the liberty of the Church from 314 until his death. During the reign of Emperor Constantine I, he built the Basilica of Saint John Lateran and other churches. He sent legates to the First Council of Nicaea, and was involved in the controversy over Arianism. He donated property and buildings for Church use and supported Church charities.

JANUARY**January 1 | Monday**

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

....The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

Second Reading: Galatians 4: 4-7

....And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

January 2 | Tuesday

First Reading: 1 John 2:22-28

....then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life. I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him. And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

January 3 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 John 2:29-3:6

....that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him.

January 4 | Thursday

First Reading: 1 John 3:7-10

....Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. Those who have been born of God do not sin, because God's seed abides in them; they cannot sin, because they have been born of God. The children of God and the children of the devil are revealed in this way:

all who do not do what is right are not from God, nor are those who do not love their brothers and sisters.

January 5 | Friday

First Reading: 1 John : 3: 11-21

....For this is the message you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We must not be like Cain who was from the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God.

January 6 | Saturday

First Reading: 1 John 5:5-13

....God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

January 8 | Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-11

....For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

January 9 | TUESDAY

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:9-20

....Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as

a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favour in your eyes." Then the woman went on her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. They rose early in the morning and worshipped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

January 10 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20

....to grow dim; so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" And Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD.

January 11 | THURSDAY

First Reading: 1 Samuel 4:1-11

....And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. As soon as the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the earth resounded. And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shouting, they said, "What does this great shouting in the camp of the Hebrews mean?" And when they learned that the ark of the LORD had come to the camp, the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "A god has come into the camp." And they said, "Woe to us! For nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who can deliver us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with every sort of plague in the wilderness. Take courage, and be men, O Philistines, lest you become slaves to the Hebrews as they have been to you; be men and fight." So the Philistines fought, and Israel was defeated, and they fled, every man to his home. And here was a very great slaughter, for thirty thousand foot soldiers of Israel fell. And the ark of God was captured, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

January 12 | Friday

First Reading: 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a

...for they have rejected me from being king over them." So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots. And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plough his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. He will take you daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day." But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king."

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

....And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven', or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home." and he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

January 13 | Saturday

First Reading: 1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a

....but they did not find them, And they passed through the land of shaalim, but they were not there. Then they passed through the land of Benjamin, but did not find them. When Samuel saw Saul, the LORD told him, "Here is the man of whom I spoke to you! He it is who shall restrain my people." Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?" Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind." Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said, "Has not the LORD anointed you to be prince over his people Israel? And you shall reign over the people of the LORD and you will save them from the hand of their surrounding enemies."

January 15 | Monday**First Reading: 1 Samuel 15:16-23**

....But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal." And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

January 16 | Tuesday**First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

....And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons, and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

January 17 | Wednesday**First Reading: 1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51**

....His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine. And the Philistine moved forward and came near to David, with his shield bearer in front of him. And when the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was but a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. And the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver

you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand." When the philistines arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly towards the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath, and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

January 18 | Thursday

First Reading: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7

.... And Jonathan told David, "Saul my father seeks to kill you. Therefore be on your guard in the morning. Stay in a secret place and hide yourself. And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where you are, and I will speak to my father about you. And if I learn anything I will tell you." And Jonathan spoke well of David to Saul his father and said to him, "Let not the king sin against his servant David, because he has not sinned against you, and because his deeds have brought good to you. For he took his life in his hand and he struck down the Philistine, and the LORD worked a great salvation for all Israel. You saw it, and rejoiced. Why then will you sin against innocent blood by killing David without cause? And Saul listened to the voice of Jonathan. Saul swore, "As the LORD lives, he shall not be put to death." And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan reported to him all these things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence as before.

January 19 | Friday

First Reading: 1 Samuel 24:2-20

.... "Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you." Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. And afterwards David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said, to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD's anointed." So David persuaded his men with these words, and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way. Afterwards David also arose, and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen

how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.' See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe, and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you, As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness.' But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand." As soon as David has finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand."

January 20 | Saturday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27

...O Israel, is slain o your high places! How the mighty have fallen!" Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely! In life and in death they were not divided; they were swifter than eagles; they were stronger than lions. "You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, who put ornaments of gold on your apparel. "How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the battle!" Jonathan lies slain on your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant have you been to me; your love to me was extraordinary, surpassing the love of women. "How the mighty have fallen, and the weapons of war perished"

January 22 | Monday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-7, 10

...So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron, and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned fore forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah for seven years and six months, and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah for thirty-three years. And the king and his men went to Jerusalem against the Jebusites, the inhabitants of the land, who said to David, "You will not come in here, but the blind and the lame will ward you off"—thinking, "David cannot come in here." Nevertheless, David took the stronghold of Sion, that is, the city of David. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

January 23 | Tuesday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 6: 12-15, 17-19

....When David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the offerings of well-being, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts, and distributed food among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, to each a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins. Then all the people went back to their homes.

January 24 | Wednesday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7: 4-17

....But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

Gospel: Mark 4: 1-20

.... "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when

they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns; these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil; they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundred fold."

January 25 | Thursday

First Reading: Acts 22:3-16

... "And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well-spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name."

January 26 | Friday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 11:1-4, 5-10, 13-17

... And on said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing, and how the people were doing and how the war was going. The David said to Uriah, "Go down to our house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand to Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die." And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men. And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

January 27 | Saturday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 12:1-7a, 10-17

.... Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' Thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.'" David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan, said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the LORD, the child who is born to you shall die." Then Nathan went to his house. And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and he became sick. David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them.

January 29 | Monday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13a

.... In those days: A messenger came to David, saying, "The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Absalom." Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, "Arise, and let us flee, or else there will be no escape for us from Absalom. Go quickly, lest he overtake us quickly and bring down ruin on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword." But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went. When King David came to Bahurim, there came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera, and as he came he cursed continually. And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David, and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And Shimei said as he cursed, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you worthless man! The LORD has avenged on you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned, and the LORD has given the kingdom into the hand of your son Absalom. See, your evil is on you, for you are a man of blood." Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and take off his head." But the king said, "What have I to do with you, sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD has said to him, 'Curse David', who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" And David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "Behold, my own son seeks my life; how much more now may this Benjaminite! Leave him alone, and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. It may be

that the LORD will look on the wrong done to me, and that the LORD will repay me with good for his cursing today." So David and his men went on the road.

Gospel: Mark 5:1-20

... So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea. The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened. They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had the legion; and they were afraid. Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it. Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood. As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him. But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you." And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

January 30 | Tuesday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3

...In those days: Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was suspended between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And a certain man saw it and told Joab, "Behold, I saw Absalom hanging in an oak." And Joab took three javelins in his hand, and thrust them into the heart of Absalom while he was still alive in the oak. Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth. Turn aside and stand here." So he turned aside and stood still. And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, "Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Absalom?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man." And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, "O my son Absalom, my son Absalom! Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" It was told Joab, "Behold, the king is weeping and mourning for Absalom." So the victory that day was turned into mourning for all the people, for the people heard that day, "The king is grieving for his son." And the people stole into the city that day as people steal in who are ashamed when they flee in battle.

Gospel: Mark 5: 21-43

... But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before him and told him the whole truth. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." While he was

still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

January 31 | Wednesday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17

.... "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O LORD, I pray you, take away the guilt of your servant; for I have done very foolishly." When David rose in the morning, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, "Go and say to David: Thus says the LORD: Three things I offer you; choose one of them, and I will do it to you." So Gad came to David and told him; he asked him, "Shall three years of famine come to you on your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to the one who sent me." Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress; let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into human hands." So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel from that morning until the appointed time; and seventy thousand of the people died, from Dan to Beersheba. But when the angel stretched out his hand toward Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented concerning the evil, and said to the angel who was bringing destruction among the people, "It is enough; now stay your hand." The angel of the LORD was then by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was destroying the people, he said to the LORD, "I alone have sinned, and I alone have done wickedly but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house."

FEBRUARY

February 2 | Friday

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

....She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says

the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years."

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

...Since the children share in flesh and Blood Jesus himself likewise partook of the same things that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

... what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him; And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), So that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." And there was prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband, seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God, and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

February 3 | Saturday

First Reading: 1 King 3:4-13

... And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a

wise and discerning mind, so that none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.”

February 5 | Monday

First Reading: 1 King 8:1-7, 9-13

.... 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.”

February 6 | Tuesday

First Reading: 1 King 8:22-23, 27-30

....In those days: Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands towards heaven, and said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to your servants who walk before you with all their heart. “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of your servant and to his plea, O LORD my God, listening to the cry and to the prayer that your servant prays before you this day, that your eyes may be open night and day towards this house, the place of which you have said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers towards this place. And listen to the plea of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray towards this place. And listen in heaven your dwelling place, and when you hear, forgive.”

Gospel: Mark 7:1-13

....‘Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban’ (that is, given to God)—than you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do.”

February 7 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Kings 10:1-10

....but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard. Happy are your men! Happy are your servants, who have delighted in you and

set you on the throne of Israel! Because the LORD loved Israel for ever, he has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness.” Then she gave the king one hundred twenty talents of gold, and a very great quantity of spices and precious stones. Never again came such an abundance of spices as these that the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

February 8 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Kings 11:4-13

....have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom from you and will give it to your servant. Yet for the sake of David your father I will not do it in your days, but I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away all the kingdom, but I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen.”

February 10 | Saturday

First Reading: 1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34

....among all the people, who were not of the Levites. And Jeroboam appointed a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month like the feast that was in Judah, and he offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he made. And he placed in Bethel the priests of the high places that he had made. After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places. And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.

February 13 | Tuesday

First Reading: James 1:12-18

...Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

February 14 | Wednesday

First Reading: Joel 2: 12-18 .

...Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say,

"Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the Lord became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20 - 6:

....So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

....But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

February 16 | Friday

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a

....and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

February 19 | Monday

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18

....The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

....prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty

or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

February 21 | Wednesday

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-10

....When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

February 23 | Friday

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:21-28

....When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die.

February 26 | Monday

First Reading: Daniel 9:4b-10

....in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. Open shame, O Lord, falls on us, our kings, our officials, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed his voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

February 27 | Tuesday

First Reading: Isaiah 1:10, 16-20

....Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

....But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.

The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

February 28 | Wednesday

First Reading: Jeremiah 18:8-20

....shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us bring charges against him, and let us not heed any of his words." Give heed to me, O Lord, and listen to what my adversaries say! Is evil a recompense for good? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them.

February 29 | Thursday

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

....Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

....He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

MARCH

March 1 | Friday

First Reading: Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

.... Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him. Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben

said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver.

March 2 | Saturday

First Reading: Micah 7: 14-15, 18-20

....Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock that belongs to you, which lives alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them feed in Bashan and Gileadas in the days of old. As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, show us marvelous things. Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

....And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

March 4 | Monday

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-15a

....And the king of Aram said, “Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.” He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.” But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.” But

Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.

March 5 | Tuesday

First Reading: Daniel 3:25, 34-43

....Then Azariah stood still in the fire and prayed aloud: For your name's sake do not give us up forever, and do not annul your covenant. Do not withdraw your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham your beloved and for the sake of your servant Isaac and Israel your holy one, to whom you promised to multiply their descendants like the stars of heaven and like the sand on the shore of the sea. For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any other nation, and are brought low this day in all the world because of our sins. In our day we have no ruler, or prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, no place to make an offering before you and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted, as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls, or with tens of thousands of fat lambs; such may our sacrifice be in your sight today, and may we unreservedly follow you, for no shame will come to those who trust in you. And now with all our heart we follow you; we fear you and seek your presence. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us in your patience and in your abundant mercy. Deliver us in accordance with your marvellous works, and bring glory to your name, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

....and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

March 7 | Thursday

First Reading: Jeremiah 7:23-28

....But this command I gave them, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people; and walk only in the way that I command you, so that it may be well with you." Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but, in the stubbornness of their evil will, they walked in their own counsels, and looked backward rather than forward.

From the day that your ancestors came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day; yet they did not listen to me, or pay attention, but they stiffened their necks. They did worse than their ancestors did. So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. You shall say to them: This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

March 8 | Friday

First Reading: Hosea 14:1-9

...‘Our God’, to the work of our hands. In you the orphan finds mercy.” I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the corn; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from me comes your fruit. Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

March 11 | Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 65:17-21

....For I am about to create new heaven and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Gospel: John 4:43-54

...“Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him.” The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, “Your son will live.” So he himself believed, along with his whole household. Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

March 12 | Tuesday

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12

...Then he brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple,

south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. Going on eastward with a cord in his hand, the man measured one thousand cubits, and then led me through the water; and it was ankle-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was knee-deep. Again he measured one thousand, and led me through the water; and it was up to the waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross, for the water had risen; it was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, "Mortal, have you seen this?" Then he led me back along the bank of the river. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

Gospel: John 5:1-16

....Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the Sabbath.

March 13 | Wednesday

First Reading: Isaiah 49:8-15

....Thus says the Lord: In a time of favor I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; saying to the prisoners, "Come out," to those who are in darkness, "Show yourselves." They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me." Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you..

Gospel: John 5:17-30

....For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

March 14 | Tuesday**First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14**

....The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.” But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Gospel: John 5:31-47

...I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?”

March 15 | Friday**First Reading: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22**

.... and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his

father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life; for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries. Let us test him with insult and torture, so that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hoped for the wages of holiness, nor discerned the prize for blameless souls.

March 16 | Saturday

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

....It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

March 18 | Monday

First Reading: Daniel 13: 1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 (or 13: 41-62)

....There was a man living in Babylon whose name was Joakim. He married the daughter of Hilkiyah, named Susanna, a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord. Her parents were righteous, and had trained their daughter according to the Law of Moses. Joakim was very rich, and had a fine garden adjoining his house; the Jews used to come to him because he was the most honored of them all. That year two elders from the people were appointed as judges. Concerning them the Lord had said: "Wickedness came forth from Babylon, from elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people." These men were frequently at Joakim's house, and all who had a case to be tried came to them there. When the people left at noon, Susanna would go into her husband's garden to walk. Every day the two elders used to see her, going in and walking about, and they began to lust for her. They suppressed their consciences and turned away their eyes from looking to Heaven or remembering their duty to administer justice. Once, while they were watching for an opportune day, she went in as before with only two maids, and wished to bathe in the garden, for it was a hot day. No one was there except the two elders, who had hidden themselves and were watching her. She said to her maids, "Bring me olive oil and ointments, and shut the garden doors so that I can bathe." When the maids had gone out, the two elders got up and ran to her. They said, "Look, the garden doors are shut, and no one can see us. We are burning with desire for you; so give your consent, and lie with us. If you refuse, we will testify against you that a young man was with you, and this was why you sent your maids away." Susanna groaned and said, "I am completely trapped. For if I do this, it will mean death for me; if I do not, I cannot escape your hands. I choose not to do it; I will fall into your hands, rather than sin in the sight of the Lord." Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders shouted against her. And one of them ran and opened

the garden doors. When the people in the house heard the shouting in the garden, they rushed in at the side door to see what had happened to her. And when the elders told their story, the servants felt very much ashamed, for nothing like this had ever been said about Susanna. The next day, when the people gathered at the house of her husband Joakim, the two elders came, full of their wicked plot to have Susanna put to death. In the presence of the people they said, "Send for Susanna daughter of Hilkiah, the wife of Joakim." So they sent for her. And she came with her parents, her children, and all her relatives. Those who were with her and all who saw her were weeping. Then the two elders stood up before the people and laid their hands on her head. Through her tears she looked up toward Heaven, for her heart trusted in the Lord. The elders said, "While we were walking in the garden alone, this woman came in with two maids, shut the garden doors, and dismissed the maids. Then a young man, who was hiding there, came to her and lay with her. We were in a corner of the garden, and when we saw this wickedness we ran to them. Although we saw them embracing, we could not hold the man, because he was stronger than we, and he opened the doors and got away. We did, however, seize this woman and asked who the young man was, but she would not tell us. These things we testify." Because they were elders of the people and judges, the assembly believed them and condemned her to death. Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and said, "O eternal God, you know what is secret and are aware of all things before they come to be; you know that these men have given false evidence against me. And now I am to die, though I have done none of the wicked things that they have charged against me!" The Lord heard her cry. Just as she was being led off to execution, God stirred up the holy spirit of a young lad named Daniel, and he shouted with a loud voice, "I want no part in shedding this woman's blood!" All the people turned to him and asked, "What is this you are saying?" Taking his stand among them he said, "Are you such fools, O Israelites, as to condemn a daughter of Israel without examination and without learning the facts? Return to court, for these men have given false evidence against her." So all the people hurried back. And the rest of the elders said to him, "Come, sit among us and inform us, for God has given you the standing of an elder." Daniel said to them, "Separate them far from each other, and I will examine them." When they were separated from each other, he summoned one of them and said to him, "You old relic of wicked days, your sins have now come home, which you have committed in the past, pronouncing unjust judgments, condemning the innocent and acquitting the guilty, though the Lord said, 'You shall not put an innocent and righteous person to death.' Now then, if you really saw this woman, tell me this: Under what tree did you see them being intimate with each other?" He answered, "Under a mastic tree." And Daniel said, "Very well! This lie has cost you your head, for the angel of God has received the sentence from God and will immediately cut you in two." Then, putting him to one side, he ordered them to bring the other. And he said to him, "You offspring of Canaan and not of Judah, beauty has beguiled you and lust has perverted your heart. This is how you have been treating the daughters of Israel, and they were intimate with you through fear; but a daughter of Judah would not tolerate your wickedness. Now then, tell me: Under what tree did you catch them being intimate with each other?" He answered, "Under an evergreen oak." Daniel said to him, "Very well! This lie has cost you

also your head, for the angel of God is waiting with his sword to split you in two, so as to destroy you both." Then the whole assembly raised a great shout and blessed God, who saves those who hope in him. And they took action against the two elders, because out of their own mouths Daniel had convicted them of bearing false witness; they did to them as they had wickedly planned to do to their neighbor. Acting in accordance with the law of Moses, they put them to death. Thus innocent blood was spared that day

March 19 | Tuesday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

.... When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Second Reading: Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

.... law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness."

March 20 | Wednesday

First Reading: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

....golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands? "for the sake of Abraham your beloved and for the sake of your servant Isaac and Israel your holy one, to whom you promised to multiply their descendants like the stars of heaven and like the sand on the shore of the sea. For we, O Lord, have become fewer than any other nation, and are brought low this day in all the world because of our sins. In our day we have no ruler, or prophet, or leader, no burnt offering, or sacrifice, or oblation, or incense, no place to make an offering before you and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite heart and a humble spirit may we be accepted, as though it were with burnt offerings of rams and bulls, or with tens of thousands of fat lambs; such may our sacrifice be in your sight today, and may we unreservedly follow you, for no shame will come to those who trust in you. And now with all our heart we follow you; we fear you and seek your presence. Do not put us to shame, but deal with us in your patience and in your abundant mercy. Deliver us in accordance with your marvelous works, and bring glory to your name, O Lord.

March 21 | Thursday

First Reading: Genesis 17:3-9

....to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God." God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

March 22 | Friday

First Reading: Jeremiah 20:10-13

....All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

March 23 | Saturday

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:21-28

....Then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God. My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them forevermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them forevermore.

March 25 | Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

....He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the

heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

March 26 | Tuesday

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-6

...Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Gospel: John 13:21-33, 36-38

...Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered, "Where I am going, you cannot follow me now; but you will follow afterward." Peter said to him, "Lord, why can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." Jesus answered, "Will you lay down your life for me? Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows, you will have denied me three times.

March 27 | Wednesday

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

...wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

March 28 | Tuesday**First Reading: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14**

....For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

....Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel: John 13:1-15

....had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

March 29 | Friday**First Reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12**

....See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his

appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

March 30 | Saturday

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

...But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

...Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin.

APRIL

April 1 | Monday**First Reading: Acts 2: 14, 22-33**

... you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.

April 2 | Tuesday**First Reading: Acts 2:36-41**

...Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

April 3 | Wednesday**First Reading: Acts 3:1-10**

...One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and

praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

.... but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

April 4 | Thursday

First Reading: Acts 3:11-26

....When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous. One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. Moses said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.' And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your

ancestors, saying to Abraham, "And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

April 5 | Friday

First Reading: Acts 4:1-12

....While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand. The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Gospel: John 21:1-14

....and there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

April 6 | Saturday

First Reading: Acts 4:13-21

....So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard." After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened.

April 8 | Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14, 8:10c

.... Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the

Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. Take counsel together, but it shall be brought to naught; speak a word, but it will not stand, for God is with us.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 4-10

....It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

April 10 | Wednesday

First Reading: Acts 5:17-26

....but when we opened them, we found no one inside." Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were perplexed about them, wondering what might be going on. Then someone arrived and announced, "Look, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people!" Then the captain went with the temple police and brought them, but without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

April 12 | Friday

First Reading: Acts 5:34-42

....A Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. Then he said to them, "Fellow Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!" They were convinced by him, and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

Gospel: John 6:1-15

When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

April 15 | Monday**First Reading: Acts 6:8-15**

....Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

April 16 | Tuesday**First Reading: Acts 7:51-8:1a**

....Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.

April 18 | Thursday**First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

.... He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched

Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

April 19 | Friday

First Reading: Acts 9:1-20

...The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

April 20 | Saturday

First Reading: Acts 9:31-42

...Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord. Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

April 22 | Monday**First Reading: Acts 11:1-18**

....coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

April 24 | Wednesday**First Reading: Acts 12:24-13:5a**

....Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.

April 25 | Thursday**First Reading: 1 Peter 5:5b-14**

....strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen. Through Silvanus, whom I consider a faithful brother, I have written this short letter to encourage you and to testify that this is the true grace of God. Stand fast in it. Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ.

April 27 | Saturday**First Reading: Acts 13:44-52**

....and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their region. So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Gospel: John 14:7-14

...When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord; and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city,

April 29 | Monday**First Reading: Acts 14:5-18**

...Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifice. When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, "Friends, why are you doing this? We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to follow their own ways; yet he has not left himself without a witness in doing good-giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filling you with food and your hearts with joy." Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

April 30 | Tuesday**First Reading: Acts 14:19-28**

....From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

**MAY****May 1 | Wednesday****First Reading: Genesis 1:26-2:3**

...And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

May 2 | Thursday

First Reading: Acts 15:7-21

....“After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.’ Therefore, I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.”

May 3 | Friday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

....and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

May 4 | Saturday

First Reading: Acts 16:1-10

....but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

May 7 | Tuesday

First Reading: Acts 16:22-34

....But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

May 8 | Wednesday

First Reading: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1

....Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." At that point Paul left them. But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them. After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

May 9 | Thursday

First Reading: Acts 18:1-8

....Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue. Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.

May 10 | Friday

First Reading: Acts 18:9-18

....But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things. After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow.

May 11 | Saturday

First Reading: Acts 18:23-28

....On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

May 14 | Tuesday

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

...."For it is written in the Book of Psalms, 'May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it'; and 'Let another take his office.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us— one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And

they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

May 15 | Wednesday

First Reading: Acts 20:28-38

....And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or clothing. You know for yourselves that I worked with my own hands to support myself and my companions. In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

May 16 | Thursday

First Reading: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

....I am on trial concerning the hope of the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dissension began between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three.) Then a great clamor arose, and certain scribes of the Pharisees' group stood up and contended, "We find nothing wrong with this man. What if a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?" When the dissension became violent, the tribune, fearing that they would tear Paul to pieces, ordered the soldiers to go down, take him by force, and bring him into the barracks. That night the Lord stood near him and said, "Keep up your courage! For just as you have testified for me in Jerusalem, so you must bear witness also in Rome.

May 17 | Friday

First Reading: Acts 25:13b-21

....I told them that it was not the custom of the Romans to hand over anyone before the accused had met the accusers face to face and had been given an opportunity to make a defense against the charge. So when they met here, I lost no time, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought. When the accusers stood up, they did not charge him with any of the crimes that I was expecting. Instead they had certain points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who had died, but whom Paul asserted to be alive." Since I was at

a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wished to go to Jerusalem and be tried there on these charges. But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of his Imperial Majesty, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to the emperor.

May 18 | Saturday

First Reading: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

...bring against my nation. For this reason therefore I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is for the sake of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain." He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

May 20 | Monday

First Reading: James 3:13-18

...Beloved: Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Gospel: Mark 9:14-29

...And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

May 21 | Tuesday

First Reading: James 4: 1-10

...Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy into dejection. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

May 23 | Thursday

First Reading: James 5:1-6

...You have laid up treasure in the last days. Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in self-indulgence. You have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous person.

May 27 | Monday

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

...to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

May 29 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-25

...Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains for ever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

...But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

May 31 | Friday

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

...Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

JUNE

June 3 | Monday

First Reading: 2 Peter 1:2-7

....through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature. For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self control, and self control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.

June 5 | Wednesday

First Reading: 2 Timothy 1: 1-3, 6-12

....Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

June 6 | Thursday

First Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

....Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do you best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

June 7 | Friday

First Reading: Hosea 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9

....before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, as you are being rooted and grounded in

love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 8-12, 14-19

....he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

June 8 | Saturday

First Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 1-8

....As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

June 12 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Kings 18: 20-39

....until noon, crying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no answer. They limped about the altar that they had made. At noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud! Surely he is a god; either he is meditating, or he has wandered away, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." Then they cried aloud and, as was their custom, they cut themselves with swords and lances until the blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response. Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come closer to me"; and all the people came closer to him. First he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been thrown down; Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord came, saying, "Israel shall be your name"; with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord. Then he made a trench around the altar, large enough to contain two measures of seed. Next he put the wood in order, cut the bull in pieces, and laid it on the wood. He said, "Fill four jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood." Then he said, "Do it a second time"; and they did it a second time. Again he said, "Do it a third time"; and they did it a third time, so that the water ran all around the altar, and filled the trench also with water. At the time of the offering of the oblation, the prophet Elijah came near and said, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your bidding. Answer me, O Lord; answer me, so that this people may know that you, O

Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the trench. When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."

June 13 | Thursday

First Reading: 1 Kings 18:41-46

....And in a little while the heavens grew black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was no Elijah, and he gathered up his garment and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.

June 14 | Friday

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9a, 11-16

....the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." And the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazeel to be king over Syria. And Jehu the son of Nimshi you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and Elijah the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.

June 17 | Monday

First Reading: 1 Kings 21: 1-16

....So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal; she sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who lived with Naboth in his city. She wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth at the head of the assembly; seat two scoundrels opposite him, and have them bring a charge against him, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out, and stone him to death." The men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. Just as it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, they proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the assembly. The two scoundrels came in and sat opposite him; and the scoundrels brought a charge against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth cursed God and the king." So they took him outside the city, and stoned him to death. Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned; he is dead." As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, "Go, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." As soon as Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab set out to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelit, to take possession of it.

June 18 | Tuesday

First Reading: 1 Kings 21: 17-29

....in the open country the birds of the air shall eat." (Indeed, there was no one like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord, urged on by his

wife Jezebel. He acted most abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord drove out before the Israelites. When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth over his bare flesh; he fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster on his house."

June 19 | Wednesday

First Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1, 6-14

...But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

June 20 | Thursday

First Reading: Sirach 48:1-14

...For we also shall surely live. When Elijah was enveloped in the whirlwind, Elisha was filled with his spirit. He performed twice as many signs, and marvels with every utterance of his mouth. Never in his lifetime did he tremble before any ruler, nor could anyone intimidate him at all. Nothing was too hard for him, and when he was dead, his body prophesied. In his life he did wonders, and in death his deeds were marvelous.

June 21 | Friday

First Reading: 2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20

...every man with his weapons in his hand, from the south side of the house to the north side of the house, round the altar and the house on behalf of the king. Then he brought out the king's son and put the crown on him and gave him the testimony. And they proclaimed him king and anointed him, and they clapped their hands and

said, "Long live the king!" When Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she went into the house of the LORD to the people. And when she looked, there was the king standing by the pillar, according to the custom, and the captains and the trumpeters beside the king, and all the people of the land rejoicing and blowing trumpets. And Athaliah tore her clothes and cried, "Treason! Treason!" Then Jehoiada the priest commanded the captains who were set over the army, "Bring her out between the ranks, and put to death with the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest said, "Let her not be put to death in the house of the LORD." So they laid hands on her; and she went through the horses' entrance to the King's house, and there she was put to death. And Jehoiada made a covenant between the LORD and the king and people, that they should be the LORD's people, and also between the king and the people. Then all the people of the land went to the house of Baal and tore it down; his altars and his images the broke in pieces, and they killed Mattan the priest of Baal before the altars. And the priest posted watchmen over the house of the LORD. So all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet after Athaliah had been put to death with the sword at the king's house.

June 22 | Saturday

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 24:17-25

....Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD. These testified against them, but they would not pay attention. Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and he said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has forsaken you.'" But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him with stones in the court of the house of the LORD. Thus Joash the king did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, had shown him, but killed his son. And when he was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge!" At the end of the year the army of the Syrians came up against Joash. They came to Judah and Jerusalem and destroyed all the princes of the people from among the people and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. Though the army of the Syrians had come with few men, the LORD delivered into their hand a very great army, because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their fathers. Thus they executed judgment on Joash. When they had departed from him, leaving him severely wounded, his servants conspired against him because of the blood of the son of Jehoiada the priest, and killed him on his bed. So he died, and they buried him in the city of David, but they did not bury him in the tombs of the kings.

June 24 | Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-6

....Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a

polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Second Reading: Acts 13:22-26

....And as John was finishing his work, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie, the thong of the sandals, on his feet.'"My brothers, you descendants of Abraham's family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation had been sent.

June 25 | Tuesday

First Reading: 2 Kings 19: 9-11, 14-21, 31-35, 36

...."Thus says that Lord, the God of Israel: I have heard your prayer to me about King Sennacherib of Assyria. This is the word that the Lord has spoken concerning him: She despises you, she scorns you virgin daughter Zion; she tosses her head behind your back, daughter Jerusalem. For from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out, and from Mount Zion a band of survivors, The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. "Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the king of Assyria: He shall not come into this city, shoot an arrow there, come before it with a shield, or cast up a siege ramp against it. By the way that he came, by the same he shall return; he shall not come into this city, says the Lord. For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David." That very night the angel of the Lord set out and struck down one hundred and eighty five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; when morning dawned, they were all dead bodies. Then King Sennacherib of Assyria left, went home, and lived at Nineveh.

June 26 | Wednesday

First Reading: 2 Kings 22:8-13, 23:1-3

....obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."Then the king sent, and all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem were gathered to him. And the king went up to the house of the LORD, and with him all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the priests and the prophets, all the people, both small and great. Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah, saying, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: And he read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant that had been found in the house of the LORD. And the king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people joined in the covenant.

June 27 | Thursday

First Reading: 2 Kings 24:8-17

....Jehoiachin the king of Judah gave himself up to the king of Babylon, himself and his mother and his servants and his officials and his palace officials. The king of Babylon took him prisoner in the eighth year of his reign and carried off all the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house, and cut in pieces all the vessels of gold in the temple of the LORD, which Solomon king of Israel had made, as the LORD had foretold. He carried away all Jerusalem and all the officials and all the mighty men of valour, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and the smiths. None remained, except the poorest people of the land. And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officials, and the chief men of the land he took into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon. And the king of Babylon brought captive to Babylon all the men of valour, seven thousand, and the craftsmen and the metal workers, one thousand, all of them strong and fit for war. And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle, king in his place, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

June 28 | Friday

First Reading: 2 Kings 25: 1-12

....they bound him in fetters and took him to Babylon. In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. He burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. All the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried into exile the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had defected to the king of Babylon all the rest of the population. But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest people of the land to be vinedressers and tillers of the soil.

June 29 | Saturday

First Reading: Acts 12: 1-11

....He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly."

And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

JULY

July 1 | Monday

First Reading: Amos 2:6-10, 13-16

...Flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not retain his strength, nor shall the mighty save his life; he who handles the bow shall not stand, and he who is swift of foot shall not save himself, nor shall he who rides the horse save his life; and he who is stout of heart among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day," declares the LORD.

July 4 | Thursday

First Reading: Amos 7:10-17

...Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.' "Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.' Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parcelled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'"

July 9 | Tuesday

First Reading: Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13

...they are regarded as a strange thing. Though they offer choice sacrifices, though they eat flesh, the Lord does not accept them. Now he will remember their iniquity, and punish their sins; they shall return to Egypt.

July 11 | Thursday

First Reading: Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9

...How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

July 12 | Friday

First Reading: Hosea 14:2-9

...His shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like that of Lebanon. They shall again live beneath my shadow, they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom like the vine, their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; your faithfulness comes from me. Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

July 13 | Saturday

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

...The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

July 15 | Monday

First Reading: Isaiah 1: 10-17

...Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? Says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and calling of convocation I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers. I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

July 16 | Tuesday

First Reading: Isaiah 7: 1-9

... Because Aram with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah has plotted evil against you, saying, Let us go up against Judah and cut off Jerusalem and conquer it for ourselves and make the son of Tabeel king in it; therefore thus says the Lord God: It shall not stand, and it shall not come to pass. For the head of Aram is Damascus, and the head

of Damascus is Rezin. (Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be shattered, no longer a people.) The head of Ephraim is Samaria, and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all.

July 19 | Friday

First Reading: Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8

.... Now Isaiah had said, "Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover." Hezekiah also had said, "What is the sigh that I shall go up to the house of the Lord?" "This is the sign to you from the Lord that the Lord will do this thing that he has promised: See, I will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps." So the sun turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had declined.

July 22 | Monday

First Reading: Song of Solomon 3:1-4

.... Upon my bed at night I sought him whom my soul loves; I sought him, but found him not; I called him, but he gave no answer. "I will rise now and go about the city, in the streets and in the squares; I will seek him whom my soul loves." I sought him, but found him not. The sentinels found me, as they went about in the city. "Have you seen him whom my soul loves?" Scarcely had I passed them, when I found him whom my soul loves.

July 24 | Wednesday

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:1, 4-10

.... Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

July 25 | Thursday

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 4: 7-15

.... But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture "I believed, and so I spoke we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

July 27 | Saturday

First Reading: Jeremiah 7:1-11

...or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers for ever. "Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the Lord.

July 29 | Monday

First Reading: Jeremiah 13: 1-11

...and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there." Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. But now the loincloth was ruined; it was good for nothing. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Thus says the Lord: Just so I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own will and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing. For as the loincloth clings to one's loins, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, says the Lord, I in order that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory. But they would not listen.

July 30 | Tuesday

First Reading: Jeremiah 14:17b-22

...for we have sinned against you. Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonour your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.

AUGUST

August 2 | Friday

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:1-9

...And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

August 3 | Saturday

First Reading: Jeremiah 26: 11-16, 24

.... and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears." Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God." But the hand of A.hi'kam son of Sha'phan was with Jeremiah so that he was not given over into the hands of the people to be put to death.

August 5 | Monday

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:1-17

.... I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I will bring back to this place all the vessels of the LORD's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I will also bring back to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and all the exiles from Judah who went to Babylon, declares the LORD, for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon." . Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet." Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke them. And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years." But Jeremiah the prophet went his way. Sometime after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke-bars from off the neck of Jeremiah the Prophet, the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: "Go, tell Hananiah, 'Thus says the LORD: You have broken wooden bars, but you have made in their place bars of iron. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put upon the neck of all these nations an iron yoke to serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they shall serve him, for I have given to him even the beasts of the field.'" And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah, "Listen, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against the LORD.'" In that same year, in the seventh month, the Prophet Hananiah died.

August 6 | Tuesday

First Reading: Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14

....As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1:16-19

....So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

August 7 | Wednesday

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-7

....'Arise, and let us go up to Sion, to the LORD our God.'" For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.'

August 8 | Thursday

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

....I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbour and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD'; for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

August 12 | Monday

First Reading: Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c

....Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army. When they stood still, they let down their wings. And there came a voice from above the expanse over their heads. When they stood still, they let down their wings. And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. And upwards from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the

appearance of fire enclosed all round. And downwards from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all round. And downwards from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness round him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all round. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face.

August 13 | Tuesday

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4

....And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey. And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel, and speak with my words to them."

August 14 | Wednesday

First Reading: Ezekiel 9: 1-7; 10: 18-22

....To the others he said in my hearing, "Pass through the city after him, and kill; your eye shall not spare, and you shall show no pity. Cut down old men, young men and young women, little children and women, but touch no one who has the mark. And begin at my sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were in front of the house. Then he said to them, "Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain. Go!" So they went out and killed in the city. Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house and stopped above the cherubim. The cherubim lifted up their wings and rose up from the earth in my sight as they went out with the wheels beside them. They stopped at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord; and the glory of the God of Israel was above them. These were the living creatures that I saw underneath the God of Israel by the river Che'bar; and I knew that they were cherubim. Each had four faces, each four wings, and underneath their wings something like human hands. As for what their faces were like, they were the same faces whose appearance I had seen by the river Che'bar. Each one moved straight ahead.

August 15 | Thursday

First Reading: Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

....Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about

to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 20-27

...Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection," it is plain that this does not include the one who put all things in subjection under him.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

...His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

August 16 | Friday

First Reading: Ezekiel 16: 1-15, 60, 63

.... your father was an Amorite, and your mother a Hittite. As for your birth, on the day you were born your navel cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things for you out of compassion for you; but you were thrown out in the open field, for you were abhorred on the day you were born. I passed by you, and saw you flailing about in your blood. As you lay in your blood. I said to you, "Live! And grow up like a plant of the field." You grew up and became tall and arrived at full womanhood; your breasts were formed, and your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare. I passed by you again and looked on you; you were at the age for love. I spread the edge of my cloak over you, and covered your nakedness; I pledged myself to you and entered into a covenant with you, says the Lord God, and you became mine. Then I bathed you with water and washed off the blood from you, and anointed you with oil. I clothed you with embroidered cloth and with sandals of fine leather; I bound you in fine linen and covered you with rich fabric, I adorned you with ornaments; I put bracelets on your

arms, a chain on your neck, a ring on your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown upon your head. You were adorned with gold and silver, while your clothing was of fine linen, rich fabric, and embroidered cloth. You had choice flour and honey and oil for food. You grew exceedingly beautiful, fit to be a queen. Your name spread among the nations on account of your beauty, for it was perfect because of my splendor that I had bestowed on you, says the Lord God. But you trusted in your beauty, and played the whore because of your fame, and lavished your whorings on any passer-by. Yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish with you an everlasting covenant. In order that you may remember and be confounded, and never open your mouth again because of your shame, when I forgive you all that you have done, says the Lord God.

August 17 | Saturday

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32

....he shall surely die; his blood shall be upon himself. "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

August 19 | Monday

First Reading: Ezekiel 24: 15-24

....Then I said to them: The word of the Lord came to me: Say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: I will profane my sanctuary, the pride of your power, the delight of your eyes, and your heart's desire; and your sons and your daughters whom you left behind shall fall by the sword. And you shall do as I have done; you shall not cover your upper lip or eat the bread of mourners. Your turbans shall be on your heads and your sandals on your feet; you shall not mourn or weep, but you shall pine away in your iniquities and groan to one another. Thus Ezekiel shall be a sign to you; you shall do just as he has done. When this comes, then you shall know that I am the Lord God.

August 20 | Tuesday

First Reading: Ezekiel 28: 1-10

....Therefore thus says the Lord God: Because you compare your mind with the mind of a god, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, the most terrible of the nations; they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom and defile your splendor. They shall thrust you down to the Pit, and you shall die a violent death in the heart of the seas. Will you still say, "I am a god," in the presence of those who kill you, though you are but a mortal, and no god, in the hands of those who wound you? You shall die the death of the uncircumcised by the hand of foreigners; for I have spoken, says the Lord God.

August 21: Wednesday

First Reading: Ezekiel 34: 1-11

....The word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel: prophesy, and say to them to the shepherds: Thus says the Lord God: Ah, you shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings; but you do not feed the sheep. You have not strengthened the weak, you have not healed the sick, you have not bound up the injured, you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd; and scattered, they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep were scattered, they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill; my sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with no one to search or seek for them. Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: As I live, says the Lord God, because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd; and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep; therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: Thus says the Lord God, I am against the shepherds; and I will demand my sheep at their hand, and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them. For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

....did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

August 22 | Thursday

First Reading: Ezekiel 36: 23-28

.... I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

August 23 | Friday

First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

....suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them. Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

August 24 | Saturday

First Reading: Revelation 21:9-14

....and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

August 26 | Monday

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11b-12

....Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. That our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfil every resolve for . good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

August 28 | Wednesday

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18

....Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways. The Lord be with all of you. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. This is the mark in every letter of mine; it is the way I write. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

August 29 | Thursday

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:17-19

...arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them. And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the LORD, to deliver you."

August 30 | Friday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 17-25

...Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, stumbling blocks to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

August 31 | Saturday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

...Consider your calling, brother: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

...reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

SEPTEMBER**September 2 | Monday**

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

....When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

.... They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

September 4 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

....So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

September 7 | Saturday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:6-15

....the dregs of all things, to this very day. I am not writing this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you might have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers. Indeed, in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

September 10 | Tuesday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

...neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practise homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

September 12 | Thursday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-7, 11-13

...the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

September 14 | Saturday

First Reading: Numbers 21: 4-9

...So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

September 16 | Monday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:17-26, 33

...When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal. One goes hungry, another gets drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I commend you in this? No, I will not. For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This chalice is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the chalice, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

September 18 | Wednesday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:31–13: 13

....I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

September 19 | Thursday

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

....Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

....But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?' And he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

September 30 | Monday

First Reading: Job 1: 6-22

....The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys were feeding beside them, and the Sabaeans fell on them and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three columns, made a raid on the camels and carried them off, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; I alone have escaped to tell you." While he was still speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house, and suddenly a great wind came across the desert, struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; I alone have escaped to tell you." Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked

I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing.

OCTOBER

October 3 | Thursday

First Reading: Job 19:21-27

...Oh that with an iron pen and lead they were engraved in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

October 4 | Friday

First Reading: Job 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5

...“Where is the way to the dwelling of light, and where is the place of darkness, that you may take it to its territory and that you may discern the paths to its home? You know, for you were born then, and the number of your days is great! Then Job answered the LORD and said: “Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer; twice, but I will proceed no further.”

October 5 | Saturday

First Reading: Job 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17

...and the name of the third Keren-happuch. And in all the land there were no women so beautiful as Job's daughters; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. And after this Job lived for one hundred forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, four generations. And Job died, an old man, and full of days.

October 7 | Monday

First Reading: Galatians 1: 6-12

...I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel not that there is another gospel, but there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should proclaim to you a gospel contrary to what we proclaimed to you, let that one be accursed! As we have said before, so now I repeat, if anyone proclaims to you a gospel contrary to what you received, let that one be accursed! Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ. For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

October 9 | Wednesday

First Reading: Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14

....and when James and Cephas and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given to me, they gave the right hand of fellowship to Barnabas and me, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do. But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

October 11 | Friday

First Reading: Galatians 3:7-14

...."Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for "The righteous shall live by faith." But the law is not of faith, rather "The one who does them shall live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

October 21 | Monday

First Reading: Ephesians 2: 1-10

....so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

October 23 | Wednesday

First Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-12

....members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety

might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

October 26 | Saturday

First Reading: Ephesians 4: 7-16

....tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

October 30 | Wednesday

First Reading: Ephesians 6:1-9

....Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

October 31 | Thursday

First Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

....that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

NOVEMBER

November 1 | Friday

First Reading: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14

....and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to damage earth and sea, saying, "Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have marked the servants of our God with a seal on their foreheads." And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred forty four thousand, sealed out of every tribe of the people of Israel: After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

November 2 | Saturday

First Reading: Wisdom 3: 1-9

...and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering he accepted them. In the time of their visitation they will shine forth, and will run like sparks through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will reign over them forever. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

November 6 | Wednesday

First Reading: Philippians 2:12-18

...But even if I am being poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

November 7 | Thursday

First Reading: Philippians 3:3-8

...I have more; circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.

November 9 | Saturday

First Reading: Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12

...below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate, and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and the water was coming out on the south side. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Ara'bah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms

will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

November 14 | Thursday

First Reading: Philemon 7-20

....If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anythings, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ.

November 15 | Friday

First Reading: 2 John 4-9

....but may receive a full reward. Everyone who does not abide in the teaching of Christ, but goes beyond it, does not have God; whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

November 18 | Monday

First Reading: Revelation 1: 1-4; 2: 1-5

.... I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lamp stand from its place, unless you repent.

November 19 | Tuesday

First Reading: Revelation 3: 1-6, 14-22

....If you conquer, you will be clothed like them in white robes, and I will not blot your name out of the book of life; I will confess your name before my Father and before his angels. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God’s creation: “I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, ‘I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.’ You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on

my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

November 20 | Wednesday

First Reading: Revelation 4: 1-11

....After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, ‘Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.’ At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God; and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal; Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human face, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. And the four living creature, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing, ‘Holy, holy, holy, the Lord God the Almighty, who was and is and is to come.’ And whenever the living creature give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ‘You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’

Gospel: Luke 19: 11-28

....Why then did you not put my money into the bank? Then when I returned, I could have collected it with interest.’ He said to the bystanders, ‘Take the pound from him and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’ (And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten pounds!’) ‘I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them bring them here and slaughter them in my presence.’” After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

November 23 | Saturday

First Reading: Revelation 11:4-12

....fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. For three and a half days some from the peoples

and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to the, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

November 28 | Thursday

First Reading: Revelation 18: 1-2, 21-23; 19: 1-3, 9

....will be thrown down, and will be found no more; and the sound of harpists and minstrels and of flutists and trumpeters will be heard in you no more; and an artisan of any trade will be found in you no more; and the sound of the millstone will be heard in you no more; and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more; and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more; for your merchants were the magnates of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery. After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God, for his judgments are true and just; he has judged the great whore who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants." Once more they said, "Hallelujah! The smoke goes up from her forever and ever." And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

November 29 | Friday

First Reading: Revelation 20: 1-4, 11-21: 2

....This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

DECEMBER

December 3 | Tuesday

First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

....he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the

lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22b-27

....I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

December 4 | Wednesday

First Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-10

....This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain. The Moabites shall be trodden down in their place as straw is trodden down in a dung-pit.

December 7 | Saturday

Gospel Isaiah 30: 19-21, 23-26

....and the oxen and donkeys that till the ground will eat silage, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. On every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water on a day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. Moreover the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day when the Lord binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

December 9 | Monday

First Reading: Genesis 3: 9-15, 20

....through Jesus Christ, But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you

and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 3-6, 11-12

...according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

December 17 | Tuesday

First Reading: Genesis 49:2, 8-10

...In those days: Jacob called his sons, and said, "Assemble and listen, O sons of Jacob, listen to Israel your father. "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be no the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

December 19 | Thursday

First Reading: Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25

...There was a certain man of Zo'rah, of the tribe of the Dan'ites, whose name was Manoah. His wife was barren, having borne no children. And the angel of the lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Although you are barren, having borne no children, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now be careful not to drink wine or strong drink, or to eat anything unclean, for you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor is to come on his head, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth. It is he who shall begin to deliver Israel from the hand of the Philistines."Then the woman came and told her husband, 'A man of God came to me, and his appearance was like that of an angel of God, most awe-inspiring; I did not ask him where he came from, and he did not tell me his name; but he said to me, 'You shall conceive and bear a son. So then drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, for the boy shall be a nazirite to God from birth to the day of his death.'"The woman bore a son, and named him Samson. The boy grew, and the Lord blessed him. The spirit of the Lord began to stir him in Mahanehdan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Gospel: Luke 1: 5-25

...For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."The angel replied, "I am Gabriel, I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be

fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

December 24 | Tuesday

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

...like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me. Your throne shall be established for ever."

December 25 | Wednesday

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

...How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

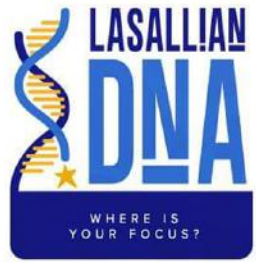
...Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world, he is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." The word of the Lord.

Gospel: John 1:1-18

....and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'" For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen god; the only begotten God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

December 31 | Tuesday***First Reading: 1 John 2:18-21***

....for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth.



“ Where is our focus since we no longer notice our brothers and sisters? ”



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