

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 130.

RESPONSE:

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the sound of my pleading. **R**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness, that you may be revered. **R**
3. I long for you, O Lord, my soul longs for his word.
My soul hopes in the Lord more than watchmen for daybreak.
More than watchmen for daybreak, let Israel hope for the Lord. **R**
4. For with the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.
It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; he who believes in me shall never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

All who live and believe in me will never die, says the Lord.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 27 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Daniel 13:1-9.15-17.19-30.33-62; Psalm 23; John 8:1-11

"Make the most of your regrets; never smother your sorrow, but tend and cherish it till it comes to have a separate and integral interest. To regret deeply is to live afresh." – Henry David Thoreau

Tue 28 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102; John 8:21-30

Jesus died just as he had lived – in complete obedience to the will of his Father and with selfless love for every human person. In following him, he asks us to try our utmost to do the same.

Wed 29 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Daniel 3:14-20.24-25.28; Daniel 3:29-34; John 8:31-42

God gives each one of us free will, allowing us to choose right and wrong, in big ways and small. Sin never makes us free, it makes us beholden to our passions, enslaving us in selfishness. Is this what we choose?

Thu 30 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105; John 8:51-59

Eternal life already dwells deep within us. Nothing can overcome it, not even death. We will, of course, die one day – but when we keep God's word, something life-giving already begins in us... now.

Fri 31 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18; John 10:31-42

Listening demands our full attention. Do we really listen to someone with a different point of view than ours, to gain a better understanding of their point of view? Or are we too busy picking up stones to throw at them?

Sat 1 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56

Gaze upon the face of God in Christ crucified. It is not easy. Lord, give me the courage to look upon – to gaze upon – your face, that I may see (and practice) your compassion and mercy.

Sun 2 Apr PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Matthew 26:14-27:66

How far will we go in speaking up for others when they face oppression, bigotry and injustice. Am I willing to challenge a cruel remark, or gossip? Will I add to their suffering because I was afraid of the consequences?

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial))

Catholic Link

TYPES OF CONVERSION

5th Sunday of Lent • Year A
Divine Office: Week 1 • 26 March 2023

Environmental Conversion

The Letter", a moving documentary film based on the vision contained in Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* ("Praised be to You"), brings to a wider audience a growing concern for the future of Earth – which Pope Francis calls "our common home". The film is available on YouTube.

Four environmental activists are invited to meet the pope in person. They are Arouna Kandé, a young man from Senegal who embodies the voice of the poor; Chief Dada from the Amazon forest in Brazil who represents the voice of Indigenous peoples; Ridhima Pandey, a thirteen-year-old from India who reflects the voice of youth and Drs Robin Martin and Greg Asner from Hawaii who are the passionate voices of endangered coral reefs.

In an introductory scene, Arouna enquires of a street painter the meaning of a mural depicting a boat of migrants. Painted in childlike writing on the side of the boat are the words "Barca or Barsak". He translates its meaning as Barcelona (a popular destination) or Death and warns of the unpredictable dangers of such journeys.

Chief Dada recounts how two men held guns to his head, tied him to the trunk of a tree and left him with broken ribs for his outspoken opposition to the deforestation of the Amazon.

In a tearful scene, the young Rhidima on a video call with a fellow activist from Australia, feels helpless as she hears of the loss of a family home during the fires that blazed through the forests in 2019.

Drs Greg and Robin summarise their efforts to protect coral reefs around the world and

point out that coral reefs are the rain forests of the sea.

Following a brief introduction in the documentary, Pope Francis speaks from his heart. He reflects on the story of the Tower of Babel. Here is an extract from a transcript of his speech:

When the Tower of Babel was being built, it's said that human arrogance back then wanted to build it higher ... and bricks were made by many workers. If a brick fell, the worker who dropped it was brutally punished. If a worker fell, it was no big deal. They replaced him and kept working – and that's the key to interpreting what's happening today. We are building a tower of human arrogance with bricks of power, bricks of economy with so many people working like slaves. But we have taken an extra step.... The economic arrogance; the arrogance of the power of a few people that use everything; that use

people; that use nature; that use everything and destroy it.

The camera cuts to Cardinal Cantalamessa (a Franciscan Capuchin), seated behind the original manuscript of St Francis' "Canticle of Creation". He reads aloud solemnly: "Praised be to You O Lord with all your creatures / Especially Sir Brother Sun. / Praise be to You my Lord through Sister Moon and the stars. The "Canticle of Creation" is the soul of *Laudato Si'*.

The camera returns to the Holy Father who reveals why he took the name Francis: "He was a man of poverty, a man of peace, a man who loved and guarded creation."

Environmental conversion is more than a nice idea for Lent. Our survival depends on it.

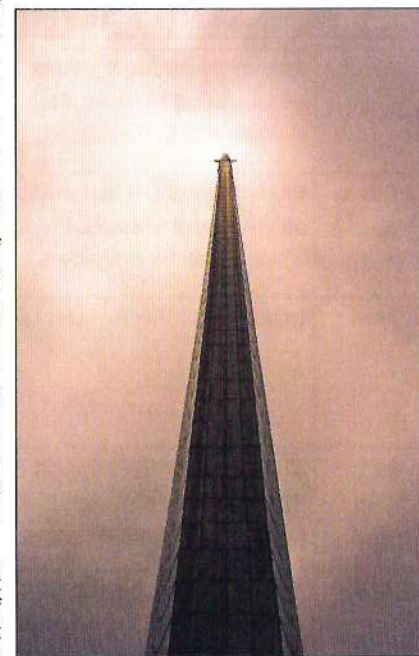


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