

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:7-10.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 112.

RESPONSE:

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

1. A light rises in the darkness for the upright, he is generous, merciful and just. It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. **R**
2. He will never be moved; forever shall the just be remembered. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart, he trusts in the Lord. **R**
3. With a steadfast heart he will not fear. Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm forever. His might shall be exalted in glory. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; he who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-16.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Redemptorist PARISH MISSION

A parish mission – or retreat – is a time of renewal, evangelization, and conversion, rooted in the very identity of the Church. From her earliest days, the Church has gathered the faithful to rekindle faith, deepen prayer, and renew the spirit of discipleship.

Typically, a mission includes:

- Morning Mass
- Midday Novena & Exposition
- Evening Mission Service
- Confession

For more info: Fr Tyrone Sam CSsR

Tel: 074 647 2229. Email: tyrone.cssr@gmail.com

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 9 Feb Liturgy of the Day

1 Kings 8:1-7,9-13; Psalm 132; Mark 6:53-56

"Gratitude, real thankfulness, is a mental return to the moment of need ... Gratitude requires returning to that moment of need even after the need has been met." – Dr Yolanda Pierce

Tue 10 Feb St Scholastica, V

1 Kings 8:22-23,27-30; Psalm 84; Mark 7:1-13

St Scholastica's life is an example of the balance between prayer, work, and service, much like the balance exemplified by Mary and Martha in the Gospels.

Wed 11 Feb (Our Lady of Lourdes)

1 Kings 10:1-10; Psalm 37; Mark 7:14-23

The message of Lourdes is ultimately about encountering Jesus Christ. Mary's presence guides people to her son and encourages them to "Do whatever he tells you," as she instructed the servants at Cana.

Thu 12 Feb Liturgy of the Day

1 Kings 11:4-13; Psalm 106; Mark 7:24-30

God's love for us never wavers. It continually flows through us. God waits for us to accept the love and forgiveness that is constantly being poured into our hearts, and to share that love with others.

Fri 13 Feb Liturgy of the Day

1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Psalm 81; Mark 7:31-37

"When we hear that we are blessed, we should hear as well a sense of responsibility. A blessing given, a talent bestowed, if unappreciated and unused, is wasted." – Amy-Jill Levine, *Sermon on the Mount*

Sat 14 Feb St Cyril, Mk & Methodius, B

1 Kings 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Psalm 106; Mark 8:1-10

The example of Sts Cyril and Methodius is still relevant today, inspiring us to find creative and personal ways to share our faith with others, meeting people where they are, and building trust.

Sun 15 Feb 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 15:16-20; Psalm 119; Matthew 5:17-37

We must become aware of the place where we stand, and live, in God. It is only when we are rooted in God that we can enjoy the refreshing sustenance and peace that only God can give.

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)
V=Virgin; B=Bishop

Catholic Link

THE FIVE GOSPELS

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week 1 • 8 February 2026

John

To know *why* John wrote a gospel is probably the best way towards understanding it and its relevance to all times, as people drift from religious practice to indifference. John wrote it so that Christians might not give up during persecution but might go on believing in Jesus as the Christ.

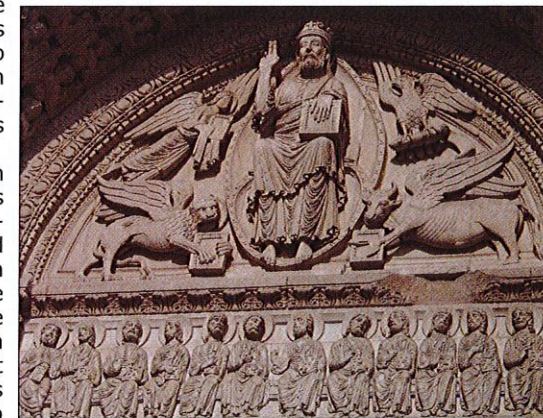
John was written for Jewish Christians who had emigrated from Judea and found themselves in other parts of the Roman empire. The Temple having been flattened in about 70 A.D., new forms of Jewish worship evolved around synagogues. Christians of Jewish background identified with their exiled kinsmen, their own flesh and blood. They still sang the psalms and read from the books of Moses and the prophets. But their fellow Jews became increasingly intolerant of Christian Jews and excommunicated them from the synagogues. John recalls the prediction of Jesus: "They will drive you out of the synagogues" (John 16:2). So, John writes his gospel as a reminder of this, and to encourage members of his community to *continue to believe* in Jesus. The phrase "continue to believe" occurs frequently. John is not written as an evangelical gospel aiming to make new converts. Rather, he encourages existing Christians to persevere in their faith.

To this end, John's mode of teaching is relevant, or more accurately, the way he presents *Jesus' mode of teaching* is. He portrays a Jesus who encounters different characters, engaging with them, involving himself in all the ambiguities of their lives, teaching them, and leading them to transformation. The story of the Samaritan woman at the well is a case in point. Jesus systematically flattens

the many barriers she puts up against him, gradually leading her to full insight. There are many others: Nicodemus, Doubting Thomas, the man born blind, Mary Magdalene, and of course, Peter, whose personality was impulsive and outspoken, yet he was also loyal and humble. Jesus, the Teacher, is patient as he leads each one to deeper understanding. This should give us hope in our own quest of faith.

As a teacher, Jesus tells stories. In John's gospel, the stories are not the made-up ones like the parables of the other gospels, but "live" biographical sketches of characters in which Jesus himself plays an active part. Many of them, like the story of the Samaritan woman and the man born blind, have a dramatic element. John – or rather, Jesus in John's Gospel – also loves the use of symbolism to represent ideas. There are some things that words cannot convey. Human beings also learn through metaphor, symbolism and irony.

In John's Gospel, *misunderstanding* is one of Jesus' favourite teaching methods, using double entendre, or double meaning. Jesus uses a word one way; his dialogue partner takes it another way. Initial misinterpretation serves Jesus' purpose as he leads Nicodemus, for example, from confusion to clarity, or the woman at the well from a literal meaning of water to a spiritual interpretation. This method is more significant than simply learning from mistakes. Jesus' teaching takes one right into the heart of the mystery. He pushes those he encounters out of their comfort zones and challenges them to the ways God is working in their lives. John's gospel speaks to us all!



The four winged creatures representing the Four Evangelists on the Romanesque tympanum at the church of St Trophime, Arles, France.

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



Phone: 060 327 2998
office@stpatricksbenoni.co.za
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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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 or on 060 327 2998.

Given the gift of eternal life in Baptism: Liyana Manzini and Kamogelo Kgobe.

This coming Tuesday 10 February will be a healing mass at 09h30 and the sacrament of anointing will be offered.

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

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. 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.

The Fifth Sunday of the Year

Sunday Missal page 324 Weekday Missal page 798

... with a demonstration of spirit and power. (1 Corinthians 2:4)

Christians are called to be kind and generous, to serve those in need, and to be honest and fair in all of their dealings. But that's not at the heart of what sets a Christian apart. What really makes us different is our faith in Christ and our ability to demonstrate the power of God in this world. For without this, Christianity would be nothing more than a good philosophy.

St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that when he came to them, it was with these demonstrations of power so that their faith would rest on "the power of God. Now, we might think that these demonstrations of power were all miracles. And we'd be right-to a certain extent.

Certainly Paul performed some mighty miracles, but that doesn't seem to be what he is saying here. The demonstrations that Paul writes about also include a revelation of "the mystery of God," the message of "Jesus Christ, and him crucified"

They include his preaching that we can know God personally, feel his boundless love for us, and begin to grasp all that he has accomplished for us through his Son, Jesus.

These demonstrations didn't end with St. Paul. Every prayer time, every Mass offers us an opportunity to have our eyes opened to see Jesus more clearly. All we have to do is be alert and fix our hearts on him. All we have to do is ask the Spirit to help us, and we will get a new taste of God's love.

So whenever you pray or receive the sacraments, try to sense the Spirit at work. You may feel love for Jesus rising up in your heart. You may feel moved to repair a wounded relationship or to tell your family that you love them more often. God wants to give us demonstrations like these so that we can all become greater witnesses to his power in the world.

"Come, Holy Spirit, and show me your power today!"

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, is on Wednesday 18 February. Mass will be at 6.30am, 8.00am and 6.00pm. You may park in the School grounds for the evening mass only.

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.

