

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Look to your covenant, O Lord, forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13.

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: Romans 9:1-5.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 10 Aug St Lawrence, DcnM

2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Psalm 112; John 12:24-26

When you lend something you have to let go of what you are lending, and you never know in what condition the item will be when it is returned. Lending takes trust. It also takes love.

Tue 11 Aug St Clare, V

Ezekiel 2:8-3:4; Psalm 119; Matthew 18:1-5.10.12-14

Little children are not always good little angels. But when they are unkind or unjust with others they are normally humble in asking to be forgiven. They instinctively trust in the power of love.

Wed 12 Aug (Bl. Isidore Bakanja, M)

Ezekiel 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Psalm 113; Matthew 18:15-20

There is a danger in believing that we only succeed when we reach many people (in ministry). Jesus reminds us that he is present with the same passion and power among 2 or 3 as he is with a multitude.

Thu 13 Aug (Ss Pontian P & Hippolytus Pr, Ms)

Ezekiel 12:1-12; Psalm 78; Matthew 18:21-19:1

Maybe Jesus' injunction to forgive not just 7 times but 77 times sounds impossible, because it is for us. Maybe this is the slow work of a lifetime. But perhaps this is not a punishment at all, but a mercy.

Fri 14 Aug St Maximillian Kolbe, PrM

Ezekiel 16:1-15.60.63; Isaiah 12:2-6; Matthew 19:3-12

God is not a security blanket against hardship. Instead, God is a loving presence wherein a loss can be transformed into opportunity, an illness can pass, and grief can give birth to compassion.

Sat 15 Aug Liturgy of the Day

Ezekiel 18:1-10.13.30-32; Psalm 51; Matthew 19:13-15

Jesus relies on us to imagine the kingdom of God – on earth as in heaven – as children would, but many have become disillusioned. Perhaps ordinary human beings sharing their faith regularly will change the world.

Sun 16 Aug ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

Revelations 11:19; 12:1-6.10; Psalm 45; Luke 1:39-56

Today's celebration reminds us that we, like Mary, have been chosen for a special purpose. It might be to help others through the work that we do, or by the way that we live our lives in joy and gratitude.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial) Dcn=Deacon; M=Martyr; V=Virgin; Pr=Priest

Catholic Link

CHURCH OF THE WORD

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week III • 9 August 2020

Psalms (2)



Although a psalm can have many themes, it is customary to classify them into categories: psalms of praise, penitential psalms, psalms of thanksgiving, messianic psalms, pilgrimage psalms, wisdom psalms, psalms of lament and complaint, and liturgical psalms. In today's *Link* we can only glance at a few of these categories.

Psalms of Praise

We all know one Hebrew word: Alleluia! It means "Praise the Lord". The theme of praise (Hallel) is found everywhere in the Prayer Book of Jesus but the following psalms are especially recognized as Psalms of Praise: 113-118, 136 and 145-150.

The first group (113-118), called "The Little Hallel" are associated with the Jewish feasts of "Tabernacles", "Weeks" and "Passover".

The "Great Hallel" is Psalm 136, so called because it is a song of praise of God for the wonders God has done in creation, in history, and in daily life. Its chorus line is unforgettable: "For his love endures forever".

"The last Hallel" is a collection of psalms which lead up to the final psalm (150) which is a prayer of pure praise. The last line of the whole collection of psalms is a beautiful prayer in itself: "Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord!"

Penitential Psalms

There are seven penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143). When we recall St Paul's words, "where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more", it is easy to appreciate the importance of these psalms of repentance. A well-known penitential psalm is

the "Miserere", Psalm 51, ascribed to David in his repentance for his grave sin against Uriah. Not only an eloquent plea for mercy, it is also a joyful celebration of forgiveness: "... give me again the joy of your help".

Equally well known is psalm 130, the "De Profundis" or, "from the depths". A cry of personal anguish and sorrow rises up from the well of grief and becomes an act of hope: "because with the Lord there is mercy and plentiful redemption".

Wisdom Psalms

The Bible contains several books which are classed as "Wisdom Literature". These books are part of a wisdom tradition in the ancient world and a number of psalms are included in this category of biblical writings, which next week's *Catholic Link* will develop.

Psalms 1, 37, 73, 112 and 119 are part of the wisdom tradition which prepared for the revelation of Jesus as the Wisdom of God. An example of this is the very long Psalm 119. In it each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet introduces a cluster of eight verses built around notions of law, teaching, promise, judgement, commandment and testimony. The overriding mood of this long psalm is the love of the Word of God: "Your Word is a lamp for feet and a light for my path". The just person listens to the Word of God, meditates on it, learns it by heart and loves it: "My part, I have said, O Lord, is to obey your word". This psalm is truly a delight for all who love the Scriptures: "O Lord, my portion is to obey your words".

Let us give thanks that the Psalms throw light on our path as we negotiate our way through the extraordinary challenges of 2020!

PLEASE NOTE

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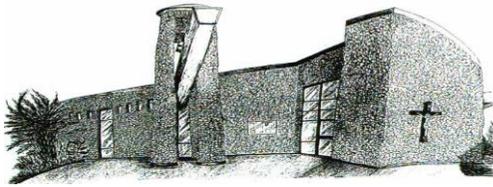
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*Guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive, as a Parish,
to grow into disciples of Jesus Christ,
reaching out in Faith into a wider Community.*

Prayer Circle:

Contact Jeannette Nicholson
031 467 7658 / 083 524 5619

SICK & HOSPITALISED PARISHIONERS:

Please inform Father Mike on 072 968 3394, or the parish office, of any parishioners in danger of death and requiring Viaticum.

REPOSITORY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

See notice on door for contact numbers for items urgently required.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: The seriously sick:

(see list of names on **outside** notice board) and especially Dorothea Johns, Rita De Jager, Anthony Norris, Brian Fuller, Judy Willman, Scarlett Wright, Patrick Marx and Andy Rossell.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS:

All Intentions booked will be included in the daily Masses celebrated by Fr Mike. Please join in Spiritual Communion with the Church, if you are able to do so.

This Week's Mass Intentions:

Sat 08 Aug & Sun 09 Aug

Dorothy Thompson R.I.P. [Thompson Family]

Michele & Tommy Atkins Wedding Anniversary

Lucy Lawlor's 92nd Birthday [Carol & Selwyn]

Jason Horstman's Birthday [Family]

Glen Christopher's Birthday [Family]

Justin Sutherland's Birthday [Family]

Sma Madonda's Special Intention

Mon 10 Aug

Repose of the Souls of All the Deceased [Maria Caetano]

Tue 11 Aug

Anne Pottier R.I.P. [Pottier Family]

Wed 12 Aug

Cynthia Love's Birthday [Frankson Family]

Thu 13 Aug

Rozelle Munien's 50th Birthday

David Abrahams 70th Birthday [Family]

Fri 14 Aug

All Parishioners

Sat 15 Aug & Sun 16 Aug

All 2020 Teenage Confirmation Candidates, their Parents & Catechists

Maurice Earlam R.I.P. [Kevin & Dianne]

Bill Kirk R.I.P. [Betty & Lilly]

Fr Derrick Butt's Birthday [Frankson Family]

GUIDELINES FOR VISITS TO THE PARISH OFFICE:

- Your temperature will be taken and registered with your name and contact number.
- If your temperature is above 38°C, entry may be denied.
- A face mask must be worn at all times, hands will be sanitized, and a safe distance of 1.5m is to be kept.
- Small items may be dropped into the locked letterbox outside the office door (it will be cleared daily).

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED TWO DAYS A WEEK:

The parish office is still closed each week on Mondays and Tuesdays for the next few weeks.

LIVING FAITH – July to Sept: 4 extra copies still available @ R30 each from the parish office, mornings only – Wednesdays to Fridays.

ADORATION: The church will be open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour on Monday 10 and Wednesday 12 August at 9am, and on Friday 14 August at 5.30pm. Strict COVID-19 protection and distancing protocols must be observed.

FR MIKE'S WEEKLY HOMILY:

Praying in an empty St Peter's square, on 28 March, Pope Francis likened the coronavirus pandemic to an "unexpected, turbulent storm" that brings us on "the same boat".

In the gospel for this Sunday we read how Jesus had told the disciples to cross to the other side of the lake while he stayed behind to dismiss the crowd that he had fed with the loaves and fishes. Then "he went up on the mountain by himself to pray."

As they are struggling to get the boat to the shore, Jesus comes to them walking on the water. They are terrified and think they are seeing a ghost. When they realize that it is Jesus, Peter asks Jesus to order him to come to him. Jesus does and Peter takes a few steps onto the sea, but when he felt the wind he was afraid and began to sink.

For all of us there are many times when the sea of our life is troubled and rough and we have to learn how to walk on the waters and confront the waves. Clearly when we stay focused on Jesus, everything is possible. When we take our eyes off Jesus, we begin to sink.

We might ask ourselves why Jesus came walking on the water in the first place. Certainly Jesus is not looking for attention through demonstrating miraculous powers. During his 40 days in the desert when the devil tempted Jesus to prove he was the Son of God by throwing himself from the parapet of the Temple, Jesus refused.

Throughout the Gospels, there are occasions when Jesus tells those who have experienced his miraculous power, to keep it to themselves. He also tells us that it is only an unfaithful generation that looks for signs. So perhaps there is a more obvious reason why Jesus walked on the water. He did what he did so that he could come to the aid of his disciples. When he arrived and stepped into the boat, "the wind died down."

Jesus might have done it to bring the disciples to a deeper faith in him. For at the end of the passage they proclaim, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

That wondrous event is a reminder that Jesus did the same thing for us. The Son of God took on flesh and came to humanity's rescue as it was being tossed about by evil, selfishness, darkness, and sin.

It seems that Matthew meant us to understand this event symbolically. The boat represents the Church; the disciples are beaten by the winds and waves of persecution and the ravages of daily life. Jesus is not with them physically; he is communing with his Father. However, in the hour of need he comes to them, and with

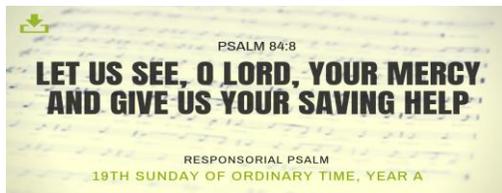
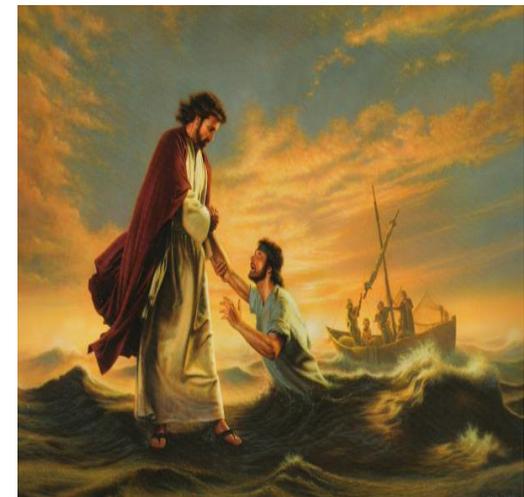
his presence calms their fears and brings them peace. Understood like this, the story has great relevance for us. The incident of Peter sinking and being saved by Jesus is probably meant to represent the typical disciple, caught between faith and doubt. Then, Jesus' question, 'Why did you doubt?' is directed at us, who often start out courageously only to lose heart when faced with a crisis.

Some people think that if you have enough faith, life will be all plain sailing for you. But this is not so. Faith doesn't shield us from the hard knocks of life and death.

We see this in the case of the great prophet Elijah who adopted a very militant, even bloodthirsty, approach in his battle against idolatry. Now on the run for his life, he takes refuge in a cave, a beaten and broken man who just wants to die. But there he experiences the presence of God and he is taught that God's ways are not man's ways. God's approach is as gentle as a breeze. Strengthened by that experience he is able to go on.

We see the same things in the lives of the early Christians, for whom Matthew is recording this event. When they encountered persecution, they thought that the Lord had abandoned them, and their faith began to wilt. However they discovered that even though the Lord was no longer with them physically, he was still with them and could still help them. Hence their faith revived and they were able to face their trials and dangers.

At some time or other every disciple of Jesus is faced with very trying circumstances, very difficult decisions, very great sorrow, very powerful temptations. At those times it is as if we are being asked to 'walk on water' and put our trust in Jesus.



19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
• YEAR A • 9 AUGUST 2020
DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK III
DAILY MASS READINGS: YEAR II

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Psalm 93:20. 19. 22. 23

Look to your covenant, O Lord; forget not the life of your poor ones forever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause; do not forget the cries of those who seek you.

FIRST READING:

1 Kings 19:11-13

In those days: When Elijah came to [Horeb the mount of God,] he lodged in a cave; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him. And he said, "Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains, and broke into pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.

PSALM:

Psalm 145:8-9. 15-16. 17-18

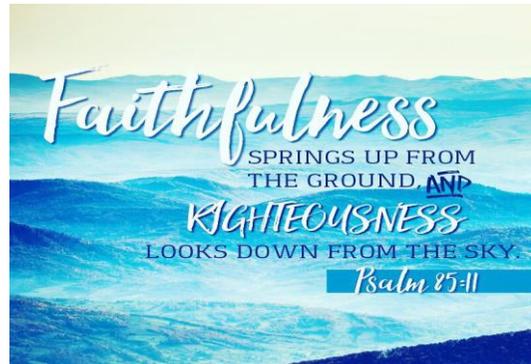
R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

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**

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

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:

Romans 9:1-5

Brethren: I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience

bears me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed for ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA:

Psalm 1:30.5

R. Alleluia.

I long for you O Lord, my soul longs for his word.

R. Alleluia.

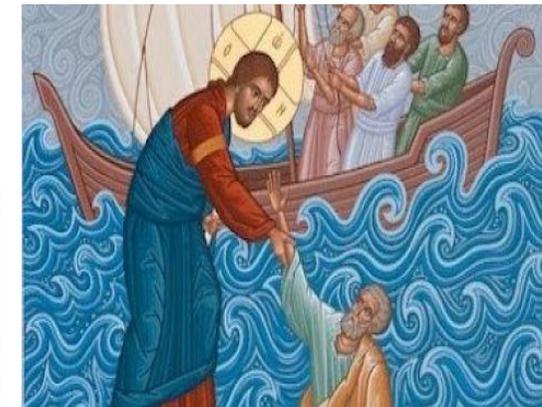
GOSPEL:

Matthew 14:22-33

[After the crowd was satisfied,] Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the

sea, they were horrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why do you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind had ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Psalm 147:12.14

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.