

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**FIRST READING:** Zechariah 9:9-10.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 145.

### RESPONSE:

*I will bless your name forever, my king and my God.*

1. I will extol you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.  
I will bless you day after day,  
and praise your name forever and ever. **R**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,  
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.  
How good is the Lord to all,  
compassionate to all his creatures. **R**
3. All your works shall thank you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful ones bless you.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,  
and declare your mighty deeds. **R**
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words,  
and holy in all his deeds.  
The Lord supports all who fall,  
and raises up all who are bowed down. **R**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 8:9, 11-13.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 11:25-30.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

## Live the Word

### Mon 10 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 28:10-22; Psalm 91; Matthew 9:18-26

In today's Gospel story, Jesus asks us to understand the depth of his power to heal, but also that his love compels him to use that power for our good. Trust him to guide and direct your life.

### Tue 11 Jul St Benedict, Ab

Genesis 32:22-32; Psalm 17; Matthew 9:32-38

How do you normally think and speak about others? Are you more like the crowds who saw, believed and were amazed...? Or, like the Pharisees, do you tend to make rash judgments about others?

### Wed 12 Jul Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7, 17-24; Psalm 33; Matt 10:1-7

"Tell me, what else should I have done? Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon? Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" – Mary Oliver

### Thu 13 Jul (St Henry)

Genesis 44:18-21, 23-29; 45:1-5; Psalm 105; Matt 10:7-15

The Good News is a free gift given to us in love, but it also requires that we become a free gift of ourselves to others. How have you received the Gospel and how willing have you been to pass it on as a free gift to others?

### Fri 14 Jul (St Camillus de Lellis, Pr)

Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30; Psalm 37; Matthew 10:16-23

It is sometimes difficult to live our faith openly when there is a growing hostility in our society towards it. Today's Gospel calls us to hope and be confident in our loving God.

### Sat 15 Jul St Bonaventure, BD

Genesis 49:29-33; 50:15-26; Psalm 105; Matt 10:24-33

"Do we allow the sorrow of the world's poor to touch our hearts? Do we look suffering in the eye... or do we turn away in denial and thus postpone our own inevitable confrontation with grief?" – John Dear

### Sun 16 Jul 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalm 65; Matthew 13:1-23

Like the crowds in today's Gospel, does your heart burn with desire to listen to Jesus, to hear his word. Allow him to draw you in... listen... and respond by giving him your time and attention in prayer.

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

## Catholic Link

## GOD WHO HEALS

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A  
Divine Office: Week II • 9 July 2023



## Terminal Illness

**T**erminal illness is what happens to 'other' people. When there's a family history of longevity even more so. That was what my husband and I believed. Having been widowed young, I honestly believed that it could never happen to me again. My second husband and I, married 14 years by now, felt we were in the prime of our lives. But then....

Symptoms that all was not well were masked by recovery from knee replacement. But I noticed a change of behaviour of morning routines. I called our GP who saw typical patterns of depression. I was advised to get a mild medication and ensure that he exercised daily.

Within the next few days his symptoms escalated at an alarming rate. He became ill while we were at the gym, and we had to come home. The next day he stumbled on our walk, fell over and had to be helped home. He was confused and forgetful. The doctor booked a brain scan for that evening with surgeons on standby if it was a brain bleed, as suspected.

At 03:00 the next morning the casualty doctor came over to us with the shocking news that he had Glioblastoma Multiforme, that is, fast-growing and life-threatening cancerous tumours in the brain with only one possible hope that if the primary source was lymphatic there was a chance of cure.

A risky brain biopsy was performed, and our worst fears were realised. The primary was in an inoperable position in the base of the skull. I was told it could be just a matter of weeks.

How does one react to news like that? We never know until it happens. From somewhere came an incredible strength and my whole being was focussed on his well-being and comfort. The doctors and nurses in the oncology unit were amazing, open, kind and professional.

My husband was a very private person, reserved but dearly loved by friends and family as a true, salt-of-the-earth gentleman who loved nature and was devoted to his career as an ecologist. We were blessed to have a beautiful marriage, open communication and deep respect for each other. I knew what his wishes were regarding his privacy and his treatment. This was a time of making sure that those he loved could spend some quality time with him, that his spiritual needs were met, and that we could continue to be together, 24/7 as before, often just comfortable with each other in silence.

Three weeks later my husband passed away peacefully and quietly. My world was shattered.

Had this happened to me again? Had it happened to my adult children who knew him longer than their own dad and loved him? Yes, because life is unpredictable, it hits us when we least expect it.

So many questions and no answers, so many doubts and fears, so many changes and so much to do. As I look back now, seven years later, I realise the privilege it was to have had this man as my husband, to have been able to be by his side as he journeyed through the process of terminal illness and finally death. It is all pure grace of God.

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