

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTHEM:

All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 49:3, 5-6.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 40.

### RESPONSE:

See, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **R**

2. You delight not in sacrifice and offerings, but in an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Then I said, 'See, I have come.' **R**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written of me: 'I delight to do your will, O my God; your instruction lies deep within me.' **R**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **R**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:1-3.

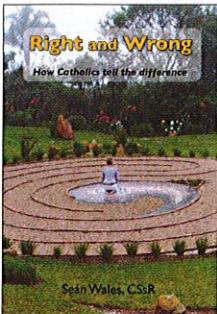
### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! The word became flesh and dwelt among us. To all who received him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL:** John 1:29-34.

### COMMUNION ANTHEM:

You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.



This book addresses the gnawing questions we all have about morality. What is morality in the first place? How do we tell the difference between right and wrong? Are there any reliable guides to help us in our moral perplexity? Where does the Church come in? What about conscience?

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## THE WEEK AHEAD Live the Word

### Mon 19 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 Samuel 15:16-23; Psalm 50; Mark 2:18-22

Winemakers pay great attention to the containers in which they store their wine. We are immeasurably precious in God's sight – how can we become fitting containers for all that God endlessly pours into us?

### Tue 20 Jan (Bl. Cyprian M. Tansi, Pr.)

1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 89; Mark 2:23-28

"He is a Father, a very kind Father indeed. All his plans are for the good of his children. We may not often see how they are. That does not matter. Leave yourselves in His hands ... for as long as you have to live on this earth."

### Wed 21 Jan St Agnes, VM

1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51; Psalm 144; Mark 3:1-6

"Christ has made my soul beautiful with the jewels of grace and virtue. I belong to Him whom the angels serve." – St Agnes of Rome, a virgin and martyr who died for her faith around 304 AD.

### Thu 22 Jan (St Vincent, DcnM)

1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7; Psalm 56; Mark 3:7-12

St Augustine noted in a sermon that St Vincent's refusal to yield to temptation or torment demonstrated how he conquered the world through Christ. St Vincent was martyred in 304 AD.

### Fri 23 Jan Liturgy of the Day

1 Samuel 24:3-21; Psalm 57; Mark 3:13-19

How quickly the heart and mind opt for returning pain inflicted on us. How hard it is to apply Jesus' teaching of mercy and forgiveness. Yet, we need to know that each of us has the potential to cease retaliation.

### Sat 24 Jan St Francis de Sales, BD

2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27; Psalm 80; Mark 3:20-21  
St Francis recommended daily meditation, suggesting that busy individuals might need even more time for it. "Half an hour's meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed."

### Sun 25 Jan 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27; Matthew 4:12-23

"Each of us experiences a lifelong tug-of-war between our money interests and the calling of our soul. When we're in the domain of soul, we act with integrity.... We recognize the value of love and friendship." – Lynne Twist

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

## Catholic Link

### THE FIVE GOSPELS

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A  
Divine Office: Week II • 18 January 2026

## Matthew's Good News

Five gospels? All will be revealed as *Catholic Link*, over the next five Sundays of ordinary time, offers an exposé of the gospels. We begin with Matthew.

For many people the word "publican" refers to someone who owns or runs a public house, better known as a pub. But the word "publican" has a longer history and in the ancient world it referred to those who collected taxes on behalf of the Roman government during the era of the Roman Empire.

This system of collecting taxes was ripe for corruption and so the individual collectors of the taxes were hated. They were seen as corrupt collaborators with a foreign power of occupation, and therefore also as sinners.

Two such publicans feature prominently in the New Testament, Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) and Matthew (Matthew 9:9). Called by Jesus while perched high in the sycamore tree in Jericho, Zacchaeus had to face up to his bad reputation. Matthew had to cope with some strong feeling even among the apostles when Jesus chose him as one of them!

Right away Matthew proved an asset to Jesus and his followers. He began by noting down, in Hebrew, Jesus' sayings. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., with his notes in hand and influenced by Mark who had already written a gospel, Matthew set to work on his own account of the message of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This we know as the Gospel according to Matthew.

While all the Gospels proclaim the good news of Jesus, the mysteries of our redemption and the challenge to respond to Jesus in a transformed way of living, each Gospel writer brings his own style and emphases. The Gospel according to Matthew is the most Semitic of all the Gospels. Matthew was a com-

mitted Jew, writing primarily for fellow Jews and showing them the fulfilment of the Jewish prophecies in Jesus the Jew.

To appreciate Matthew's gospel, we need to be aware that at the time of writing Christians and Jews were beginning to diverge on their chosen paths. The distinction between Synagogue and Church was becoming clearer. Sensitive to this and seeking harmony, Matthew's gospel draws on major Old Testament themes.

Matthew is systematic. His Gospel is built around five dominant sermons of Jesus:

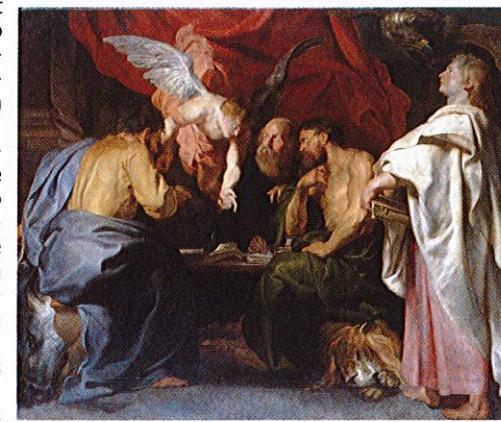
Chapters 5-7,

The Sermon on the

Mount; Chapter 10, a missionary sermon; Chapter 13, a sermon in parables; Chapter 18, sermon on the Church; and Chapters 24-25, sermon on the Last Things. These catechetical sermons are prefaced by what we call the Infancy narratives. The sermon chapters are followed by the narratives of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Throughout Matthew's gospel, key themes shine through: the identity of Jesus as the Son of God, the coming of the Kingdom of God, the fulfilment of the expectations of the Old Testament, the work of our redemption and the glory of the Risen Christ.

A word of caution. Because of his zeal for showing that the promised Messiah is Jesus of Nazareth, Matthew sometimes comes across as anti-Semitic. Hence the importance of the historical background we presented above. Matthew, born a Jew, not only loves Judaism but wants to show its compatibility with emerging Christianity.



The Four Evangelists by Peter-Paul Rubens (1614)

Parish Priest: Fr David Evans  
 Parish Secretary: Judy Joseph  
 Bookkeeper: Tanya Charles  
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 08h00 to 16h00  
 Website: [www.stpatricksbenoni.co.za](http://www.stpatricksbenoni.co.za)



Phone: 060 327 2998  
[office@stpatricksbenoni.co.za](mailto:office@stpatricksbenoni.co.za)  
[bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za](mailto:bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za)  
 106 Woburn Avenue, Benoni

Mass Times	Tues 09h30	Wed No mass	Thurs No Mass	Fri 08h00	Sat 08h00 17h00	Sun 07h30 10h00	Confessions Tues 10h00 Sat 08h30
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Baptism of children: Book with the parish secretary and collect the form. Attendance of one short instruction is required.

Please support your parish: **“St Patrick’s Catholic Church”** Benoni, Standard Bank. Current Account number: **021 095 612** (Branch code: 013042). To join our monthly Dedicated Giving contact Tanya; [bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za](mailto:bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za) or on 060 327 2998.

<b>Registration</b> for all grades, including Confirmation (grades 8 and 9), is on <b>Sunday 18 January</b> after the 07h30 and 10h00 Masses in the Hall. Copies of Birth certificate and baptism certificate are required.	R200
Pre -Foundation class age 6 and 7 years old only.	R200

2 or more children Copies of Birth certificate and baptism certificate are required.	R300 per Family
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Senior (Confirmation Classes – Not Adult) Confirmation is a two-year course and all candidates from grade 8 upwards will need to complete both years. Copies of Birth certificate, Baptism and First Holy Communion certificates are needed.	R200 per candidate
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### Adult Catechism Classes 2026

Instruction for adults who wish to become Catholic or for Catholics wanting the Sacraments leading to Confirmation will begin on Sunday 4 February at 08h30. Come to the parish office. **Registration** will take place on **Sunday 18 January** after the 07h30 mass at the parish office. Please bring a copy of your baptism certificate and ID. This class is not for pupils at school. Phone Ettienne the co-ordinator at 084 515 3511 for details. Registration fee R200. Classes starts on Sunday 1 February.

**There is no 07h30 mass this coming Sunday 25 January and no catechism because of a running race coming past St Patrick's at that time. However, the 10h00 mass will be said as usual.**

### The Second Sunday of the Year

Sunday Missal page 313 Weekday Missal page 724

*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)*

We hear these words at every Mass as the Host and Chalice are raised for all to see. They are so familiar that perhaps they have lost some of their force. So let's take a closer look at this marvellous invitation.

Behold. Don't just glance. Behold. Look deeply, carefully, and prayerfully. Look with the expectation that you will discover something important. Trust that Jesus wants to reveal himself to you.

Behold, the Lamb of God. What are you beholding? God's greatest gift to the world-to you. You are holding Jesus, the one true sacrifice sent from heaven. He is the spotless Lamb, innocent of all sin and meek and gentle of heart. He is the fulfilment of ancient Israel's Passover celebration. He has come so that you can pass over from death to life, from slavery to freedom.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away sin. Look closely. See in this Host the promise of forgiveness. See Jesus, who surrendered his body and blood on a cross for you. See Jesus, who has taken your very sin upon himself and brought it into the grave with him. See him rising again, leaving your sin behind in that grave, where it remains today, dead and buried. You are no longer bound by it. Jesus has borne it away, and you can walk away from it too-step by halting step as you continue to place your faith in him.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Not just your sin, but the sin of every single person on earth, past, present, and future. No one is beyond his reach. No one is devoid of hope. Everyone can know forgiveness and freedom. Even the people you are struggling to forgive. Behold him and believe that he can bring reconciliation and healing to all people.

Behold, the Lamb of God! And receive him with joy and an open heart.

*“Lord, I am not worthy. Only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.”*

Given the gift of eternal life in Baptism: Obumkelu Malinga.

A second collection for the Priests' Medical Fund will be taken next weekend. This is a very important fund as you can imagine, so may we ask you to give generously.

The Divine Mercy chaplet will be said every Friday at 3.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Knights of da Gama are having a **Bingo** Evening after Mass on Saturday 7 February in the Hall at 6.30pm. Please bring your family and friends along. Light snacks will be on sale. The bar will be open. Contact Jose 082 546 8505.