

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 63.

RESPONSE:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

- O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you; for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. **R**
- I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. **R**
- I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **R**
- For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might know what is the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 31 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm 119; Luke 4:16-30

'Integrity' means living honest lives, living authentically according to the values we profess. Today, let us identify one unredeemed aspect (or hypocrisy) in our lives, and re-commit ourselves to change.

Tue 1 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Psalm 145; Luke 4:31-37

"He's got the whole world in his hands" is a hymn that we often sing at Mass and, of course, we hold to be true. Yet why do we still worry, and not have genuine faith in God's action in our lives and our world?

Wed 2 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Psalm 33; Luke 4:38-44

It is so easy to allow panic and despair to take hold of us in crisis situations in our lives. But in keeping Christ at our centre each day, in prayer, panic and despair will inevitably give way to trust and hope.

Thu 3 Sep St Gregory the Great, PD

1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Psalm 24; Luke 5:1-11

On love and action, St Gregory very wisely taught that "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist".

Fri 4 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Psalm 37; Luke 5:33-39

"Prayer enables us to be converted continually, to remain in a state of continuous reaching out to God, which is essential if we wish to lead others to him. It helps us to believe, to hope, to love." – Pope St John Paul II.

Sat 5 Sep (St Teresa of Kolkata)

1 Corinthians 4:6-15; Psalm 145; Luke 6:1-5

None of us as individuals can change the world, but we can make a real difference where we are, right here and now. So, as Mother Teresa says, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Sun 6 Sep 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 95; Matthew 18:15-20

The true road to spiritual wholeness – holiness – is the honest acceptance of and openness to the cross, which inevitably confronts us in the various troubles, aches, and pains of our daily life.

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; **FEAST**; **Memorial**; (Optional Memorial)
P=Pope; D=Doctor

Catholic Link

SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND WATCHFUL FAITH

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A
Divine Office: Week II • 30 August 2026

Counter-Reformation

Clichés by now, but the following might help summarise our description of the Counter-Reformation. The Catholic response has been described as "too little, too late"; the Protestant Reformation as "throwing the baby out with the bath water."

There can be no denying historical aberrations in the Catholic Church, especially the sale of indulgences to have one's relatives obtain total or partial release from purgatory. Doctrinal issues were more divisive. The Catholic Counter-Reformation during the almost 20-year long Council of Trent, (on and off from 1545–1563) was a comprehensive response to the Protestant Reformation. It was deeply rooted



Council of Trent, painting in the Museo del Palazzo del Buonconsiglio, Trento

in the intellectual, cultural, and philosophical shifts of the 16th century. Scholastic philosophy had not moved hearts. That only happened with the Renaissance, as we saw in an earlier article. The art, music, architecture and literature of the Renaissance began to touch people at a deeper level. Scholasticism was increasingly challenged by Renaissance Humanism that coincided with the Reformation.

Realising this, the Council of Trent tried bridging late medieval spirituality with emerging Humanistic schools of thought. It not only addressed corruption but also solidified doctrine on more pastoral lines, shifting from a medieval and feudal ecclesiastical structure to a more centralized Church.

Among the doctrinal challenges to Trent was how to respond to "Sola Fide" and "Sola Scriptura" – the core Reformation tenets of "faith alone" and "scripture alone". Trent formulated a systematic rebuttal, declaring that salvation was achieved through faith *and* works, and that Scripture *and* Tradition were equally authoritative. In a sense, it adopted a both/and approach, rather than an either/or one.

But this required a major structural change

to the education of clergy. Seminaries were mandated. The Council reaffirmed the theology of St Thomas Aquinas and emphasized other intellectual training for clergy, encouraging better study of scripture and demanding that preachers be scripture-based rather than relying on superstition and fake miracle stories.

Then there was the problem of grace and free will. While Calvinism highlighted predestination, the Council of Trent took a counter-position by strengthening the emphasis on human free will and co-operation with God's grace, affirming the dignity of human nature and its capacity for good works. Grace builds on nature.

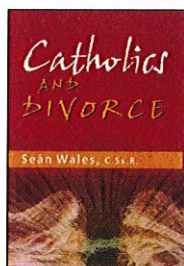
Grace does not replace nature.

One of the important developments at the Council of Trent was pastoral care of souls, articulated as "salus animarum" (the salvation of souls), leading to practical changes in the lifestyles of bishops and priests, and their duty to put the pastoral needs of people first.

This is where St Ignatius of Loyola comes in, and why he founded the Jesuits in 1534, formally recognised by the pope in 1540. I remember we were taught in catechism that the Jesuits were the Church's "elite shock troops" through their education, missionary work, and strict loyalty to the Pope. Ignatius developed the "Spiritual Exercises", a manual for spiritual discipline. This helped the Jesuits who went on to start renowned schools and universities across Europe and eventually Asia, Africa and the Americas. Countless Jesuits were tortured and martyred for the spread and defence of the faith. Think of the movies "The Mission" (South America), and "Silence" (Japan).

In conclusion, "counter" reformation sounds harsh. But one of the Church's mottos is, "Ecclesia semper reformanda" – the Church constantly reforming.

A succinct and careful explanation of a complex yet increasingly commonplace pastoral situation, this book seeks to help both those affected by divorce and those who strive to minister to them. It is rooted in the conviction that whatever the marital situation, God never abandons us and is always ready to bring healing and wholeness. The booklet carries the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur of the Catholic Church.



R20
plus delivery



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

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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.

Given the gift of eternal life in Baptism: Andresha Moodley and Michelle Tshuma.

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

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 5 and Sunday 6 September.

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

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.



Some Parish dates for the remainder of the year		
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

A second collection will be taken this coming weekend (5 and 6 September) for World Communication Day. This money goes to spreading the Catholic faith through the press, television and radio, particularly Radio Veritas.

Fr David will be away until 24 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. Confessions are at 10h00am on Tuesday but not on Saturday during this time.

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.

True love causes pain. Jesus, in order to give us the proof of his love, died on the cross. A mother, in order to give birth to her baby, has to suffer. If you really love one another, you will not be able to avoid making sacrifices.

St Teresa of Calcutta.