

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:1-5.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 96.

RESPONSE:

Tell among all the peoples the wonders of the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. O sing to the Lord; bless his name. **R**
2. Proclaim his salvation day by day. Tell among the nations his glory, and his wonders among all the peoples. **R**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. **R**
4. Worship the Lord in holy splendour. O tremble before him, all the earth. Say to the nations, 'The Lord is king'. He will judge the peoples in fairness. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 2:1-11.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

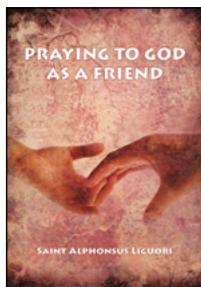
You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

The genius of Saint Alphonsus lies in his realization that all people everywhere are seeking intimacy with God.

He believes that people learn to pray by praying. Instead of long explanations, you will find brief instructions and examples of intimate prayer with God.

These pages will help you open your heart to the Lord and pour out your deepest cares and concerns, joys and sorrows – just as you would with your best friend.

This revised edition was prepared by Fr Seán Wales CSsR.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 17 Jan St Anthony, Ab

1 Samuel 15:16-23; Psalm 50; Mark 2:18-22

During the Covid-19 pandemic we were without our Bridegroom. We were forced to fast (from Mass, Communion, etc.). Yet we sought and found God, and each other, in new and different ways.

Tue 18 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 89; Mark 2:23-28

The act of taking refuge in God, is to vulnerably ask, "Can I lean on you, God? Can I take refuge until I am confident enough to proceed forward?" Rest patiently in the trusted haven of God's compassion.

Wed 19 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 Samuel 17:32-33.37.40-51; Psalm 144; Mark 3:1-6

"When you forgive, some deeper, divine generosity takes over. When you can forgive, then you are free. When you cannot forgive, you are a prisoner of the hurt done to you." – John O'Donohue

Thu 20 Jan (Bl. Cyprian M. Tansi, Pr)

1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Psalm 56; Mark 3:7-12

In today's gospel Jesus makes a contingency plan – organising a boat so that the crowd would not crush him – and also creates his own form of social distancing! Importantly, he understands a need for limitations.

Fri 21 Jan St Agnes, VM

1 Samuel 24:2-20; Psalm 57; Mark 3:13-19

The evil spirit (the name devil = *diabolos* in Greek) is one who promotes division, isolation and discord. In contrast, Jesus promotes oneness, peace and reconciliation – through love and selfless service.

Sat 22 Jan (St Vincent, DcM)

2 Samuel 1:1-4.11-12.19.23-27; Psalm 80; Mark 3:20-21

Imagine God's immense joy, especially when we give ourselves to the Divine with joy, with expectancy, with the faith of children who want nothing more than to be seen and held by the One who loves without condition.

Sun 23 Jan 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Nehemiah 8:2-6.8-10; Psalm 19; Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

As Jonah can attest, we cannot ignore, escape or run away from the nudges that God sometimes sends into our lives. Give a full hearing to God's Word, and embrace God's word to you.

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) Ab=Abbot; Pr=Priest; V=Virgin; M=Martyr; Dc=Deacon)

Catholic Link

Reflections on Friendship

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year C
Divine Office: Week II • 16 January 2022

The Necessary Nudge

Last year *Catholic Link* presented a series of articles on the encyclical of Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti – Brothers and Sisters All*, in which one of the key elements of

"has our back". These are the kinds of people we can dare to listen to when they gently nudge us to step out and beyond.

Today's Gospel passage is about the

the pope's teaching was on "social friendship". We saw this as a relatively original concept in the Church's approach to the social, political and economic issues of our time.

Between now and the season of Lent we start a seven-week series reflecting on friendship in and of itself, exploring various aspects of this human reality. Friendship can be understood broadly in the sense that a relationship with a spouse, parent, child, sibling, or other relation contains elements of friendship. Our concern will, of course, go beyond the casual acquaintance. A "friend" is someone we trust deeply, someone with whom we can be honest and is honest with us, someone we respect. Each of our reflections will be connected to the Gospel of the day.

The focus for today is on the value of having someone who encourages us to step beyond ourselves; to step beyond our comfort zones. Occasionally as we go about the business of living our lives, transition points will occur; periods where some kind of a change is happening either through our choosing, or because our life circumstances are changing. At those times we often need a nudge to embrace what is emerging. This is when having a companion who knows us well can be invaluable; someone we trust, someone we know who is fully there for us, someone who



Wedding at Cana by Giotto di Bondone, 14th C

wedding at Cana. In the story, Jesus and his mother are attending as guests. The host runs out of wine. Mary turns to Jesus, clearly expecting him to do something. When he deflects, she ignores him, goes to the head waiter, and tells him to do whatever Jesus tells him. The story of the turning of water into wine follows – Jesus' first public miracle.

Notice in this narrative how Mary provides the necessary nudge

to Jesus. Mary's prompting is perhaps a little more forceful than is wise in some circumstances. No one likes to be pushed into something. Yet it is encouraging to note that even Jesus received a nudge. Mary knew Jesus better than anyone. She knew what he was capable of, and was willing to push him, albeit gently, when this was necessary. Jesus accepts the nudge – and we have today's Gospel story as a result.

It is only certain very trusted relationships that can bear the kind of tension that a nudge from someone implies. Perhaps only from those whom we know to have our best interests at heart can we receive the gentle push as a gift. A push into a new space is always risky; the results can be unpredictable; failure is always a possibility. But that's what friends are for. Indeed, we know a true friend will still show up, will still be there for us even if things don't turn out well.

