

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.

FIRST READING: Job 38:1, 8-11.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 107.

RESPONSE:

O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his mercy endures forever!

1. 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**
2. 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**
3. 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**
4. 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

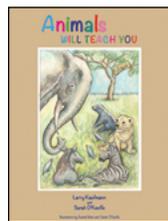
Alleluia, alleluia! A great prophet has arisen among us, and God has visited his people. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:35-41.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

"These reflections on animals and what they teach us is a masterpiece", writes Prof. Tony Kelly, a prominent theologian known for his own use of stories. The title comes from God's advice to Job in Job 12:7 – "Ask the animals and they will teach you." Written for children, Father Larry Kaufmann is sure that all age groups will enjoy the book.



R100
plus delivery

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



Redemptorist Publications SouthAfrica

Copyright. Do not reproduce without permission. © Redemptorist Pastoral Publications, P O Box 341, Merrivale, 3291. Phone 082 667 3857. Fax 086 545 4381. Email: janet@rpp.org.za. Internet: www.rpp.org.za.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 21 Jun St Aloysius Gonzaga, R

Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33; Matthew 7:1-5

It is all too easy to gossip about others over coffee, or spread rumours online, saying things about people that we would never say to their faces. Do we think we are anonymous? We are not anonymous to God.

Tue 22 Jun (St Paulinus of Nola, B)

Genesis 13:2,5-18; Psalm 15; Matthew 7:6,12-14

To change our fear-filled world we must begin with ourselves – with the way we live our lives and care for others in justice – and by knowing that only in the embrace of God can we find a peace that quells our fear.

Wed 23 Jun Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18; Psalm 105; Matthew 7:15-20

What draws one and what one resists reveals so much of how we co-operate with God's grace. When do I look away because something is not for my good? How do I keep my gaze focussed on Jesus?

Thu 24 Jun BIRTH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalm 139; Luke 1:57-66,80

Like John the Baptist, our words and actions should demonstrate humility before God and reveal our connection to Jesus. Look deeply within and ask, do I love all people as he taught?

Fri 25 Jun Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 17:1,9-10,15-22; Psalm 128; Matthew 8:1-4

We rarely ask why there is great beauty in the world, or why we often have more than we need, or why we love and are loved. We expect them. Perhaps this is a call to a greater sense of gratitude.

Sat 26 Jun Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 18:1-15; Luke 1:46-50,53-55; Matthew 8:5-17

We all long for miracles, wanting God to just fix what is wrong. We ask why there is so much suffering. But instead of asking "why", perhaps we should be asking, "What now? How do I respond?"

Sun 27 Jun 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24; Psalm 30; Mark 5:21-43

Tragedy in our world is not because God is angry at us. God does not rejoice in destruction. God does not work that way. God is not filled with anger. God is love and mercy and compassion and forgiveness.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional **Memorial**)
R=Religious; B=Bishop

Catholic Link

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
Divine Office: Week IV • 20 June 2021

Dark Clouds, Closed World

We can feel for Pope Francis when he writes towards the beginning of *Fratelli Tutti*:

"As I was writing this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic unexpectedly erupted, exposing our false securities. Aside from the different ways that various countries responded to the crisis, their inability to work together became quite evident. For all our hyper-connectivity, we have witnessed fragmentation." Think of the disproportion of the rollout for vaccines between rich and poor countries!

Chapter One of the encyclical provides a broad view of the world which the pope enjoys as head of the Catholic (i.e., "universal") Church. This is one of the strengths of the Church's mark of "catholicity", with input reaching the pope from across the globe, although he is quite humble in his words in paragraph 9: "Without claiming to carry out an exhaustive analysis or to study every aspect of our present-day experience, I intend simply to consider certain trends in our world that hinder the development of universal fraternity."

The title of his first chapter looks depressing – "Dark Clouds over a Closed World" – and its subtitles and sections seem to confirm this. They are worth listing in full without comment:

Shattered dreams. Loss of a sense of history. Lacking a plan for everyone. A 'throwaway' world. Insufficiently universal human rights. Conflict and fear. Globalization and progress without a shared roadmap. Pandemics and other calamities. An absence of human dignity on the borders. The illusion of communication. Shameless aggression. Information without wisdom. Forms of subjection and of self-contempt.

Thank goodness the pope does not end

this chapter on a note of gloom, but, as we will see in next week's reflection, it ends on a magnificent note of hope. Nevertheless, we would be ostriches with our heads in the sand if we did not share in some of the pope's harsh look at current realities. You are encouraged to read the encyclical itself. All that *Catholic Link* is trying to do is whet your appetite. The text can be downloaded from the Vatican website, <http://www.vatican.va>

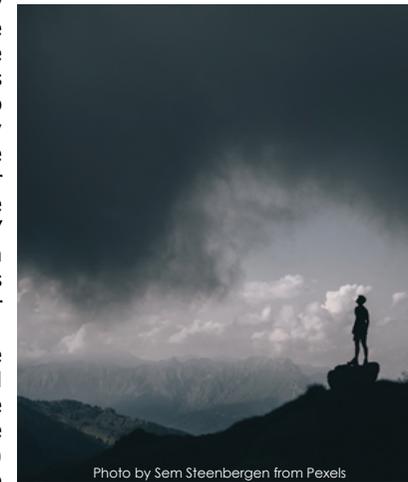


Photo by Sem Steenbergen from Pexels

The pope is surely correct when he says in the first chapter that we find ourselves these days surrounded by "shattered dreams". It is as if we have not learned the lessons of history, the lessons of many wars and disasters. Instead, there are signs of regression with old wounds opening as we witness a resurgence of extremist and aggressive nationalism. From his global vantage point, Pope Francis sees new forms of selfishness emerging "under the guise of defending national interests".

Added to that is the way local conflicts "are exploited by the global economy", says the pope, which leaves some people "more alone than ever in an increasingly massified world that promotes individual interests and weakens the communitarian dimension of life." Transnational economic powers seem to operate with the principle of "divide and conquer".

Added to this is what Pope Francis calls a "throwaway" culture where persons are no longer cared for and respected. He specifies the "not yet useful" (the unborn) and the "no longer needed" (the elderly). Then too, he says, "we have grown indifferent to all kinds of wastefulness, starting with the waste of food, which is deplorable in the extreme."

Next week we will see how Pope Francis moves from despair to hope.