

**Mon 30 Mar** Liturgy of the Day

Daniel 13:1-9.15-17.19-30.33-62; Psalm 23; John 8:1-11  
Judgements of others so easily move into self-righteousness and feelings of superiority. None of us truly knows the full story of another. So often what we think about others is way off the mark.

**Tue 31 Mar** Liturgy of the Day

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102; John 8:21-30  
Most of us run from our fears, deny our hurts, and resist facing the source of our pain. However, we can only begin to be healed when we are able to face what we fear or what has actually harmed us.

**Wed 1 Apr** Liturgy of the Day

Daniel 3:14-20.91-92.95; Daniel 3:52-56; John 8:31-42  
God calls us to act justly. Yet following our conscience can put us in an uncomfortable position, sometimes risking much. Be obedient to the still small voice within you calling you to act justly.

**Thu 2 Apr** (St Francis of Paola, H)

Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105; John 8:51-59  
St Francis was a contemplative man called to active ministry. He felt keenly the tension between prayer and service, but it was a productive tension, utilizing the fruits of contemplation in his ministry.

**Fri 3 Apr** Liturgy of the Day

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18; John 10:31-42  
In a rut about Lent? The success of Lent isn't measured on a spreadsheet or a checklist. There's no heavenly scorecard. Lent is an observance of the heart: your heart to God's!

**Sat 4 Apr** (St Benedict, R)

Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56  
A freed slave from Africa, Benedict joined the Franciscans in Palermo, eventually becoming their leader. Renowned for his humility, prayer and spiritual guidance, Benedict is revered by African Americans.

**Sun 5 Apr** PALM SUNDAY

Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Matthew 26:14-27:66  
Take some time this week to think about events in your own life that have given you an experience of Jesus' command to pick up your cross and follow him.

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) H=Hermit; R=Religious)

**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.*

**MISSIONS 2020**



When last did your parish experience the revival that a **PARISH MISSION** offers?



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*Catholic Link*

**Lent, Conversion, and our Idea of God**

5th Sunday in Lent • Year A

Divine Office: Week 1 • 29 March 2020

*Focused in Christ*

*During Lent this year Catholic Link honours one of our Redemptorists who is 96 yet continues to work as a priest, finding time also to put down in writing his reflections of over 60 years in ministry. In his vast experience of people and situations, he believes we need not only moral conversion but also conversion in our very concept of God. We present his writings as a Lenten exercise in doing just that.*

JESUS Christ reveals to us the true nature of God. St John writes about this in the Prologue to his Gospel: "No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known" (John 1:18). Goodness, truth and beauty cannot be known abstractly, they can only be revealed in material things, in persons of compassion and integrity, in beautiful landscapes, art or music. We cannot make immediate contact with the goodness of God in Himself, but we do experience it in Jesus Christ, in his incarnate humanity as the perfect reflection of "the image of the unseen God" (Colossians 1:15).



**Guercino's painting of Jesus with the woman caught in adultery, 1621.**

The first thing that we learn about God when we see how Christ lived and what he taught, is that the most important thing in creation and in life, is love. Love is supreme. God is love. God created out of love and sustains the world with love.

Christ loved everyone. He loved not just those who were good but in a special way he loved sinners and outcasts. He did not only love those who kept the law; he loved those outside of the law. He could not be described as a "law-oriented" person, as most of the religious leaders of his time were. For them obedience to laws was the paramount duty to God. Jesus, on the other hand, was "person-oriented". For

him the paramount duty to God was love of all, indiscriminately.

The second thing that we learn about God when we observe Jesus is that he does not condemn sinners. He loves them and he comes to save them – to set them free. The only persons he does condemn are the religious leaders who are not loving, who condemn sinners and who replace love with fear. Christ was love-orientated, embracing sinners and even his enemies.

He asked the woman who was condemned for adultery, after her accusers had drifted away, "Does no one condemn you?" "No one", she replied. "Neither do I condemn you." The Pharisees "don't condemn" because Jesus exposed their hypocrisy. Jesus "does not condemn" because he reveals the mercy of God by his action. He said that he had come to call sinners and not the just. He described his Church as full of sinners, like a net full of fish good and bad, which are not separated till arrival in port; or a field of grain and weeds, which are not separated till harvest time.

Who does the separation, who does the condemnation? Only God. In seeing Christ, we see God. To mature in my concept of God, all I need do is observe Jesus.