

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 85.

RESPONSE:

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation.

1. 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. **R**
2. Merciful love and faithfulness have met; Justice and peace have kissed. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth, And justice look down from heaven. **R**
3. 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. **R**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

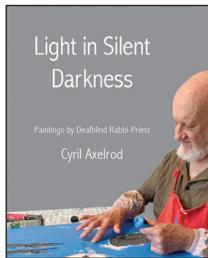
Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

A book of paintings by deafblind Rabbi-Priest Cyril Axelrod with reflections on each painting by friends who know him.

Fr Cyril celebrates 50 years as a priest in November 2020 and this book has been compiled as a tribute to him and his amazing life.

"Cyril has never seen a single painting which he himself created. Instead, he invites you to use your own gift of eyesight to see them.

But beyond that, to experience them with "heart-sight", as he does.



R300 plus delivery



Order from our website www.rpp.org.za or email orders@rpp.org.za. Enquiries: 082 667 3857.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 7 Dec St Ambrose, BD

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85; Luke 5:17-26

Isaiah reveals a Messiah who will turn the world and its wisdom upside down, and of a God who became one of us in order to love us more fully. Thank you God for your amazing love.

Tue 8 Dec IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Genesis 3:9-15; Psalm 98; Luke 1:26-38

Although without sin, Mary knew sorrow, worry, anxiety and all the human burdens of the heart. Like her, we must live by faith and walk with endurance throughout our lives, trusting in God and God's goodness.

Wed 9 Dec (St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin)

Isaiah 40:25-31; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:28-30

Today's readings seem intent on lifting our spirits. However, they are mere words unless we practice believing them. Read them slowly and aloud and discover the soaring power they inspire in you.

Thu 10 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:11-15

For many young people, holding hands is their first experience of intimacy. Isaiah intimates that God reaches out to us in this way. God desires relationship with us. All we have to do is respond.

Fri 11 Dec (St Damasus I, P)

Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19

Often, our ideas of what is good for us are confused by subliminal desires or selfish urges that we keep hidden, even from ourselves. How well do I know my own heart?

Sat 12 Dec (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

Sirach 48:1-4,9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:10-13

Today we remember the apparition of Our Lady to a simple peasant, St Juan Diego, dressed in the clothes of a young Mayan woman. How blessed we are to have such a Mother, merciful and loving.

Sun 13 Dec 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; Luke 1:46-50,53-54; John 1:6-8,19-28

Growing in faith can be a hard and sometimes painful thing for which to wait. We cannot rush the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, but we can learn to savour the intimacy of being fed and cared for.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) B=Bishop; D=Doctor; P=Pope

Catholic Link

ADVENT WITHIN-BETWEEN-BEYOND

2nd Sunday of Advent • Year B
Divine Office: Week II • 6 December 2020

2. Advent Between

Copernicus and Galileo faced the wrath of the Church for suggesting that the earth was not the centre of the universe; that in fact the sun was the centre of a solar system around which planets revolved, the earth being just one of them. The uproar this scientific discovery caused has introduced into our language the term "Copernican revolution".

A newly born baby arrives on Planet Earth as the centre of the universe – well, at least, as the centre of its parents', grandparents', siblings' and extended family's universe. It

takes a Copernican revolution – which can last a whole lifetime – to overcome our self-centredness, literally. There is no growth in holiness that does not include a break away from the cocoon of ego-self. As the poet Rilke says in one of his Sonnets to Orpheus, "what's locked in sameness is congealed."

Last week we explored the "Advent within", reflecting on how the Holy Spirit's grace works within us, helping us to overcome selfishness and pride to make space for the life of Christ to dwell within us. Today we consider "Advent between", that is, the way God comes to us in self-transcending human relationships.

One of the most beautiful Advent symbols of this is Mary's visit to Elizabeth on hearing news during her own annunciation that her cousin was pregnant. In her poem celebrating this encounter, Sarah O'Brien muses: "She came to me, the mother of my Lord / and grinned with amazement at the sight. / All creation with me seemed to roar. / Her voice, as she crossed the threshold of my door / rang through my

womb – from a great height / all creation with me seemed to roar."

True love between people causes all of creation to rejoice. Why else do we get together to celebrate a marriage? The couple want the whole world to know of their commitment in love. The intimacy of marriage, the beauty of true friendship, makes its advent as pure gift. As a Trinity, God is a community who draws us into the divine circle of loving communion. St Thomas Aquinas says that the only way to understand this mystery is to begin with what we



Humble service: Pope Francis kisses the feet of prisoners during a Holy Thursday liturgy

do know and experience: human relationships.

"Ja-nee", we might say in South Africa. Let's not fool ourselves; relationships sour, they become fraught, they die – thanks in no small part to that Ego which remains with us, like babies still thinking we're the centre of the universe. But this is no cause to lose hope, or to deny the goodness, truth and beauty of love. God is love, constantly loving us back into life – the life of our true self – through the Advent of Jesus. He has shown us the true meaning of love as *other-centred*, as self-sacrificing, as altruistic and compassionate. Remember the washing of the disciples' feet? This, said Jesus afterwards, is how you must love one another in humble service. In fact, he likened acts of service and kindness to the perfection of laying down one's life for one's friends. John's Gospel makes clear that *both* are manifestations of perfect love.

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! Come into my immediate relationships. Come and teach me to love others as you have loved us.