

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING: Amos 7:12-15.

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: Ephesians 1:3-14.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might know what is the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 6:7-13.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 12 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Exodus 1:8-14.22; Psalm 124; Matthew 10:34-11:1

Each harsh, negative approach we extend to another person contributes to the cruelty pervading society. Likewise, each positive, loving action we choose to do lessens the violence that life contains.

Tue 13 Jul (St Henry)

Exodus 2:1-15; Psalm 69; Matthew 11:20-24

Today's gospel reveals Jesus' deep sensitivity to the consequences of closed, hardened hearts. God calls each one of us to know God's love and mercy. The choice is ours to listen and to follow.

Wed 14 Jul (St Camillus de Lellis, Pr)

Exodus 3:1-6.9-12; Psalm 103; Matthew 11:25-27

When things don't go according to plan, a willingness to let go of our expectations opens up the possibility of something new. It is only then that we can begin to see how God is present in that moment.

Thu 15 Jul St Bonaventure, BD

Exodus 3:13-20; Psalm 105; Matthew 11:28-30

Many things weigh us down, many things oppress us, many things drain our strength. It is at these times that we must place ourselves – and quietly rest – in God's hands. "Come to me... and I will give you rest."

Fri 16 Jul (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

Exodus 11:10-12.14; Psalm 116; Matthew 12:1-8

Jesus makes it clear that God's laws are not constrictive, but freeing. We should never be slaves to petty thinking or be burdened with our own selfish need to win.

Sat 17 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Exodus 12:37-42; Psalm 136; Matthew 12:14-21

Jesus demands that we serve others and act with mercy, despite all costs. When we love without measure and forgive without blame, God's love is magnified through our merciful service of others.

Sun 18 Jul 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Mark 6:30-34

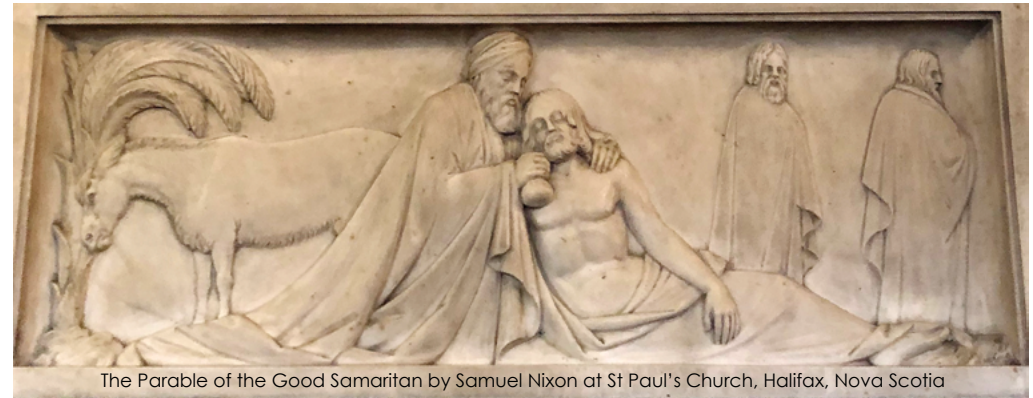
Our God is profoundly gentle, always leaving us the freedom to choose our path. Bad choices in life often lead to bad consequences, but not with God. God is always present, calling us to deeper trust and love.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional **Memorial**)
Pr=Priest; B=Bishop; D=Doctor

Catholic Link

BROTHERS AND SISTERS ALL

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B
Divine Office: Week III • 11 July 2021



The Parable of the Good Samaritan by Samuel Nixon at St Paul's Church, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Neighbours Without Borders

Last Sunday's *Catholic Link* introduced Chapter Two of *Fratelli Tutti*, as Pope Francis' inspiring reflection (well worth a read in your own time) on the parable of the Good Samaritan. We now present some of the pertinent conclusions which he draws.

Firstly, as a result of his meditation on the parable, Pope Francis shifts the understanding of the word "neighbour" from a geographical or proximity perspective to a more personal one. He notes that in the parable, Jesus "asks us not to decide who is close enough to be our neighbour, but rather that we ourselves become neighbours to all".

Secondly, Jesus himself crossed all cultural and historical barriers and invites us to do the same. This of course can be provocative, as the story of the Good Samaritan itself shows. John in his own gospel comments that "Jews, in fact do not associate with Samaritans" (John 4:9). Samaritans were considered as heretics – effectively there was an apartheid between the two groups of people. The shock of hearing that an "impure, detestable, dangerous" Samaritan had come to the aid of a badly injured Jew would have been very disturbing to Jesus' listeners.

Such an action by the Samaritan, Pope Francis concludes, "gives a universal dimension to our call to love, one that transcends all prejudices, all historical and cultural barriers, all petty interests".

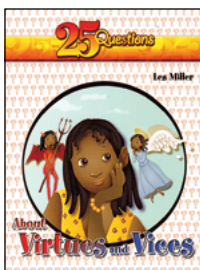
Finally, there is a yet deeper motivation for crossing borders. Jesus revealed that he himself identifies with all who are poor, marginalized, excluded or simply suffering (Matthew 25).

The words of Jesus, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" echo down the centuries and are heard whenever we reach out to those in need. Matthew 25:45 comprises words which will surely haunt those who pass by on the other side: "In so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me" (Matthew 25:45). These words, says Pope Francis, "compel us to recognize Christ himself in each of our abandoned or excluded brothers and sisters".

Pope Francis concludes Chapter Two by pondering why it took the Church so long to unequivocally condemn slavery and various forms of violence. In this regard the contemporary scene is not much better: we too often tolerate narrow and violent nationalism, xenophobia, contempt and mistreatment of those who are different, including differences of sexual orientation.

The "dark clouds over a closed world" (title of Chapter One) are never far distant. But by introducing the wisdom of the New Testament's parable of the Good Samaritan, Pope Francis has brought some divine light to our situation and an openness to all which will lift our spirits. The social meaning of our existence, that we are all interconnected, is captured by the Pope in his "dream" for humanity:

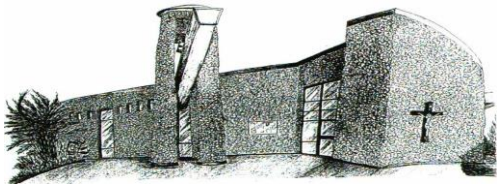
"Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, *brothers and sisters all.*"



25 Questions About Virtues and Vices asks and answers such questions as: What did Jesus teach about virtues and vices? What are the theological virtues? What are the cardinal virtues? What is sin? What's wrong with pride? This series is an excellent aid for building Catholic literacy and identity for children ages 11-14.

R135
plus delivery

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



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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

REPOSITORY IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

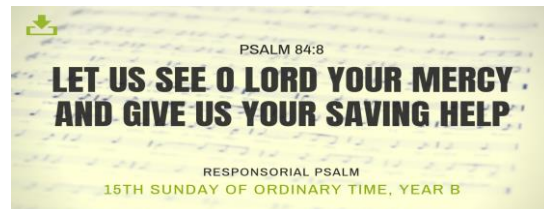
See notice on door for contact numbers for items urgently required.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

The seriously sick:

Anthony Norris, Brian Fuller, Judy Willman, Scarlett Wright, Patrick Marx, Andre Herder, Michael Tunley, Sylvia Whittock Jerelene Naidoo-Chetty, Keith Thorne, the Munsami/Johnson Family & Lyn Rossell.

The Repose of the Soul of: Sylvia Whittock



MASS ATTENDANCE: As we have moved to Level Four of the national response to Covid pandemic, all public Masses are cancelled until further notice. Father Mike will include each day's prescribed Mass Intention at his daily personal Mass celebration.

This Sunday's Mass will be posted **ONLINE** on our parish YouTube channel from **8.00am** on Sunday.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sat 10 Jul

Leslie Emmanuel's Birthday [Family]

Keith Smale R.I.P. [Tamika & Saylor Family]

Sun 11 Jul

All Parishioners

Mon 12 Jul

Carmel Thompson R.I.P. [Pottier Family]

Tue 13 Jul

Alec Desmond Clark R.I.P. [King Family]

Wed 14 Jul

Brevin Buckley's Birthday [Family]

Lorenzo Small's Birthday [Ferdinand Family]

Thu 15 Jul

Leonie Jacobs' Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered

Fri 16 Jul

Holy Souls in Purgatory [Pottier Family]

Sat 17 Jul

Ivan & Quintin Plowman R.I.P. [Sheila]

Hugh Quinn R.I.P. & Boyce, Luce and Gavin Freeman R.I.P. [Quinn Family]

Sun 18 Jul

Kelin & Satara [Pottier Family]

SOUTHERN CROSS: The new **July** issue as well as the **May** and **June** Southern Cross issues are available at R30 from the parish office during regular hours.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH:

We say thank you once again to the parishioners who have been supportive in many ways, and especially financially, during this ongoing COVID pandemic. May God continue to bless you and keep you and your family safe and well. For those parishioners who don't have the parish banking details, and would like to make a contribution, the parish banking information is as follows-

NAME: Bluff Catholic Church
BANK: First National Bank
BRANCH: Durban Main
BRANCH CODE: 25 06 55 (Generic)
TYPE: Current Account
A/C NO.: 508 444 959 17

If you are a current Dedicated Giving parishioner who usually uses the envelope system and would like to make an EFT deposit, please **ONLY use your Unique Number as your Beneficiary reference.** If you usually contribute anonymously via the collection basket, and wish to remain anonymous, please use the word **DONATION** as your Beneficiary reference.

FR MIKE'S HOMILY:

Throughout the Gospels we hear Jesus instructing his disciples. He commands them to love God and to love their neighbor. He tells them to forgive their enemies and to pray for their persecutors. He directs them to care for the poor and the suffering. He warns them not to let a desire for money, possessions, or power, rule their lives.

In this Sunday's Gospel ([Mark 6:7-13](#)), we hear the instructions that Jesus gives his apostles as he sends them out to preach repentance, to confront evil, and bring healing to the sick. He instructs them to take nothing with them "but a walking stick-no food, no sack, no money in their belts." They are, however, to wear sandals but not to take an extra tunic. He tells them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet."

In contemporary language, as Jesus sends out his disciples he tells them to go forth with only the clothes on their backs, a good pair of shoes on their feet, and a walking stick in hand. They are to take no luggage, no supply of food, and no cash or credit cards. He instructs them to travel in pairs and to depend on the charity of others and to presume upon the hospitality of anyone who welcomes them.

Those are certainly challenging instructions - and they apply to us. For the directives of Jesus were meant

not just for the disciples of his day but for all Christians.

What Jesus is asking is that we encourage people to repent. That does not mean calling people sinners and threatening them with hell, but it means inviting them to embrace the joyful vision and understanding of life that Jesus proposed and lived - what he called the kingdom of God.

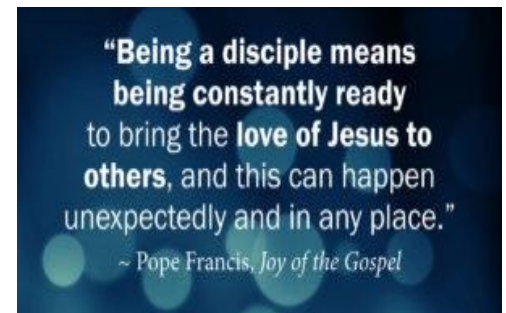
Jesus is asking that we not let money, possessions, and worries occupy our thoughts and drain our time and energy.

Jesus is asking that we not allow ourselves to be frozen by failure when people do not respond, but that we move on to the next person, just as Jesus did.

While we can easily be tempted to disregard the instructions that Jesus gives in this Sunday's Gospel as impractical, we need to see what was behind them. Once we know that, then we will know what Jesus most wants us to do.

In other words, carrying a walking stick and having an empty wallet are not as important as doing our best to share the message of Jesus, or as Pope Francis would say: to live and share "the joy of the gospel!"

In the first reading we see the faithfulness of Amos to the task entrusted to him by God. And in our second reading, St Paul invites us to share the spiritual gifts given to us by the Father - "The glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the beloved." This is what we are sent to do and as St Mother Teresa once said: God does not require that we be successful only that we be faithful.



15TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR
• YEAR B • 11 JULY 2021
DIVINE OFFICE: WEEK III
DAILY MASS READINGS: YEAR I

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Psalm 16:15

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING:

Amos 7:12-15

In those days: Amaziah the priest of Bethel said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, and eat bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son, but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

The word of the Lord.



PSALM:

Psalm 85:9-14

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:

Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the

world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us. For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will, we who first hoped in Christ have been destined and appointed to live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Ephesians 1:17-18

R. Alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might know what is the hope to which he has called us.

R. Alleluia.



GOSPEL:

Mark 6:7-13

Jesus called to him the Twelve, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. And he said to them, "Where you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. And if any place will not receive you and they refuse to hear you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet for a testimony against them." So they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Psalm 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.