

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 78.

RESPONSE:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

1. The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers have told us, we will tell them to the next generation; the glories of the Lord and his might. **R**
2. Yet he commanded the clouds above, and opened the gates of heaven. He rained down manna to eat, and gave them bread from heaven. **R**
3. 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. **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

Join Catholic Link

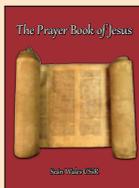
on Saturday 21
August at 4 pm

in a Zoom conversation
with Fr Sean Wales CSSr

who talks to us
about his book
on the psalms entitled

"The Prayer Book of Jesus"

For Zoom invitations
and details, email
janel@rpp.org.za



THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 2 Aug (St Peter Julian Eymard, Pr)

Numbers 11:4-15; Psalm 81; Matthew 14:13-21
The disciples wanted to send them away to be fed. Where would they go? The food was among them. Once they had found it they didn't need to go away. We are all called to share what we have.

Tue 3 Aug Liturgy of the Day

Numbers 12:1-13; Psalm 51; Matthew 14:22-36
When we become frightened of falling into the waters of life, we will find our way to the land of peace if we stretch out our hand to the One who gives us courage. That hand is always there for us.

Wed 4 Aug St John Vianney, Pr

Num 13:1-2.25-14:1.26-29.34-35; Ps 106; Matt 15:21-28
Jesus' use of harsh and cold language in today's gospel almost mimics his disciples' prejudice against outsiders. It's as if Jesus is saying that social divides do not exist when it comes to God's grace and mercy.

Thu 5 Aug (Dedication of St Mary Major Basilica)

Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 95; Matt 16:13-23
So who do you say that Jesus is – for you? Each of us has to ultimately answer this question in the depths of our hearts. As simple as the question sounds, it is profoundly difficult to answer.

Fri 6 Aug TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Daniel 7:9-10.13-14; Psalm 97; Mark 9:2-10
The key words in the story of the Transfiguration are the words "Listen to him." It is as if God is saying: stop; be silent; listen. It is only in this way that we, ourselves, can to some extent become transfigured.

Sat 7 Aug (St Cajetan, Pr)

Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Psalm 18; Matthew 17:14-20
At times the challenge of life seems insurmountable – addictions, relationships, health. But far too often we focus only on the limitations. Start asking God for help, with the full expectation that our needs will be met.

Sun 8 Aug 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34; John 6:41-51
God is present in all aspects of our lives, but we are often not aware of it. The most direct way to God is in silence, stillness and solitude – where we are quiet enough to hear the voice that whispers, "Here I am."

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Pr=Priest

Catholic Link

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
Divine Office: Week II • 1 August 2021

Reciprocal Gifts

Pope Francis believes that we need to re-envision our thinking on the social role of private property. He recalls some basic principles long enshrined in Church teaching and applies them to our times.

The Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute and has stressed the social purpose of all forms of private property. The principle of the common use of created goods is the first principle of the whole ethical and social order; it is a natural and inherent right that takes priority over others.

"Common use of created goods" does not mean a free-for-all. It simply pays homage to the gratuity of God's creation. The Earth is our common home. Once we realise this, says Francis, "...the right to private property can only be considered a secondary natural right." Yet, as we know too well, secondary rights often displace primary and overriding rights. Humans have a way of manipulating facts, in practice making primary rights irrelevant.

The Catholic teaching on the "common use of created goods" has often been played down, but it is central to our moral tradition. It means we must transform our understanding of the exchange of goods between countries and cultures. A tangible example for us is the global distribution of the Covid-10 vaccine. Here in SA we have had to wait until the "First World" attended to themselves first. At a certain stage, when the USA and Europe were reaching the 60% vaccination mark, Africa had not yet reached 2%.

From talking about reciprocity of the material gifts of creation, Pope Francis moves on to say something about cultural reciprocity.

As our minds and hearts narrow, the less capable we become of understanding the world around us. Without encountering and relating to differences, it is hard to achieve a clear and complete understanding even of ourselves and of our native land. Other cultures are not "enemies" from which we need to protect ourselves.

Pope Francis is deeply concerned about the growing intolerance he discerns between different cultures and nationalities. Stronger nations are developing a fortress mentality, thereby becoming increasingly isolated. Sadly, this leads to an impoverishment of the human spirit as it refuses to reflect on the inexhaustible richness of human life. With echoes of his beautiful explanation of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Pope Francis says that we can only benefit "from the perspective of another, of one who is different." In doing so, he goes on, "we can better recognize our own unique features and those of our culture: its richness, its possibilities and its limitations. Our local experience needs to develop both in contrast to, and in harmony with the experiences of others living in diverse cultural contexts.

In pursuit of the goal of the reciprocity of created and human gifts, Pope Francis believes we need to look into strengthening international co-operation. He believes that we must attain "a global juridical, political and economic order which can increase and give direction to international co-operation for the development of all peoples in solidarity."

Idealistic? Or prophetic? Either way, we have to start somewhere to make God's dream come true of a humanity identified as "fratelli tutti – brothers and sisters all."



Photo by Caniceus on Pixabay