

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 138.

RESPONSE:

O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy temple. **R**
2. I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
You have exalted your name and your promise
over all.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul. **R**
3. The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer the heart.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 24 Aug ST BARTHOLOMEW, A

Revelation 21:9-14; Psalm 145; John 1:45-51

Traditionally also known as Nathanael, Jesus described him as having 'no guile' (John 1:47). In other words, a person that is entirely free of deceit, hypocrisy, or hidden motives. Jesus praises his pure heart.

Tue 25 Aug (St Joseph of Calasanz, Pr)

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, 14-17; Psalm 96; Matthew 23:23-26

St Joseph was a pioneer in providing free public education for the poor. He said, "All who undertake to teach must be endowed with deep love, the greatest of patience, and, most of all, profound humility."

Wed 26 Aug Liturgy of the Day

2 Thess 3:6-10, 16-18; Psalm 128; Matthew 23:27-32

The next time you are at Mass listen closely for the word 'peace', and try to experience the fullness of it meaning. Let us open our hearts and minds to receive the fullness of this gift from God.

Thu 27 Aug St Monica

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 145; Matthew 24:42-51

"Keep praying, for it is impossible for a child of so many tears to be lost." (A famous piece of advice a bishop gave St Monica as she wept over her wayward son, Augustine)

Fri 28 Aug St Augustine, BD

1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Psalm 33; Matthew 25:1-13

"People go abroad to wonder at the heights of mountains, at the huge waves of the sea, at the long courses of the rivers ... and they pass by themselves without wondering." – St Augustine

Sat 29 Aug Passion of St John the Baptist

Jeremiah 1:17-19; Psalm 70; Mark 6:17-29

"He must increase; I must decrease." This most famous quote of the Baptist captures the very essence of his passion and life – stepping aside so that the Light of Christ can shine. Allow Christ's light to shine in your life.

Sun 30 Aug 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 20:7-9; Psalm 63; Matthew 16:21-27

"God is the infinity of love; therefore our love for each other is an incarnate manifestation of that infinite love, which is incarnate in our love for each other." – James Finley

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

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week I • 23 August 2026



Reformers: Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli, Henry VIII, John Knox, Thomas Cranmer

Reformation

The early Church was no stranger to complaints, confusions, even conflicts. In the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-6 we read about a complaint made by the Hellenists against the Hebrew Christians concerning the way the Greek widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Just as interesting is the way the Apostles *dealt* with the complaint. They called an assembly of all the disciples – a council – which established an appropriate ministry of service. This ministry of service became known as the diaconate.

Conflict in the Church has always continued. Throughout history, major events weakened the authority of the pope. The Avignon papacy (when the pope lived in Avignon in France) during most of the 14th century did not help, especially with several rival popes. In this context many favoured the idea that an ecumenical Council should be independent of and above the Pope (Conciliarism). Then a crisis between the Latin and the Greek wings of the Church led to what is called the Great Western Schism (1054). The scandals associated with some of the Renaissance popes did not help matters. Calls for radical reform grew louder.

When the Reformation came it hit Western Europe like a tsunami. Led by Luther in Germany (1483-1546), by Calvin in France and Switzerland (1509-1564) and by King Henry VIII in England (1491-1547), it turned 'protest' in 'Protestantism'.

The immediate trigger for the Reformation was the misconceived selling of indulgences to finance the building of the new St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Luther re-enforced this by denying the value of good works and claiming we can rely on faith alone. It didn't take

Luther (an Augustinian Friar) long to draw up his 95 theses which he famously nailed to the door of the cathedral in Wittenberg.

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) introduced a more radical Lutheranism in Zurich, rejecting the Mass as a sacrifice, and considering the presence of Christ in the Mass as purely symbolic. He rejected the invocation of the saints and the celibacy of the clergy.

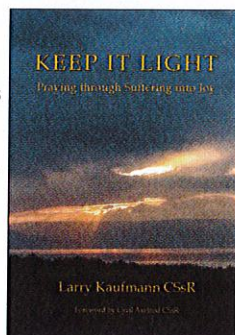
John Calvin introduced a rigid interpretation of divine predestination, dividing humanity into the elect and the reprobate. Calvin had to flee the violence that his form of Protestantism had stirred up in France; he found more scope for his form of Christianity in Switzerland.

Calvinism became the bedrock of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa. It provided a ready-made vocabulary taken from the Book of Exodus for a "chosen people" on a "great trek", predestined to be a "people set apart" (apartheid).

Naturally, Protestantism provoked all kinds of responses, especially in the countries most affected. Calvin and Zwingli tried to establish a theocracy in Switzerland. It is refreshing to note that the Second Vatican Council, nearly five hundred years later (1962-1965), stated that "Christ summons the Church, as she goes her pilgrim way, to that *continual reformation* of which she always has need, insofar as she is an institution of people here on earth". (par. 6, *Decree on Ecumenism*).

That "continual reformation" initially gave rise to what has been called the "counter-Reformation". From 1545-1563 the Ecumenical Council of Trent addressed the most immediate and most urgent issues arising from the Reformation. We shall examine this in the next *Link* article.

In this book Larry Kaufmann explores the grace of the Holy Spirit at work in very human realities such as depression, illness, suffering, injustice, loneliness, and relationship breakdown. Each chapter includes practical suggestions for prayer.



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Phone 082 667 3857. Email: janet@rpp.org.za. Internet: <http://rpp.org.za/>.

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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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.

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

The Knights of da Gama are having a **Bingo** Evening after Mass on Saturday 12 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.

The mother church of our Archdiocese, the Cathedral of Christ the King in Johannesburg, is in great need of renovation. Cardinal Brislin is asking that all parishes try to contribute to the huge repair work needed. There will be a second collection this weekend in aid of the renovations.

Friends of Martin De Porres would like to thank you all for donations received. Our needs are very great and all of these donations go a very long way to assist us in helping the very poor and needy in Barcelona Squatter Camp. They are in need of mealie meal, non- perishable food, and sunlight soap. These items can be left at the parish office. Banking details for the **Friends of Martin de Porres**: Nedbank Northmead Square; Account number: 0948 0973 62, branch code: 194 842.

Some Parish dates for the remainder of the year

Saturday 29 Aug	09h00	Confirmation Retreat
Saturday 26 Sept	08h30	First Communion children confessions
Saturday 3 Oct	08h30	First Communion children confessions
	18h30	Parish Quiz
Saturday 10 Oct	08h00	St Vincent de Paul Society rededication
	08h30	First Communion children confessions
Saturday 17 Oct	08h30	First Communion children confessions
Saturday 24 Oct	08h30	First Communion children confessions

Fr David will be away for part of September. Saturday evening (5.00pm) and Sunday masses (7.30am and 10.00am) are as usual but Friday and Saturday 8.00am masses are Holy Communion Services.

On **First Friday 4th September**, there will be a holy Communion service at 8.00am (this fulfils one's First Friday devotion) and Mass will be said as usual at 5.30pm with holy hour and Benediction at 5.00pm.

Save the Date! Saturday 3 October

Theme – Around the World

Burger 'n Quiz parish fundraising. After the Saturday evening mass. Prizes and donations are warmly welcome. R150 per person – burger, chips and ice cream. Contact Leslie 083 260 8282.

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.

