

# SUNDAY MASS

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**FIRST READING:** Joshua 24:1-2, 15-17, 18.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 34.

## RESPONSE:

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

1. 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**
2. 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. **R**
3. 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. **R**
4. Many 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. **R**
5. 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. **R**

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5:21-32.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL:** John 6:60-69.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer the heart.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 23 Aug (St Rose of Lima, V)

1 Thess 1:1-5.8-10; Psalm 149; Matthew 23:13-22  
Take a minute right now, stop reading... and feel God's presence... Nothing to plug in, or app to download. God is near, truly present, even when we don't call. And if we are silent, we can hear God talking to us.

### Tue 24 Aug ST BARTHOLOMEW, A

Revelations 21:9-14; Psalm 145; John 1:45-51  
God knows the essential goodness out of which we are made. When we are open to this goodness, like St Bartholomew, we respond. God, open my heart and mind to being known and called.

### Wed 25 Aug (St Joseph of Calasanz, Pr)

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Psalm 139; Matthew 23:27-32  
St Teresa of Avila said that one day at prayer she heard God say to her, "Enjoy me!" Those two words, she said, changed her life. What do we hear God say to us? May God's constant presence in your life bring you joy.

### Thu 26 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Psalm 90; Matthew 24:42-51  
Sometimes we jump to conclusions about people. We find that they are not limited to who we imagine them to be. Who are we to judge? God's generosity and mercy are beyond anything we can possibly conceive.

### Fri 27 Aug St Monica

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 97; Matthew 25:1-13  
St Augustine wrote in his notes to God, "My mother (St Monica) was unhappy because you seemed to ignore her prayers and tears. She did not realize that you were preparing her for even greater gifts."

### Sat 28 Aug St Augustine, BD

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Psalm 98; Matthew 25:14-30  
"God's justice happens when human beings work toward a world where fairness and compassion thrive. Joy follows when justice expands in the world" – Sr Joyce Rupp, OSM.

### Sun 29 Aug 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8; Psalm 15; Mark 7:1-8.14-15.21-23  
"Oh, Lord, let me feel at one with myself. Let me perform a thousand daily tasks with love, but let every one spring from a greater central core of devotion and love." – Efty Hillesum

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) V=Virgin; A=Apostle; Pr=Priest; B=Bishop; D=Doctor)

# Catholic Link

## BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B  
Divine Office: Week I • 22 August 2021

# Political Charity

We do not normally associate politics with love, but that is exactly what Pope Francis does in *Fratelli Tutti*. In a superb subsection of Chapter 5 entitled "*The Politics We Need*", while admitting that politics is often a distasteful word (thanks to the mistakes, corruption and inefficiency of some politicians) the pope asks, "Yet can our world function without politics?" If not, he asks, what kind of politics do we need?

What is needed is a politics which is far-sighted, ...a healthy politics capable of reforming and co-ordinating institutions, promoting best practices and overcoming undue pressure and bureaucratic inertia.

Some may throw up their hands at the mere mention of bureaucracy (note the pope's added descriptive, "inertia"! ) but, as Francis insists, it all boils down to the need to focus on and promote the long-term common good. The notion of the "common good" goes straight back to the great St Thomas Aquinas and his own writings on the political and social reality of human beings. But Pope Francis adds something quite novel and thought-provoking, something he calls "*political love*".

At first glance this may seem off-putting to some, particularly people of an anti-religious bent who might dismiss it for being too "churchy". But why not love in politics? If Jesus invites his followers to be light to the world and salt to the earth, should not love be the very substance of light and salt? Pope Francis writes: For whereas individuals can help others in need, when they join together in initiating social processes of fraternity and justice for

all, they enter the field of charity at its most vast, namely political charity.

"Charity at its most vast..." This shows breadth of vision. Mother Teresa of Calcutta had it. When it came to love in action, she thought big. She travelled the world promoting it and received the Nobel Peace Prize for it. Francis expresses his deepest hope:

Once more, I appeal for a renewed appreciation of politics as a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good.

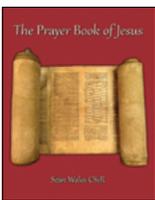
Behind the "political theology" of Francis is his belief that each of us is only fully a person when we are part of a people. Christian love in action, like it or not, happens within the ambiguities and tilted

structures of our very fallen world. As we have said before, we are all political beings. We all have to find ways to practice Christian charity, not just within our homes, but in our neighbourhoods, in our towns and cities, and (dare I say it?), while driving on the road! We're all involved. But Francis throws out a special challenge to politicians themselves:

Government leaders should be the first to make the sacrifices that foster encounter and to seek convergence on at least some issues. They should be ready to listen to other points of view and to make room for everyone. Through sacrifice and patience, they can help to create a reality in which everyone has a place.... [Political leadership should promote] an exchange of gifts for the common good. It may seem naïve and utopian, yet we cannot renounce this lofty aim.



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The Prayer Book of Jesus, the Psalms, has remained throughout Jewish and Christian history as a deep well of inspiration for individuals and communities at prayer. This little introduction is offered as a help to using the very prayers used by Jesus. In the Book of Psalms we are taught how to use the Word of God as our prayer and how to turn to God in any situation. The text is presented in a way that invites us to actually ponder and pray the psalms we are reading about. A must have for anyone who prays the Office daily.

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plus delivery

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