

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.*

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 9:1-4

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 27.

### RESPONSE:

*The Lord is my light and my salvation.*

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
whom should I dread? **R**
2. There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord,  
to inquire at his temple. **R**
3. I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the Lord; be strong;  
be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord! **R**

**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the kingdom and healing every infirmity among the people. Alleluia.*

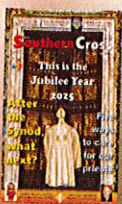
**GOSPEL:** Matthew 4:12-23.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*Look towards the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.*

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## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

**Mon 26 Jan** Ss Timothy & Titus, Bs

2 Timothy 1:1-8; Psalm 96; Luke 10:1-9

"Every human personality is something sacred, something special. We don't have a right ... to destroy that spark of divinity, that spark of humanity, that is made and created in the image of God." – John Lewis

**Tue 27 Jan** (St Angela Merici, V)

2 Samuel 6:12-15,17-19; Psalm 24; Mark 3:31-35

St Angela asks us to reflect on our actions, to live in a way that would be pleasing at the time of death. She also highlighted the idea that serving the poor is a greater need for the giver than the recipient.

**Wed 28 Jan** St Thomas Aquinas, PrD

2 Samuel 7:4-17; Psalm 89; Mark 4:1-20

St Thomas prayed for a steadfast heart ... resistant to temptation. He also sought understanding to know God, diligence to seek God, wisdom to find God, and faithfulness to finally embrace God.

**Thu 29 Jan** Liturgy of the Day

2 Samuel 7:18-19,24-29; Psalm 132; Mark 4:21-25

Doing what God asks is challenging; we need to show mercy when we don't feel merciful, to forgive when we would rather hold a grudge, and to care for the needy when we feel selfish.

**Fri 30 Jan** Liturgy of the Day

2 Samuel 11:1-10,13-17; Psalm 51; Mark 4:26-34

"The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations." – St John Paul II

**Sat 31 Jan** St John Bosco, Pr

2 Samuel 12:1-7,10-17; Psalm 51; Mark 4:35-41

St John Bosco believed that kindness and patience were essential, especially when dealing with the young. He noted that to be loved, one must first show love and make others feel loved.

**Sun 1 Feb** 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13; Psalm 146; Matthew 5:1-12

"In order to maintain a life of harmony, there must be a balance between work and rest, or recreation. Work hard and rest well." – Randy and Edith Woodley

**KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)**  
Bs=Bishops; V=Virgin; Pr=Priest; D=Doctor

# Catholic Link

## THE FIVE GOSPELS

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A  
Divine Office: Week III • 25 January 2026

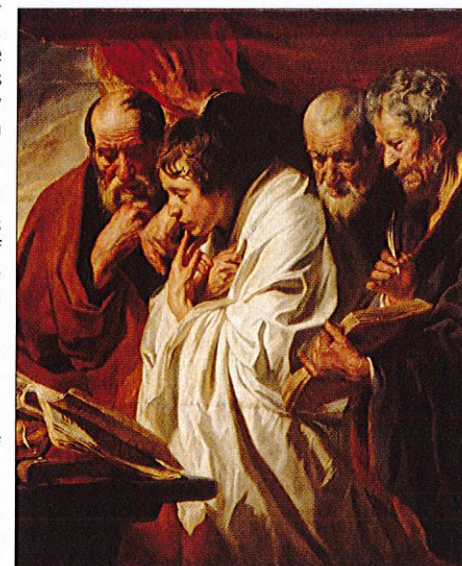
# The Gospel according to St Mark

**M**ark's gospel is the earliest surviving record of the life of Jesus. Both Matthew and Luke relied heavily on it as a primary source. Bear in mind that printing had not yet been invented, let alone computers. So, Matthew and Luke must have had access to a handwritten copy of Mark's gospel, worth its weight in gold. Who, exactly, was Mark?

The Acts of the Apostles tells us that he was the son of a woman of Jerusalem whose name was Mary, and whose house was a meeting place of the early church (Acts 12:12). Clearly, Mark grew up in a Christian atmosphere. He was also the nephew of Barnabas who with Paul took Mark on mission with them. We also hear mention of him in Paul's letters to the Colossians and to Philemon, and to Timothy Paul says, "Take Mark with you; he is a most useful servant to me" (2 Timothy 4:11). But Peter goes further than servant when he calls him "Mark, my son" (1 Peter 5:13.) Tradition has it that he was primarily Peter's interpreter and wrote down all that Peter remembered about Jesus. What is of particular interest is the frequent use Mark records of the original Aramaic words that Jesus uses. As an Aramaic speaker himself, Peter would have passed these on, words like Ephphata, Eloi lama sabachthani, Abba, and Thalita. While Matthew's gospel, as we saw last week, is attributed to Matthew the apostle, Mark's gospel, as the written record of St Peter's recollections, is thereby also considered to be an eye-witness account.

So, this brief history affirms Mark's importance for the Christian scriptures. But now,

as we seek to know Mark better, let's gather some of the characteristics of his gospel, characteristics to watch out for when we read him.



The Four Evangelists by Jacob Jordaens, 1625-1630, Louvre.

Mark's aim was to give a realistic picture of the humanity of Jesus, a humble carpenter, who knew temptation, who sighed deeply, who was moved with tenderness and compassion, who felt anger, who could be tired and wanted to rest. Mostly, Mark wanted us to feel, with passion, the human Passion of Christ. Yet Mark also highlights the divinity of Jesus. He begins his gospel with the declaration of faith, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." He speaks of the impact Jesus made on people: awe, astonishment, amazed, astounded, as in "Who

is this, that even wind and sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41.) Indeed, the many details confirm the belief that Mark gives such a close eyewitness account that certainly could have come from Peter in a simple and direct style. Statement after statement was connected simply with the word "and" almost in the way an eager child would tell a story: ...and...and...

There is something else, quite unique to Mark, that must be mentioned. He is very fond of the words "straightaway," "at once," "immediately." Mark's narrative almost rushes along. These words, together with the grammatical way of telling a past event in the present tense, are almost as if Mark wants us, his readers, to get a sense of the urgency of Jesus' mission – there's no time to lose, believe the Gospel, the Good News that the Kingdom of God is breaking into history!

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.

### **ST PATRICK'S CATECHISM 2025**

Young persons' catechism: Yearly fee is R300 per family, bring copy of birth and baptism certificates.

Confirmation: 2 years is required for completion. Yearly fee is R200, copy of birth certificate, baptism certificate and First Holy Communion certificate.

All classes begin on Sunday 1 February. This year classes begin at 08h15.

Registration for latecomers: go to the parish office on Sunday 1 February.

Assistant co-ordinator Maria 082 924 5751: Co-ordinator Belinda 083 658 9302.

### **Adult Catechism**

Instruction for adults who wish to become Catholic or for Catholics wanting the Sacraments leading to Confirmation will begin on Sunday 1 February and you can register as well. Come to the parish office after the 07h30 mass. Please bring a copy of your baptism certificate and ID. This class is not for pupils at school. Registration fee R200. Contact co-ordinator Ettienne on 084 515 3511 for details.

To make a donation to St Patrick's or give your collection at mass: Use SNAPSCAN by downloading the app on your phone and holding it over the QR code on the right.



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### **SATURDAY 7 AND SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY - DEDICATED GIVING SUNDAY**

Dedicated Giving is an alternative to putting money in the collection every Sunday – we can dedicate to give a certain amount monthly in cash and place this in the collection in a dedicated giving envelope, or we can give by making an INTERNET PAYMENT by EFT (using your D.G number) into St Patrick's account monthly. This helps the Church to budget for the coming year – also, it can be helpful to make an act of dedication to our Lord. Of course, if our financial circumstances change, then we can change our giving. Alternatively, you can continue to give in the collection as before.

**Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February** - at all masses - there will be an opportunity again for us to make a financial dedication to our Lord and indicate how we want to give – monthly envelopes will be given out and Dedicated Giving numbers. You can also do this at any other time – phone Tanya the parish bookkeeper at the parish 060 327 2998 or email her at [bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za](mailto:bookkeeper@stpatricksbenoni.co.za). Remember all financial giving is completely confidential.

We thank everyone for your giving to the Parish, whether using Dedicated Giving or giving in the collection. May we urge you to join Dedicated Giving - this enables the Finance Committee to budget better and is also a more secure way of giving.

**Please note that there is no 07h30 mass nor catechism on Sunday 25 January due to the race past the Church and the 10h00 Mass will be said as usual.**

Friday, 6 February is **First Friday**. Mass in the morning is at 8.00am. In the evening, Holy Hour and Benediction are at 5.00pm followed by mass at 5.30pm. You may park in the School grounds in the evening.

Saint Vincent de Paul will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses this coming weekend Saturday 31 Jan and Sunday 1 February.

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.

**Since Covid the parish has been sending out weekly emails of the parish bulletin. This has been discontinued. You can find the bulletin on the parish website and the parish WhatsApp group and of course still receive it at mass.**