

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

**FIRST READING:** Acts 5:27-32, 40-41.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 30.

### RESPONSE:

*I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.*

- I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up, and have not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, you have lifted up my soul from the grave, restored me to life from those who sink into the pit. **R**
- Sing psalms to the Lord, you faithful ones; give thanks to his holy name. His anger lasts a moment; his favour all through life. At night there are tears, but at dawn comes joy. **R**
- Hear, O Lord, and have mercy on me; be my helper, O Lord. You have changed my mourning into dancing. O Lord my God, I will thank you forever. **R**

**SECOND READING:** Revelation 5:11-14

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia. Christ has risen, who created all things and has had mercy on the human race. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** John 21:1-19

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD Live the Word

### Mon 5 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119; John 6:22-29

Look at your priorities in life. Where is your focus? What concerns you the most every day? If you are overly concerned with the things of this world, then let today's gospel speak to you in your prayer today.

### Tue 6 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 7:51-8:1; Psalm 31; John 6:30-35

Put yourself into today's gospel. What is it that you hunger and thirst for the most? What do you desire? Allow yourself to hear Jesus say to you, "I want to give you so much more. I am what you truly long for."

### Wed 7 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 66; John 6:35-40

"Let there be an opening into the quiet that lies beneath the chaos, where you find the peace you did not think possible and see what shimmers within the storm." – John O'Donohue

### Thu 8 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66; John 6:44-51

"...the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world." As you prayerfully reflect upon these words, ponder how deeply you believe them, and allow this truth to transform you from within.

### Fri 9 May Liturgy of the Day

Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117; John 6:52-59

"To maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others." – Pope St John Paul II

### Sat 10 May (St John of Avila, PrD)

Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 116; John 6:60-69

"Your neighbour is something that concerns Jesus Christ; therefore, the proof of the perfect love of our Lord is the perfect love of the neighbour. – St John of Avila

### Sun 11 May 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 13:14, 43-52; Psalm 100; John 10:27-30

"To suggest that I am anything less than sanctified and redeemed is to suppress the image of God in my disabled body and to limit how God is already at work through my life." – Amy Kenny

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

## Catholic Link

### THE BOOK OF REVELATION

3rd Sunday of Easter • Year C  
Divine Office: Week III • 4 May 2025

## Checkmate

The second reading during the Sundays of Easter season is always from the Book of Apocalypse (or, Revelation). As a service to our readers, *Catholic Link* will attempt a brief overview of the message and purpose of this, the final book in the Christian Bible. We say "attempt", because the Book of Revelation is notoriously difficult to understand, containing as it does strange visions like dragons, other beasts, and lambs, not to mention the complexity of numbers like 666, 40, 7, 144000. Most mainstream Christians probably do not study Revelations closely, yet there are some who have used the threatening imagery found in it as a biblical judgment against individuals and institutions across the ages, a favourite one being that the pope is the antichrist. More common are those who use this book to predict the end of time and its cataclysm. It is a pity that these fringe groups have 'cornered the market', so to speak, leaving us ordinary Christians ambivalent about the Book of Revelation, and in the process missing out on its core encouraging message of hope in dark times.

Catholic scholarship of the Book of Revelation has flourished in recent years, and it has led to some interesting and important qualifications of previous interpretations. Close scrutiny of the text shows that it is not actually an apocalyptic book about the end times when God will finally intervene and sort everything – and everyone – out. True, it borrows the apocalyptic style of Old Testament books, like the prophets Daniel and Ezekiel, but its motif

is not on the end. Its focus is on the *present* day, with today's problems and challenges, and how the victory of the Lamb (Jesus) is *already* won. We don't have to wait for it.

What the entire Book of Revelation aims to do is encourage Christians – us – not to lose heart as we negotiate our way through the trials and tribulations of life. It is an incentive to trust the grace that we already have through the birth, death and resurrection of Christ, and to apply it daily in faith, in prayer, in spirituality, and in Christian action. Look at it in terms of a game of chess between God and the devil. After Jesus' resurrection God says: Checkmate! Devil says, No ways! I can still move this and still do that. God repeats: Checkmate! And that's the message we want to hear coming through the Book of Revelation. It's over. Evil has been vanquished. All we need to do is place ourselves, now, within the safe shelter of an

unshakable faith in the Resurrection. We don't say "Christ has risen". We say, "Christ *is* risen".

And so, to the short but uplifting second reading at Mass today from Apocalypse 5:11-14. The writer almost wants us to hear the whooshing wings and vibrant voices of the millions of angels singing of the victory of the Lamb-once-slain, but now given "power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory and blessing." We who are baptised into the death and resurrection of Christ, we too, by grace, share those very same gifts. Let us live by the wisdom, power, strength and honour that is ours in Christ!

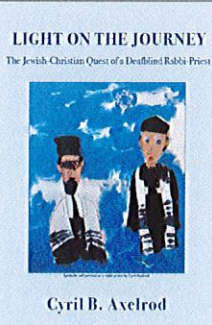


St John the Evangelist on Patmos by Hieronymus Bosch, c. 1489.

The Book of Revelation is attributed to St John

Fr Cyril Axelrod has done it again – he has written another book! Undaunted by being Deafblind, having already written an autobiography and a sequel, he now reflects prayerfully on his Jewish origins and spirituality, bringing these into harmony with his Christian faith. This book is an inspiration to all.

**R150**  
plus delivery



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**Please note that the following two masses over the next two weeks are cancelled:**

**The 08h00 Mass (and confessions) on Saturday 10 May is cancelled.**

**The 17h30 mass (and confessions) on Thursday 15 May is cancelled.**

**ALL OTHER MASSES WILL BE SAID AS USUAL.**

**In your prayers, pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis and for the Cardinals meeting in conclave from Wednesday 7 May to elect a new Pope.**

The Jubilee Prayer for the Holy Year

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos  
In the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,  
When, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.  
To you Our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen.

There will be a Catechism Cake and Candy sale on Mothers' Day this coming Sunday 11 May, after the 07h30 and 10h00 masses, in aid of parish funds.

## The Third Sunday of Easter

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*"They left...rejoicing that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor".*

That's rather odd! Wouldn't you expect the apostles to be grateful that they left that trial alive? Or relieved that they didn't get punished any more severely? They may have thought these things, of course, but it seems that they were most happy to have been found "worthy" to be arrested, threatened, and flogged by their own people).

What gave the apostles a perspective like this? The answer lies in one simple line from today's passage. Explaining themselves to the Sanhedrin, Peter and the others said, "The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree".

Jesus' resurrection changed everything! The apostles had seen him endure an agonizing death and still come out the other side filled with the glory of God. With their very eyes, they saw definitive proof that death had been overcome. It wasn't the end of Jesus' story, and it wasn't the end of theirs either.

Around seventy-five years after this event, a bishop from Antioch named Ignatius said something similar. He had been arrested for his belief in Christ, and while on his way to execution in Rome, he wrote to the Christians there and begged them not to interfere. Ignatius had lived a long life, and death didn't scare him. In fact, he was eager to go. "Allow me to become food for the wild beasts," he wrote, "through whom it will be granted me to attain to God"

Both Peter and Ignatius tell us that the gates of heaven have been opened to us. Death, and everything death represents, has lost its power over us. They also tell us that fear has lost its power, for all fears draw their strength from the fear of death. Jesus, our risen Lord, has overcome everything, and he now invites you to share in that victory. Death is not the end of your story. It's really just the beginning.

*"Jesus, we praise you for the victory of your resurrection!"*

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