

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:10-11.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 65.

RESPONSE:

The seed that fell into good soil yielded a hundredfold.

1. You visit the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over to prepare the grain. **R**
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows; you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. **R**
3. You crown the year with your bounty. Abundance flows in your pathways; in pastures of the desert it flows. **R**
4. The hills are girded with joy.
The meadows clothed with flocks.
The valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy; yes, they sing! **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:18-23.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! The seed is the word of God, and the sower is Christ; all who find him will abide for ever. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:1-23.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 13 Jul (St Henry)

Isaiah 1:10-17; Psalm 50; Matthew 10:34-11:1

Gandhi taught 'become the change you wish to see in the world'. If we wish to see more caring and more justice, we must learn to care, and to act. We are God's hands and voice in our world.

Tue 14 Jul (St Camillus de Lellis, Pr)

Isaiah 7:1-9; Psalm 48; Matthew 11:20-24

St Camillus de Lellis (1550-1614) is the patron saint of nurses and the sick. He said that 'the poor and sick are the 'Heart of God' and that serving them is serving Christ directly.

Wed 15 Jul St Bonaventure, BD

Isaiah 10:5-7, 13-16; Psalm 94; Matthew 11:25-27

St Bonaventure (1221-1274), a Franciscan theologian, said that true wisdom lies in loving God rather than just knowing about Him, emphasizing that "a constant fidelity in small things is a great and heroic virtue".

Thu 16 Jul (Our Lady of Mount Carmel)

Isaiah 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Psalm 102; Matthew 11:28-30
Prayer to our Lady of Mount Carmel: "O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity".

Fri 17 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Isaiah 38:10-12, 16; Matt 12:1-8

Tears can be regarded as a blessing and a grace. They water the soul, and help the heart's cry to be heard. Allow God to see your tears – and to hear your heartfelt prayer.

Sat 18 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Micah 2:1-5; Psalm 10; Matthew 12:14-21

During prayer we listen with the 'ears of the heart.' This listening invites a certain humility, and becoming attuned to voices other than one's own – learning from them and being transformed by them.

Sun 19 Jul 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Psalm 86; Matthew 13:24-43

"The earth was entrusted to us in order that it be mother for us, capable of giving to each one what is necessary to live ... (It) is generous and holds nothing back from those who safeguard it." – Pope Francis

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

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week III • 12 July 2026

St Bonaventure OFM

As we continue our *Link* series on keeping watchful faith in lives immersed in a world of multiple ideas, we seek to learn from the experiences of our Christian forebears. Today we welcome the company of Saint Bonaventure (1221-1274), a leading Franciscan theologian of the thirteenth century. St Bonaventure teaches us about the possibility of holding in holy and harmonious tension different schools of thought within the Church itself. A contemporary of St Thomas Aquinas, they differed in ways of approaching theological matters. Unity in diversity!

St Bonaventure developed his thought in the context of a changing intellectual climate, called "scholasticism". A previous *Link* article mentioned how works of Aristotle became available through Islamic commentators. But scholasticism also evolved through the rise of autonomous philosophical inquiry at institutions like the University of Paris. This is something Pope Benedict XVI explained in one of his catecheses at the Sunday Angelus in St Peter's Square. At the one of March 17, 2010, he stated that Bonaventure's theology emerged within a "fruitful dialogue between faith and reason," yet it was also a decisive response to secularizing tendencies that threatened the unity of Christian truth. Bonaventure rejected a school of thought that emphasized the autonomy of philosophy from theology. He demonstrated that theology could hold its own with philosophy, rejecting the notion of "double truth," whereby something could be philosophically true but theologically false. For him, truth is indivisible. Bonaventure, for example, held to Catholic teaching on individual moral responsibility as being compatible with many philosophical principles of ethics.

In contrast to intellectual autonomy, not unlike Pelagius's "go it alone" theory, Bonaventure aligned himself with the Augustinian tra-

dition, which emphasized divine grace and the soul's ascent to God. Bonaventure sought to subject scholastic philosophy to a higher theological vision. As Pope Benedict XVI notes in

his Angelus catechesis, Bonaventure defended theology as a rational discipline while insisting that its true motivation is love: "One who loves wants to know the beloved better." This insight is crucial for understanding how Bonaventure challenged secular thought – not by abandoning reason, but by reorienting it toward its proper end in God.

With our modern experience of travel, I ask, why not translate the famous book by St Bonaventure, *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum* (The Soul's Journey into God) to "The Soul's Itinerary to God". This would honour the different "stop off" points Bonaventure foresaw: all genuine knowledge ultimately derives from and points toward God, all created things reflect divine ideas and depend continuously on God's sustaining will. Like his spiritual father, St Francis of Assisi, Bonaventure promoted a love for creation as a powerful way to learn about God.

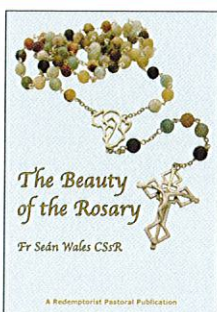
Pope Benedict also pointed out how Bonaventure put distinctive emphasis on the primacy of love over mere knowledge. While his contemporary, Thomas Aquinas, emphasized the intellectual vision of God, Bonaventure stressed the transformative power of love which leads to union with God. In this way, Bonaventure countered the "cold rationalism" of secular philosophy and proposed a "sapiential" theology that integrates knowledge within a higher wisdom. For him, reason is not rejected but transcended, finding its fulfilment in love.

Saint Bonaventure, who preserved the integrity of Christian doctrine while engaging constructively with the intellectual challenges of your era, pray for us!



17th-century portrait of St Bonaventure by French painter and friar Claude François

A new and revised edition of this popular bestseller in which the author discusses the origin, structure and nature of this ancient form of christian prayer, the Rosary. There are several new additions to the book, including a chapter on praying the Pilgrim's rosary.



R50

plus delivery

Order from our website www.rpp.org.za or email orders@rpp.org.za. Enquiries: 082 667 3857.

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
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 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.							

Given the gift of eternal life in Baptism: Luna Kasengele and Chibuikem Obinede.

We pray for Amirchand Loopoo who has died: may he rest in peace and rise in glory to live in joy in the kingdom forever.

This coming Tuesday 14July 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 3.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Dear parishioners, our St Patricks Society of St Vincent de Paul would like to thank you most sincerely for your continued donations and support. Thanks to you all, we were able to hand out 135 blankets and beanies to those in need to keep warm. The need is great, and many of those we assist live on the streets. May God bless you all for caring and continued support.

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.



PIX0231487

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

Sunday Missal page 358 Weekday Missal p

You shall indeed hear but not understand. (Matthew 13:14)

Any parent can tell you what it's like to be heard but not understood: "In one ear and out the other" or "It's like talking to a brick wall." This is how it feels when they can't seem to connect with their children.

Jesus had a similar experience. Despite all his time teaching and performing miracles in Galilee, he had little to show for it. Of course, disciples like Peter and Mary Magdalene and the others had left everything to follow him. They were trying to listen closely and put his teachings into practice. But what about the "large crowds" that he always attracted? They had seen the same miracles, but many of them didn't see his compassion as something worth imitating. They had heard him talk about his Father's mercy, but many didn't seem to hear his words about loving their enemies.

Jesus' words make it clear that discipleship involves both receiving his miracles and following his teachings. It involves the excitement of experiencing his power and love, and it involves choosing to love him back by trying to become more like him. It involves making sure that our hearts are like the good soil in today's parable--listening intently and prayerfully to his words so that they can change our hearts.

Try to do just that today. Either before or after Mass, carve out fifteen minutes and focus on hearing Jesus speak to you. Find a quiet spot, choose one of the readings from today's Mass, and read it. Really read it. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and help you understand what God is saying. When a word or phrase leaps out at you, let it sink into your heart like seed in good soil. Ask Jesus what he wants you to do about it. Then do it. Let his word bear fruit in your life.

"Thank you, Jesus, for sowing your word into my heart. Help me to nurture it so that I can become more like you."



© WETZSTEIN 37-07-11