



# St Patrick's Catholic Church, Benoni, South Africa

Priest-in- Charge: Fr David Evans

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*For our safety, the Parish remains closed at this time.*

Dear friends

30 August 2020

*"There is one thing we ask of you, O Lord:  
during the weeks and months ahead,  
let us be captivated once again by the beauty of your gaze.  
May that experience awaken in us a joy that never fades,  
and a firm hope in your abiding love.  
Set us on fire to proclaim your Good News in today's world  
and to share with those entrusted to our care  
the saving power of your grace.  
We ask that you hear our prayers which we present to you  
through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord.  
Amen."*

This prayer, from the "living Faith" publication focuses us on the two practical aspects of our lives as Christians – the worship of God, that we may be "captivated once again by the beauty of your gaze" and our movement outwards, into the community and world in which we live – "to proclaim your Good News" and so show people the joy of Christianity, as we try to help others as Christ did when he walked on this earth.

God is good and if Covid-19 can teach us anything, may it be that we all learn to work together and get on together better in the future, and care for each other more as citizens of our country and the world – then we will get back onto a path of recovery, growth and stability.

Jesus, in summarizing the heart of our faith in Old Testament terms, put all this very simply, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbour as yourself."

May you have a blessed week ahead.

Looking forward to seeing you all again

Fr. David

## Prayer List: 29 August

**Pray for all who are ill especially:** Bruce Herholdt; Stephen Zackey; Cole; Harry; Jenny Murphy; Sharon Jaffar; Rose Crammond; Sean Gallagher; Cleone.

*I offer the prayer of anointing for all who are ill.*

**Give thanks and pray for the continuing recovery of:** Ellen and Graham Fisher; Pat Pollitt; Ken; Monique ,Noel, Gemma and Aleyssa.

**Pray for all those who have died: especially Lia.**  
*May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*

Please update this list on the WhatsApp Group or SMS Father David at 060 3272998 (Parish mobile)

## Quote and Joke:

"The world offers you comfort; but you were not made for comfort.  
You were made for greatness." Pope Benedict XVI.

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Adam to Eve: "And please remember, I wear the plants in this family."



## Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary time

Sunday Missal p.384

Daily Missal p.1214

“Get behind me, Satan! “ (Matthew 16:23)

It's amazing! In one moment, Jesus tells Peter that his words, “You are the Messiah” had come from God himself (Matthew 16:17). Then, almost immediately after that, because Peter is trying to tell Jesus that he should not be killed, Jesus rebukes him and calls him Satan. What happened?

In both cases, it was Peter's mind that came to these conclusions. It was Peter's voice that spoke the words. It was Peter's good intentions that motivated him. Yet one message came from God and the other from the devil.

Even with best of intentions, we too can say and do things that help the evil one instead of our Lord. This is why it is so necessary to try to develop what is called the “gift of discernment”.

Even after the strong rebuke from Jesus – “Get behind me, Satan “- Peter continues to find himself influenced by the evil one. At the Last Supper, he joined the other disciples in arguing which one of them was the greatest, (Luke 22:24). Later that evening, he told Jesus that he would never deny him - but he did (22:31-34, 54-62). He even tried to keep Jesus from washing his feet (John 13: 5-8). You would think that have learned by then!

This however isn't the whole story. Peter did grow in his ability to discern God's will. On Pentecost Sunday, his preaching converted thousands (Acts 2: 37-41). His willingness to reach out to Cornelius and his family, even though they were Gentiles, enlarged everyone's view of God's plan (Acts 10: 25-48).

Like Peter, we are going to be influenced by the devil and end up doing things that hinder God's plan. It's just the way we are as God's fallen people. That, fortunately, is not the whole story. Jesus wants to teach us how to identify the devil's tricks. If you pray for grace and if you take time each day to reflect on your thoughts and actions, your gift of discernment will grow. You will think and act more like Jesus.

*“Lord, fill me with your grace. Teach me to choose your will more and more.”*

## Parish Finance

We are all looking forward to the day when we can return to mass at St. Patrick's. God willing, this day may be on the horizon. Without Sunday collections during lockdown, your financial support in donations and Dedicated Giving has been nothing short of wonderful. We are not out of the woods though and so may I ask you to continue your generous support at this time.

Our banking details (unchanged) for collections and donations are:

### **St Patrick's Catholic Church**

**Standard Bank: Branch code 013042**

**Current Account No. 021095612**

Cash can be handed in on Thursdays at the parish office between 09h00 and 12h00 or kept until we return to mass.

St Vincent de Paul Society supports all in need – irrespective of colour or creed – in our parish and beyond.

Donations can be made to:

Society of St Vincent de Paul,

Branch code: Universal or 19484200

Nedbank, Northmead, Benoni

Current Acc.No. 1012534707

Cash donations or clothing can be handed in at the Parish Office on a Thursday between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. or given to the chairman Aubrey Young (071 470 6444) or Dave Chennells (vice-chairman.) Please note that a receipt is always given for any cash donations.

Thank you so much.

