

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 15.

RESPONSE:

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

- Whoever walks without fault; who does what is just, and speaks the truth from his heart. Who does not slander with his tongue. **R**
- Who does no wrong to a neighbour, who casts no slur on a friend, who looks with scorn on the wicked, but honours those who fear the Lord. **R**
- Who lends no money at interest, and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a one shall never be shaken. **R**

SECOND READING: James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

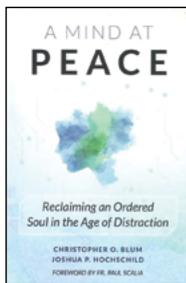
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

Most of us are far less peaceful and more easily manipulated than in our younger years. We now live in the midst of a digital revolution that leaves us far more distracted and more deeply worried and all too often causes us to lose our mental and spiritual composure that threatens our relationships, our self-knowledge, our prayer, and our ability to make decisions.

Dr Christopher Blum and Dr Joshua Hochschild offer this book as a practical guide for recovering interior peace through ordered activity.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 30 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Psalm 96; Luke 4:16-30

Our celebrity obsessed world tends to see people for what work they do, what degrees they have or how much money they earn. God sees who we are. Its time to re-focus and do the same.

Tue 31 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6.9-11; Psalm 27; Luke 4:31-37

We take so many things in our daily modern life for granted, everyday miracles that we usually miss. We are so privileged, yet we still complain! Call to mind some of the miracles in your life and give thanks to God.

Wed 1 Sep Liturgy of the Day

Colossians 1:1-8; Psalm 52; Luke 4:38-44

Is God far away as the heavens, looking down on us; or is God all around us, as close as our own hearts? Rejoice, because he is both! Our God is everywhere, all things at once, one and many, within and without.

Thu 2 Sep Liturgy of the Day

Colossians 1:9-14; Psalm 98; Luke 5:1-11

Jesus knew Peter's flaws but loved him dearly. It seems clear that is why Jesus chose him as his closest disciple. We are all a lot like Peter. Jesus knows our flaws. Still, he loves us, and wants us by his side.

Fri 3 Sep St Gregory the Great, PD

Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 100; Luke 5:33-39

We are all rather egocentric by nature, thinking that we know how people should dress, talk and vote. We want people to embrace our values and our views. Perhaps it time to take a look at our inner judge.

Sat 4 Sep Liturgy of the Day

Colossians 1:21-23; Psalm 54; Luke 6:1-5

While changing unjust systems and laws that keep people oppressed is essential for societal change, we also need to care for the poor with compassion and love, making a difference in each life we touch.

Sun 5 Sep 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 35:4-7; Psalm 146; Mark 7:31-37

"God is doing new things. Jesus proclaimed, but only those with new minds and hearts can see a new world breaking through the cracks of the old."
- Iliq Delio, The Hours of the Universe

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

Catholic Link

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
Divine Office: Week II • 29 August 2021

The Exercise of Political Love

As Catholics we have been given a gift in Pope Francis' advocacy of "political love", a phrase we should endeavour to make widely known, even as it throws light on our struggles as social and political human beings.

Pope Francis sets out the characteristics of political love. There is a kind of love that is "elicited", he says. It flows from the *virtue* of charity arising from empathy towards others. But then there is what the pope calls a "commanded" love, expressed in acts of charity that create more sound institutions, more just regulations, more supportive structures. As the pope puts it,

It is an act of charity to assist someone suffering, but it is also an act of charity, even if we do not know that person, to work to change the social conditions that caused his or her suffering. If someone helps an elderly person cross a river, that is a fine act of charity. The politician, on the other hand, builds a bridge, and that too is an act of charity. While one person can help another by providing something to eat, the politician creates a job for that other person.

What a wonderful expansion on the old proverb, "Don't just give someone a fish. Teach them how to catch fish"!

Feelings of empathy and compassion are wishful thinking if they are not translated into action. Think "Good Samaritan". Charity embraces both compassion and praxis. Pope Francis translates this into political love:

This charity, which is the spiritual heart of politics, is always a preferential love shown to those in greatest need; it undergirds everything we do on their behalf. Only a gaze

transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized.... That gaze is at the heart of the authentic spirit of politics.

Political love is a blend of tenderness as well as strength, generosity as well as effort. This is not easy, says Pope Francis, amid a "functionalistic and privatized mindset that has led to our modern 'throwaway culture' - as shown in our attitude to 'unproductive' people, such as the unborn or the elderly and infirm." True political love ensures that everything be done to protect the status and dignity of the human person.

Once again Pope Francis has a special word for politicians:

Politicians are doers, builders with ambitious goals, possessed of a broad and pragmatic gaze that looks beyond

their own borders. Their biggest concern should not be about a drop in the polls, but about finding effective solutions to social and economic exclusion.

Political love, he says, is "expressed in a spirit of openness to everyone". It is "a love that integrates and unites". It requires "sacrifice to seek convergence on at least some issues". Political love means being "ready to listen to other points of view and to make room for everyone."

How urgent this is in an age of fundamentalism and ethnic intolerance! Pope Francis urges us: Let us be committed to the value of respect for others, a love capable of welcoming differences, and the priority of the dignity of every human being over his or her ideas, opinions, practices and even sins.... May we not be content with being enclosed in one fragment of reality.



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