

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 89.

RESPONSE:

I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord.

1. I will sing forever of your mercies, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity. I have declared your mercy is established forever; your fidelity stands firm as the heavens. **R**
2. How blessed the people who know your praise, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice their joyful acclaim. **R**
3. For you are the glory of their strength; by your favour it is that our might is exalted. Behold, the Lord is our shield; he is the Holy One of Israel, our king. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia. You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:37-42.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

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 29 Jun SS PETER & PAUL, As

Acts 12:1-11; Psalm 34; Matthew 16:13-19

Peter's "Lord, you know that I love you" (John 21:17) and Paul's "For me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21), emphasizes unconditional love and total sacrifice.

Tue 30 Jun (The First Martyrs of the Church of Rome) Amos 3:1-8; 4:11-12; Psalm 5; Matt 8:23-27

These First Martyrs were early Christians brutally executed by Emperor Nero in 64 AD, often burned as torches or thrown to beasts. While many were anonymous, their witness to faith amidst persecution is celebrated.

Wed 1 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Amos 5:14-15, 21-24; Psalm 50; Matthew 8:28-34

As life changes and lurches in unexpected directions, cast fear aside and see it as a time to nurture faith. Instead of complaining, pray: 'Here I am Lord. I'm glad you're in charge and not me. What next?'

Thu 2 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Amos 7:10-17; Psalm 19; Matthew 9:1-8

The ego is normally only happy when it is able to take something. "The ego's highest task is to go beyond itself into service, service to what is really desired by the soul." — James Hollis

Fri 3 Jul ST THOMAS, A

Ephesians 2:19-22; Psalm 117; John 20:24-29

Even though Thomas may have initially doubted Jesus' resurrection, he is also known for his intense loyalty to Jesus, saying "Let us also go, that we may die with him". (John 11:16)

Sat 4 Jul (St Elizabeth of Portugal)

Amos 9:11-15; Psalm 85; Matthew 9:14-17

"Not with weapons, my son, we cannot fix the problem with weapons, but rather with dialogue, continuing negotiations to fix these conflicts." — St Elizabeth's words to her son, necessary for our times.

Sun 5 Jul 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:25-30

Darkness is a fertile place for our questions with no easy answers. As author Og Mandino says, "I will love the light for it shows me the way; yet I will love the darkness for it shows me the stars."

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
As=Apostles; A=Apostle

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week I • 28 June 2026

Pelagius and Augustine

Our *Link* series on schools of thought and their challenges to faith, can be seen against Jesus' words about being "in the world but not of the world" (John 17:14-16). We now move on to the teaching on grace which St Augustine refined during the increasing influence of a thinker named Pelagius (354-418).

Pelagius held an optimistic view of human nature. He said that human beings had it within themselves, through sheer will-power, effort and self-discipline, to find salvation and become saints. His ideas provoked a decisive response from Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430), whose acute theological mind ensured the Church's rejection of Pelagianism and shaped Christian doctrine on grace for centuries.

At the heart of Pelagianism was a denial of "original sin", which we today tend to describe as the pervasive influence of evil in systems, structures and in individuals. Pelagius argued that Adam and Eve's fall affected only themselves. They did not "genetically" pass on sinful nature to humanity. Human beings, therefore, are born morally neutral, with the same capacity for good or evil as Adam and Eve. Pelagius believed that humans possess full freedom of will and are capable of obeying God's commands without needing divine grace. Sure, they might misuse that freedom and commit sin, but only because they are imitating the bad example of Adam and Eve, not through sharing in their DNA.

Augustine hit back. He insisted on the pervasive and continued effects of the original sin of Adam and Eve who believed the serpent that they could "go it alone", as it were, without God. Drawing on Scripture, Augustine argued that all humanity shares in the fallen

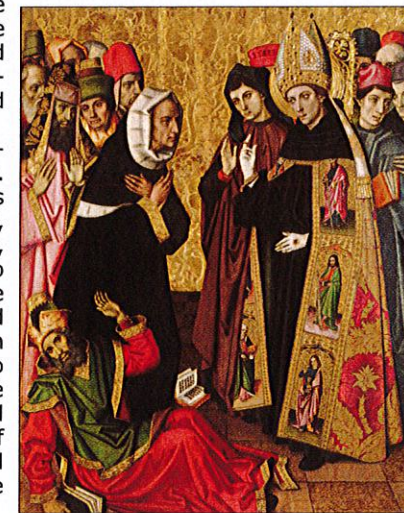
human condition, resulting in having a will that is inclined toward sin and incapable of choosing God without divine intervention. Augustine does not deny human will but says it's in bondage. God's grace is not merely helpful (Pelagius) but necessary (Augustine). It is God's grace that liberates the will from its bondage and realigns it with God's will.

As the "doctor of grace", Augustine's response to Pelagianism was a robust theology of divine grace working with us inwardly, leading us in personal growth and transformation. Faith is a gift from God, not a human achievement. Augustine insisted on the primacy of God's love and grace in our salvation, and he undermined any notion that human effort alone could win God's favour.

Augustine's arguments were so compelling that Pelagianism was condemned at the Church councils of Carthage (418) and Ephesus (431). His success lay not only in refuting Pelagius intellectually but also in providing a biblical framework that would shape Western Christianity for centuries to come.

But we humans are slow learners. During his pontificate, Pope Francis warned against "neo-Pelagianism." In his exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013) he criticized "self-absorbed neo-Pelagianism" in which individuals "trust only in their own powers" and feel superior to others who don't "follow the rules". For Francis, this modern form of Pelagianism is marked by pride, legalism, and forgetting the teaching of St Augustine on grace as God's free gift.

Today we also have Pope Leo XIV who, as a member of the Augustinian order, constantly refers to St Augustine, especially encouraging us to follow his teaching on God's grace.



St Augustine disputing with the heretics by the Vergos Group

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.

Our "Society of St Vincent de Paul" helps the poor – on our behalf – irrespective of race, colour or creed. Please support them: Society of St Vincent de Paul, Standard Bank, Boksburg, Current Account no. 220930287.

Tuesday 30 June: Parish closed

Please note that the parish will be closed on Tuesday 30 June and the 9.30am mass is cancelled.

The parish is open as usual on Monday 29 June and will reopen on Wednesday 1 July.

This coming Friday, 3 July 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.

The Divine Mercy chaplet will be said every Friday at 3.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Saint Vincent de Paul will be taking their monthly collection, after all masses this coming weekend Saturday 4 July and Sunday 5 July.

Congratulations to the winners of the Fathers' Day raffle;

Thabo Kuto, Twinky, Jose Costa, Thomas Ambrose,
 Rakesh Jina and Patricia.

Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet... (Matthew 10:41)

So who exactly are these "prophets" Jesus is talking about?

In the early Church, it was common for men and women to be commissioned by the Church as traveling prophets. Their calling was to visit other churches and speak God's word to them, just as Jesus sent out his disciples in today's Gospel. They were called prophets because they were recognized as being able to speak God's words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It was considered an honor to welcome such a person into your home and care for him while he ministered to your church-as the woman in today's first reading cared for the Old Testament prophet Elisha.

As time went on, however, false prophets began to set themselves up in opposition to the local church leaders. Their presence and their messages caused division and confusion. Because it was fraught with controversy, the practice faded, and the official role of prophet fell to local bishops instead.

But that doesn't mean that ordinary prophets disappeared from the Church. In fact, they're all around us today. You may even be one! That's because a prophet is nothing more-and nothing less-than someone through whom the Holy Spirit speaks.

That means that your spouse might be speaking prophetically when he or she encourages you to keep up with your prayer time. Or a child coming to you in the middle of the night might be bearing a prophetic message: Time to deny yourself, take up your cross, and care for this little one. And you may be a prophet when you tell a coworker about God's work in your life.

God is always speaking to us. He's always trying to get our attention. He's always asking us to welcome his messengers into our lives. Even the ones we least expect.

"Holy Spirit, help me to hear you speaking through the people you will place in my path today."

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.

