

Granville Catholic Church Record

Vol. II. No. 6.

February 8, 2026

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Official Bulletin of Holy Cross Parish



THE HIDDEN YEARS FINDING HOLINESS *in the SILENCE of NAZARETH*

The hidden years of Jesus in Nazareth remain one of the most profound mysteries of our faith. For thirty years, the Word Made Flesh lived in a small, quiet village, far from the bustling centre of power or the gaze of the world. While we often focus on His public ministry and miracles, the Church invites us during this second week of February to meditate on the virtues practiced in the silence of that humble home. In our own lives, as we move past the initial rush of the new year and settle into the steady rhythm of work and study, the "Hidden Life" of Nazareth offers us a sanctifying perspective on our own daily duties.

The primary virtue of Nazareth is silence. In a modern world filled with constant noise, digital distractions, and the pressure to be seen and heard, the Holy Family teaches us the value of the interior life. St. Joseph is never recorded as speaking a single word in Sacred Scripture; his holiness was expressed through silent action and unwavering obedience to the will of God. The Blessed Mother "pondered all these things in her

heart," showing us that our homes should not merely be places of activity, but places of reflection. When we cultivate a spirit of silence in our households - perhaps by turning off the television or putting away our phones during dinner - we create the necessary space for the voice of God to be heard.

Closely linked to this silence is the virtue of hidden labour. Jesus spent the vast majority of His earthly life working at a carpenter's bench. This manual labour was not a distraction from His divine mission; it was a part of it. By sweating over wood and stone, He sanctified human toil. For the Catholic family, this means that the mundane tasks of life - washing dishes, maintaining the garden, or completing office reports - possess an eternal value when offered to God. There is a quiet dignity in doing a job well for the glory of the Creator rather than the praise of men. We are called to perform our hidden tasks with the same care and love that Jesus brought to His workshop.

To sustain these virtues of silence

and labour, the Holy Family relied on the strength of communal prayer. The most traditional way for a family to imitate this today is through the recitation of the Holy Rosary. This devotion is a school of prayer that allows us to look at the face of Christ through the eyes of His Mother. When a family gathers at the end of a long day to pray the Rosary, they are effectively inviting Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to sit at their table. It is a powerful shield against the anxieties of life and a primary means of obtaining the graces necessary to remain faithful to our vocations.

As we look toward the approaching season of Lent, let us ask for the grace to embrace the hidden virtues of Nazareth. May we find contentment in our quiet duties and strength in our family prayer. By doing so, we ensure that our homes are truly places where grace can grow in secret, preparing us for the public witness of our faith. May the Holy Family teach us to love our hidden life.

Through our humble service, may we lead others to Christ.

THE PARISH OFFICE

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E granville@parracatholic.org

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parish Administrator

Rev. Fr. Galbert Albino

Assistant Priest

Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguyen

Business and Projects Manager

John Portelli

Sacraments and Youth Co-ordinator

Rosette Chidiac

Catechist Co-ordinator

Lana Leatherby

Piety Shop

Claudette Takchi and Annette Wirz

Holy Family Primary School

T (02) 8633-8200

Holy Trinity Primary School

T (02) 8633-8500

Delany College

T (02) 8633-8100

DONATIONS

BSB: 067-950

Account: 00007247

Name: Granville Catholic Parish

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Joseph Akkary, Janelle Allan, John Anjoul, Marlene Ashton, John Augustus, Antonio Bifulco, Ann Blessen, John Borg, Vincenzo Colosimo, Lucy Farrugia, Carmello Giovenco, Evangeline Grabato, Thomas Hayek, Elizabeth Hicks, Peter Higgins, Terese Jones, Therese Khalil, Kay King, Jacob Lee, Josephine Magro, Zoe Mrzljak, Sid Morgan, Scott Moulton, Ben Nursoo, Sarah-Joy O'Connor, Don Provest, Ricardo Tognini, Sam Wardan, Gerard Watts.



*Lord Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
by the grace of your Holy Spirit
cure the weaknesses of your servants,
and mercifully restore them to full health.*

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Mass

Tuesday, 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 9:15 a.m.

Friday, 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Confessions

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Nigerian Community Mass

Second and fourth Sunday of the month,
11:00 a.m.

Rosters

Church and Toilets Cleaning

Volunteers Needed

Flower Arranging

Samira Elias, David Elias and Juliet
Nakhoul

SOCIAL MEDIA



holycrossgranville.org.au



HolyCrossGranville



Holy Cross Parish App



@holycrossgranville

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Holy Mass

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 8:15 a.m.

Thursday, 8:15 a.m.

Friday, 8:15 a.m.

Saturday, 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday, 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Holy Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

First Friday of the month, 7:00 p.m.

Holy Mass in Latin

First Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m.

Ghanaian Chaplaincy Mass

Second and last Sunday of the month,
11:30 a.m.

Vietnamese Chaplaincy Mass

Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

Rosters

Church Cleaning

Group 3:
Vietnamese Community

Readers

Vigil Rebecca Hanson, Rosette Chidiac

10:00 a.m. Mary Georges, Sisters,
Reanne Chidiac

Children's Liturgy

Wanda Krasinski and Chloe Zaiter

IN MEMORIAM

Perfecto Arribas Jr., Victor Azzopardi, Joseph Baini, Dick Cahill, Gwen Cahill, Vincent Cahill, Albert Camilleri, Les Camilleri, Tessie Camilleri, Christine Derwin, John Dover, Joe Paul Fehir, Alan Frost, Carmen Galea, Maria Gamin, John Graham, Joe Grech, Mary Grech, Sam Grech, Melissa Irons, Salim Karaki, Paul Karam, Chini Maya Kc, Nouhad Khoury, Thomas Lam, Rustica La Rosa, Laurie Lowe, Frouzine Malkoun, Jacob Malkoun, Mouna Malkoun, Ofimia Malkoun, Jack McIntyre, Giovanna Mondello, Santo Mondello, Kudzai Gerald Mutongerwa, Anthony Newell, Jessica Nguyen, Vincent Nguyen, Michael O'Brien, Zackary Orenshaw, Doris Pickering, Edward Pidgeon, Robert Pidgeon, Sheila Pidgeon, Anna Pham, Flory Pinto, Peter Robertson, Geoff Senior, Garry Smith, Carlito So, Noel So, Emanuel Tabone, Alex Taktak, John Toye, John Vella, Peter Van Duc Vu, Graham Wales, Carmel Watts, Phyllis Webb, Mershed Wehbe, Yesmine Wehbe, Dib Zaiter, Laila Zaiter

NOTICES

Shrove Tuesday Burning of the Palms and Burial of the Alleluia and Pancake Supper 17 February

On Shrove Tuesday, which is celebrated this year on 17 February, we will hold the traditional Burning of the Palms and Burial of the Alleluia in preparation for Ash Wednesday the following day.

The ashes imposed on Ash Wednesday are made from the burnt palms blessed the previous Palm Sunday. If you have blessed palms to be burned, please bring these to the church before Shrove Tuesday. These will be collected and burned to prepare the ashes.

On Shrove Tuesday, the Burning of the Palms and the Burial of the Alleluia will be held at Holy Family Church at 6:30 p.m. followed by a pancake supper at 7:00 p.m. If you can prepare some pancakes to bring along for this supper, it would be appreciated.

Note that as this will take place at Holy Family Church, there will be no evening Mass at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church on this day and will resume the following week.

Palms for Shrove Tuesday

As we approach the season of Lent, we invite you to bring in your blessed palms from last year. These palms will be reverently burnt on Shrove Tuesday to create the ashes that will be blessed and distributed during our Ash Wednesday Masses this year.

This beautiful tradition reminds us of the cycle of the liturgical year and our own journey of renewal. Please place your old palms in the designated baskets located near the entry of both parish churches.

Thank you for participating in this sacred preparation as we begin our Lenten pilgrimage together in prayer and penance.

Holy Mass Commemorating Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday will be commemorated this year on 18 February. There will be five Masses said that day to allow as many people as possible to attend Mass and to be imposed with ashes.

The Holy Mass times for that day will be:

8:00 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church
9:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Church
(*Delany College and Holy Trinity Primary attending*)
9:30 a.m. at Holy Family Church
(*Holy Family Primary attending*)
5:00 p.m. at Holy Family Church
6:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Church

Please take note of the changes to the usual Mass times for a Wednesday and that the regular confessions on Wednesday will not be available due to the Masses and will resume the following week.



Church Cleaning Volunteers

Our parish is in urgent need of volunteers to join our cleaning teams at both Holy Trinity and Holy Family churches. While both locations require additional hands the need at Holy Family Church is particularly critical.

Maintaining the beauty and dignity of our churches is a vital ministry, but our current teams are stretched thin. Without new helpers, we struggle to keep our churches ready for Mass. Whether you can spare an hour once a month or assist more frequently, your contribution is invaluable.

Please consider answering this call to serve. To sign up, contact the Parish Office or email the office: granville@parracatholic.org

Visit to Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy (Penrose Park) Saturday 28 February

A visit has been arranged to the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy, commonly known as Penrose Park (located in the Southern Highlands) on Saturday 28 February. The shrine is a renowned place of veneration of the replica of the icon of Our Lady of Jasna Góra, known as the "Black Madonna". The shrine is ministered by the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit, known as the Pauline Fathers, who have been the custodians of the original icon of the "Black Madonna" for more than 630 years.

A bus has been arranged to take parishioners to the shrine. The bus will depart from Holy Family Church at 8:30 a.m. and depart from the shrine at 2:45 p.m. There will be Mass said at the shrine at 11:00 a.m. by the Pauline Fathers.

If you would like to visit the shrine and to request a seat on the bus, please complete in full the sign-up sheet at the doors of the churches. Please note that the bus company does require the full name, telephone number and address of each passenger so please ensure that you add these to the form.

To assist with the cost of the bus, we are asking if those attending can make a donation of \$20.

Please note that seats are strictly limited on the bus so, if you would like to attend, please complete the sign-up sheet as soon as possible.

It is suggested that those attending bring their own lunch on the day and plenty of water. We look forward to sharing this day of prayer and pilgrimage together as a community.

For more information about the shrine, visit their website at penrosepark.com.au.



Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

AT HOLY CROSS GRANVILLE



Shrove Tuesday

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

- **9:15AM** – Holy Mass
- **6:30PM** – Burning of the Palms & Burial of the 'Alleluia'
- **7PM** – Pancake Supper

Feb
17
2026

6PM Mass at Holy Trinity Church cancelled

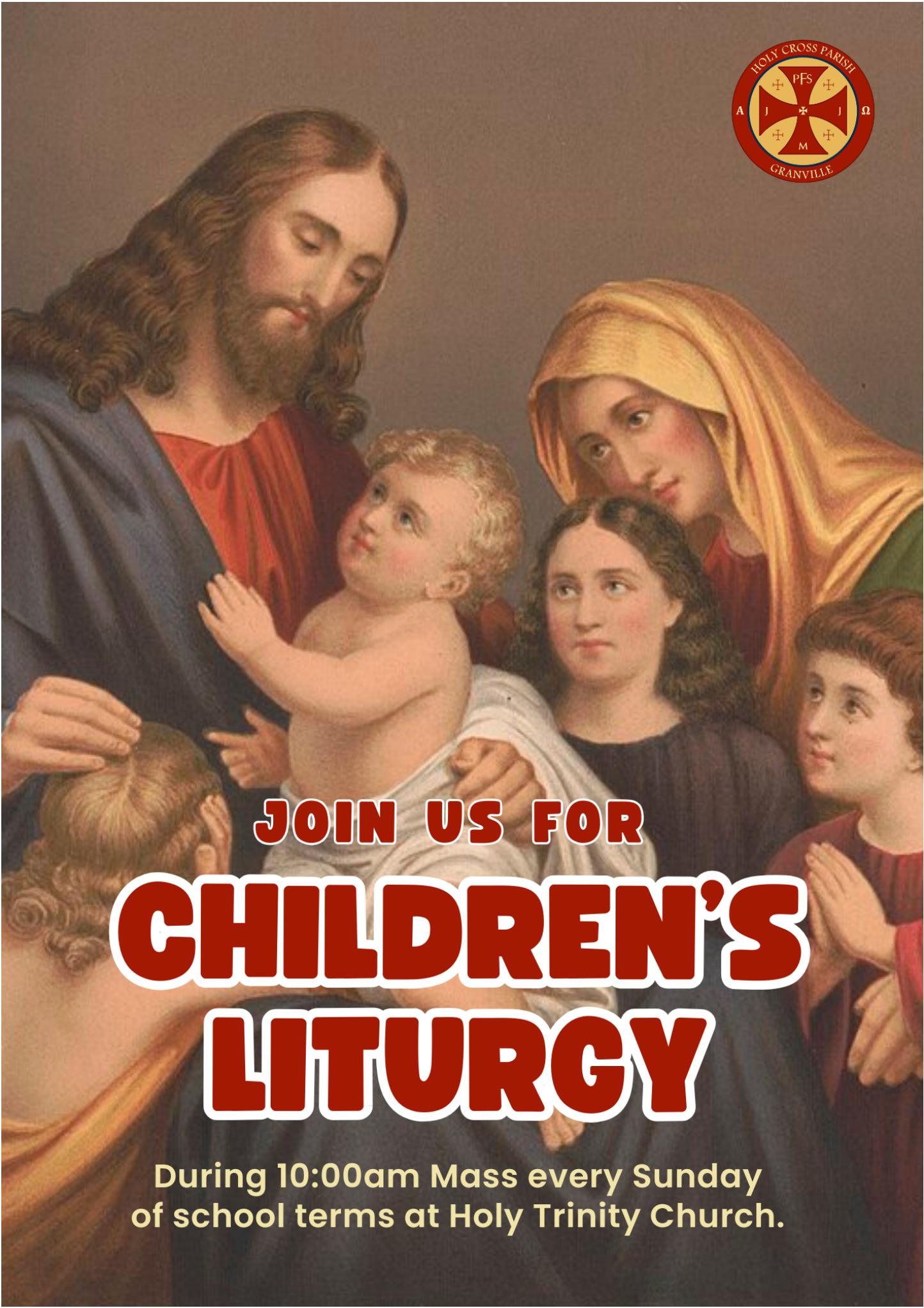


Ash Wednesday Mass

- **8AM** – Holy Trinity Church
- **9:15AM** – Holy Trinity Church
(With Delany College and Holy Trinity Primary School)
- **9:30AM** – Holy Family Church
(With Holy Family Primary School)
- **5PM** – Holy Family Church
- **6PM** – Holy Trinity Church

Feb
18
2026



A classical painting of Jesus holding a child, with a woman and other children in the background.

**JOIN US FOR
CHILDREN'S
LITURGY**

**During 10:00am Mass every Sunday
of school terms at Holy Trinity Church.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY Volunteers Needed!



Help pass on our Holy Faith to the youngest members of our parish through the Children's Liturgy ministry!

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER TODAY
0497 190 444 - GRANVILLE@PARRACATHOLIC.ORG



Saints & STUFF

St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita's life is a masterclass in the resilience of the human spirit. Born in Sudan around 1869, she was kidnapped by slave traders at age seven. The trauma was so severe that she forgot her birth name; her captors mockingly named her "Bakhita," meaning "Lucky One." In a cruel irony, this became a prophetic testament to her divine "luck" in finding Christ.

Beyond the narrative of her kidnapping, specific details highlight her grit. During her enslavement, she underwent a brutal "tattooing" ritual where 114 intricate patterns were cut into her skin and rubbed with salt to ensure permanent scarring. She endured this without a cry, a precursor to the quiet strength she later displayed as a Canossian Daughter of Charity.

A turning point occurred in Italy while she was serving as a nanny. When her "owners" tried to return her to Sudan, Bakhita refused to leave. The Italian courts eventually ruled that because slavery was illegal in Italy, she had been free since the moment she arrived. She remained in the convent for 45 years, famously serving as the doorkeeper and viewing her past with profound forgiveness.

St. Joseph Bakhita, Pray for us!

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

Love & Dignity of the Person

1700 The dignity of the human person is rooted in his creation in the image and likeness of God; it is fulfilled in his vocation to divine beatitude. It is essential to a human being freely to direct himself to this fulfilment.

1822 Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbour as ourselves for the love of God.

1823 Jesus makes charity the new commandment. By loving his own 'to the end,' he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive.

1824 Fruit of the Spirit and fullness of the Law, charity keeps the commandments of God and his Christ: "Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love."

1825 Christ died out of love for us, while we were still enemies. The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our enemies, to make ourselves the neighbour of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself.

CATHOLIC Trivia

The Devil's Advocate

Most people use the phrase "playing devil's advocate" to describe taking the opposing side in a debate. However, for centuries, this was an actual, high-stakes job within the Catholic Church.

Established in 1587 by Pope Sixtus V, the official title was the Promoter of the Faith (Promotor Fidei). This officer's sole responsibility was to be the ultimate skeptic during the canonisation process. While the Postulator presented the case for a candidate's holiness, the Devil's Advocate was tasked with finding flaws. They investigated the candidate's character for hidden sins and worked to provide natural, non-miraculous explanations for any reported healings.

This rigorous "cross-examination" ensured that only those with truly heroic virtue and undeniable miracles were elevated to sainthood. It wasn't about being "against" the candidate, but about ensuring that the Church's highest honours were based on ironclad truth.

In 1983, Pope John Paul II changed the process, replacing the role with the "Promoter of Justice." While the official "Devil's Advocate" no longer exists in its original form, the term remains a part of our language, reminding us that even the holiest truths benefit from a little healthy skepticism.



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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

The Readings

Introit

(Psalm 94:6-7)

O come, let us worship God
and bow low before the God who made us,
for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading The Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 58:7-10)

Thus says the Lord:
Share your bread with the hungry,
and shelter the homeless poor,
clothe the man you see to be naked
and turn not from your own kin.
Then will your light shine like the dawn
and your wound be quickly healed over.
Your integrity will go before you
and the glory of the Lord behind you.
Cry, and the Lord will answer;
call, and he will say, 'I am here.'
If you do away with the yoke,
the clenched fist, the wicked word,
if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed,
your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4)

R. A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.
The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour. R.

The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.
He has no fear of evil news;
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. R.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear;
open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory. R.

Second Reading

First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

(1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation (John 8:12)

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
the man who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel The Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 5:13-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Communio (Cf Psalm 106:8-9)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy,
his wonders for the children of men,
for he satisfies the thirsty soul,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

*Please ensure mobile phones are switched off
or placed on silent during Mass.*

*Take a copy of this bulletin home with you
for important news and information.*