

AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

bayard africaine

**17<sup>th</sup> Week  
in Ordinary Time**

AFRICA ● 30 JULY - 5 August 2023 ● Digital n°44

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### **Liturgical texts:**

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# Editorial

July 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

## Crushing Our Golden Calves

One of our liturgical readings this week recounts the moulding of the golden calf by the people of Israel. (Ex 32:15-34). This action was considered a grievous sin against the Lord for the following reasons: They lost faith and hope in God and Moses his servant; they fashioned a god for themselves and worshipped their hand-made god, giving it the honour due to God.

There are many golden calves among us today, waiting to lure us to forsake the true Lord and worship them. These calves come in different sizes and colours, but they are always fashioned by our own hands and have their roots in the seven capital sins: wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony. Those who worship these golden calves have a false sense of security, enjoyment and dominion over others. But like all material things, these sentiments last for a while and vanish.

But when we live daily with Christ, we are enabled to crush and supplant the 'golden calves' with the virtues of faith, hope, love, prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice.



## The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For a Eucharistic life*** : We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Other papal intentions and videos can be found on: <https://apostleshipofprayer.org/>

### **The Liturgy of the Eucharist: the Offertory and the Prayer over the Offerings**

**T**he Liturgy of the Eucharist is the second part of the Eucharistic celebration. It consists of various elements: the preparation of the gifts, the prayer over the offerings, the Eucharistic prayer and the communion rite.

According to the Roman Missal, the Liturgy of the Eucharist starts with the offertory song. But in some parishes, before the offering chant, the commentator provides the faithful with some explanations and commentaries in order to introduce them to the second part of Eucharistic celebration.

During Sunday Masses and some liturgical feasts in Africa, a procession is organised during the offertory. It starts at the back of the Church. Some chosen faithful bring forward bread, wine and other gifts. Bread and wine are placed on the altar whereas other gifts are placed in a suitable place. During the offertory song, the ministers (acolytes and deacons) prepare the altar

placing on it the corporal, the purificator, the chalice and the missal.

After the altar has been prepared by the acolyte or the deacon or the celebrant himself, he takes the paten with the bread and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands. And according to the Roman Missal, he says in a low voice: *Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.*

After this prayer, the deacon or the priest pours a little water in the chalice, he says quietly: *By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Then the priest takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands saying in low voice: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.*

After this prayer, the priest bows profoundly saying: *With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.* Then the priest prays quietly saying: *wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.* Then he invites the faithful to pray so that his sacrifice and theirs may be acceptable to God.

After the response of the faithful, the celebrant sings or recites the prayer over the offerings. It is generally a recognition of God's generosity to humankind as all the gifts that the assembly offers come from Him. The general instruction of the Roman Missal insists on the fact that only one prayer on the offerings is said at Mass. Unlike the collect that must end with a long doxology (*Through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever*), the prayer over the offerings ends with a short one: *Through Christ our Lord.*

***Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,***  
*Kinshasa, D.R. Congo*



# Sunday July 30

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*1 Kings 3: 5. 7-12 / Psalm (118) 119: 57. 72. 76-77. 127-128. 129-130 (97a) / Romans 8: 28-30 / Matthew 13: 44-52 (or: Matthew 13:44-46).*



“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. Having found a pearl of great value, he will sell everything he owns, and he buys the pearl. (Matthew 13:46)





## *Unravelling the Secrets of the Kingdom!*

**I**n the first reading, (1 Kings 3:5,7-12) King Solomon who initially seemed foolish in the eyes of the world eventually became wise in the sight of both God and men. The parable connects because Solomon feared God and asked for wisdom instead of riches or power over his enemies. This shows he discovered the secrets of the kingdom by submitting himself to God's sovereignty. The parable of the dragnet reveals God's patience with sinners while affirming that retributive justice awaits all believers at the end of time.

The message of Saint Paul in the second reading (Rom. 8:28-30) that God cooperates with those who love him is a warm reminder to all Christians to choose divine wisdom rather than human wisdom. The man in the first parable sought for divine wisdom by selling all he owned to acquire the land wherein the treasure was hidden; the same with the man in the second story who discovered fine pearls after a thorough search and eventually sold all he owned to acquire them.



**Sunday July 30**

In the gospel, (Matthew 13:44-52) Jesus teaches using parables. Jesus presents us with the parables of the hidden treasure, fine pearls, and dragnet. The hidden treasure stands for the Word and the Sacraments and values of the kingdom such as love, charity, and forgiveness; the field is the world and those who discover it represent subjects of the kingdom. In like manner, the merchant in the parable of the fine pearls stands for the subjects of the kingdom, the pearls are spiritual treasures.

The parable of the dragnet symbolizes the criteria for accessing good or bad. The sea is the world, and the haul of all kinds stands for both subjects of the kingdom and subjects of the evil one from all nationalities of the world who coexist side by side and respond to the preaching of the gospel differently. However, the parable presents us with a patient God who suspends collation and sorting of the good fish from the bad stuff until the end of time. Sorting is done by the angels.

***Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria***

**Entrance Antiphon** (*Psalm (66) 67:6-7.36*)

**God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

**Collect**

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading (1 Kings 3:5.7-12)** \_\_\_\_\_

**A reading from the first Book of Kings**

In those days: At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to



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govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this great people of yours?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm*** —————  
***(Psalm 57 and 72.76-77.127-128.129-130)***



***R.*** O Lord, how I love your law.



I have said, "O Lord, my portion / is to obey your words."  
The law from your mouth means more to me than large  
quantities of silver and gold. R.

Let your merciful love console me by your promise to  
your servant.  
Show me compassion, that I may live, for your law is my  
delight. R.

That is why I love your commands / more than finest  
gold, why I rule my life by your precepts, / and hate false  
ways. R.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed; therefore my soul  
obeys them. The unfolding of your word gives light, and  
understanding to the simple. R.

### ***Second Reading (Romans 8:28-30)***

#### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brethren: We know that in everything God works for  
good with those who love him, who are called according  
to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also  
predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,  
in order that he might be the first-born among many



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brethren. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Acclamation** (*Matthew 11:25*)

**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 13:44-52*)

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**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

\*Jesus said to the crowds, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. \* [End of the short reading]

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace



of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer of the Faithful**

*The following intentions are suggestions only.*

**R. Lord, hear our prayer !**

For the Church and its mission to the weary and the burdened, we pray to the Lord: R.

For world leaders committed to promoting the wellbeing of all citizens, we pray to the Lord: R.

For those who minister to the poor, the lonely and the vulnerable, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our community, dedicated to proclaiming the good news of a compassionate God, we pray to the Lord: R.



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## Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Communion Antiphon (*Ps (101) 102:2*)

**Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.**

## Prayer after Communion

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Monday July 31

17<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, priest

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Phil 2:10-11)* At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

### Collect

O God, who raised up Saint Ignatius of Loyola in your Church to further the greater glory of your name, grant that, by his help we may imitate him in fighting the good fight on earth and merit to receive with him a

crown in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Reading

*(Exodus 32:15-24.30-34)*

A reading from the Book of Exodus

In those days: Moses turned, and went down from the mountain with the two tables of the covenant in his hands, tables that were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. And the tables were the work of God, and the



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writing was the writing of God graven upon the tales. When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” But he said, “It is not the sound of shouting from victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.” And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses’ anger burnt hot, and he threw the tables out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it upon the water, and made the sons of Israel drink it. And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to

you that you have brought a great sin upon them?” And Aaron said, “Let not the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, ‘Make us gods, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who has become of him.’ And I said to them, “Let any who have gold take it off”; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and there came out this calf.” The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people have sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if you will forgive their sin –and



if not, blot me, I beg you, out of your book which you have written.” But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. But now go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm***——  
***(Psalm (105) 106)***

**R. O give thanks to the Lord for he is good.**  
**Or: Alleluia.**

They fashioned a calf at Horeb, and worshiped an image of metal, they

exchanged their glory for the image of a bull that eats grass. **R.**

They forgot the God who was their savior, who had done such great things in Egypt, such wonders in the land of Ham, such marvels at the Red Sea. **R.**

For this he said he would destroy them, but Moses, the man he had chosen, stood in the breach before him, to turn back his anger from destruction. **R.**

**Acclamation**

*(Luke 8:15)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. **Alleluia.**



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**Gospel** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Luke 10:38-42)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

At that time: Jesus entered a village; and a woman name Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion,

which shall not be taken away from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

May these offerings we make to you as we celebrate Saint Ignatius be pleasing, Lord God, and grant they the sacred mysteries, which you have made the fount of all holiness, may sanctify us, too, in the truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Lk 12:49)* **Thus says the Lord: I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were kindled!**

**Prayer after Communion**

May the sacrifice of praise that we have offered with thanksgiving in honour of Saint Ignatius, O Lord,

bring us to exalt your majesty without end. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Commentary****Resisting Idols!**

Exodus 32: 15-24. 30-34

Our liturgy urges us to resist idol and profane worship in all its forms. The first reading discloses how the sons and daughters of Israel lost patience with God and Moses and made a golden idol. Although their relationship with God, Moses and Aaron as well as with one another was strained by the poison of sin, Moses' faith becomes a ray of light that brings hope and joy.

Let us emulate Moses by developing "a lively faith that is animated by charity" and to serve the Lord with an undivided heart.

**Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria**



# Tuesday August 1

17<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

Saint Alphonsus Liguori, bishop and doctor, Memorial

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Phil 2:10-11)* **At the name of Jesus every knee should bend of those in heaven, on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

### Collect

O God, who constantly raise up in your Church new examples of virtue, grant that we may follow so closely in the footsteps of the Bishop Saint Alphonsus in his zeal for souls as to

attain the same rewards that are his in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Reading** —————  
*(Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9.28)*

**A reading from the Book of Exodus**

In those days: Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp; and he called it the tent of meeting. And every one who sought

the Lord would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose up, and every man stood at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the door of the tent, and the Lord would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the door of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, every man at his tent door. Thus the Lord used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses turned again into the camp, his

servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tent. And Moses proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him, and proclaimed “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy and faithfulness, keeping merciful love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.” And Moses made haste to bow his head towards the earth, and worshipped. And he said, “If now I have found favour

in your sight, O Lord, let the Lord, I beg you, go in the midst of us, although it is a stiff-necked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us of your inheritance.” And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote upon the tables.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm (102) 103)***

**R. The Lord has  
remembered his mercy.**

The Lord is compassionate and gracious. The Lord does just deeds, gives full justice

to all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel. R.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He will not always find fault; nor persist in his anger forever. R.

He does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our fault. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him. R.

As far as the east is from the west, so far from us does he remove our transgressions. As a father has compassion on his children, the Lord’s compassion is on those who fear him. R.



## Acclamation

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The seed is the word of God, and the sower is Christ; all who find him will abide for ever.  
**Alleluia.**

## Gospel --- (Matthew 13:36-43)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time: Jesus left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "He who sows the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world, and the good seed means the sons of the kingdom; the weeds are the sons of the evil

one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burnt with fire, so will it be the close of the age. The Son of man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Be pleased, O Lord, to enkindle our hearts with the celestial fire of your Spirit, just as you granted that Saint Alphonsus should celebrate these mysteries and by them offer himself to you as a holy sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Lk 12:49)* **Thus says the Lord: I have come to cast fire on the earth, and how I wish that it were kindled!**

### **Prayer after Communion**

O God, who gave us Saint Alphonsus to be a faithful steward and preacher

of this great mystery, receiving it, praise you grant that your faithful without end. Through may receive it often and, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## God's Patience!

### Commentary

Matthew 13: 36-43

Today's gospel amplifies the message of the first reading by disclosing the meaning of the parable of the wheat and weeds. The parable reveals God's patience with sinners as it underscores that "The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels." We are urged to be ready so as not to be taken unawares thus, losing sight of the kingdom. Today, we celebrate Saint Alphonsus Liguori, who became a priest at the age of 27 and was known for being a good confessor, preacher and one who cared for the homeless.

***Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria***



# Wednesday August 2

17<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## *Ferial*

*Or: Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop or Peter Julian Eymard, priest, optional memorial*

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (66) 67: 6-7.36)* **God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

### **Collect**

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide we may use the

good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Reading** ————— *(Exodus 34:29-35)*

**A reading from the Book of Exodus**

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two table of the covenant in his hand as he came down from the mountain Moses

did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. And when Aaron and all the sons of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the sons of Israel came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but wherever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he took the veil off, until he came out;

and when he came out, and told the sons of Israel what he was commanded, the sons of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone; and Moses would put the veil upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —  
 (Psalm 98) 99)***

**R. You are holy, O Lord  
 our God.**

Exalt the Lord our God;  
 bow down before his  
 footstool. Holy is he! R.

Among his priests were  
 Aaron and Moses; among  
 those who invoked his  
 name was Samuel. They

cried out to the Lord and he answered. *R.*

To them he spoke in the pillar of cloud. They obeyed his decrees and the statutes which he had given them. *R.*

Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his holy mountain, for the Lord is holy. *R.*

**Acclamation** (*John 15:15*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** I have called you friends, says the Lord, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** \_\_\_\_\_  
(*Matthew 13:44-46*)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most

sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (109) 110)* **Blessed the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.**

*or:*

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son;

grant, we pray, that this gifts, which he himself gave us with love beyond

all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Radiating God's Glory!

### Commentary

**Exodus 34: 29-35**  
**Matthew 13: 44-46**

Today's first reading tells how Moses went before God and his face shone like light. It details how God transformed Moses' face to the extent that the sons and daughters of Israel were able to recognise God's aura through him. Today's gospel calls us to emulate Moses by discovering the secrets of the kingdom - attending Holy Mass, reception of the holy eucharist, visitation of the blessed sacrament, recitation of the rosary, going for sacramental confession, undertaking bible study, and carrying out the deeds of mercy.

***Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria***





# Thursday August 3

17<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (66) 67: 6-7.36)* **God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

## Collect

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever

endure. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Reading** —————  
***(Exodus 40:16-21.34-38)***

**A reading from the Book of Exodus**

In those days: According to all that the Lord commanded him, so Moses did. And in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle; he laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its

pillars; and he spread the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent over it, as the Lord had commanded Moses. And he took the covenant and put it into the ark; and put the poles on the ark, and set the mercy seat above on the ark; and he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the Ark of the Covenant; as the Lord has commanded Moses. Then the cloud covered the tent of the meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting, because the cloud

abode upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the sons of Israel would go onward; but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not go onward till the day that it was taken up. For throughout all their journeys the cloud of the Lord was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
**(Psalm (83) 84)**

**R.** How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

My soul is longing and yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh cry out to the living God. **R.**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself in which she sets her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. **R.**

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise. Blessed is the man whose strength is in you. They walk with ever-growing strength. **R.**

One day within your courts is better than a

thousand elsewhere. The threshold of the house of God I prefer to the dwellings of the wicked. **R.**

**Acclamation** (*Acts 16:14b*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may give heed to the words of your Son. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
**(Matthew 13:47-53)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down

and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. “Have you understood all this?” They said to him, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.” And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (109) 110)* **Blessed the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.**

*or:*

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.**

**Prayer after Communion**

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this

gifts, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**God's Abiding Presence!****Commentary**

**Exodus 40: 16-21. 34-38/  
Matthew 13: 47-53**

The first reading tells of God's abiding presence in the life of his people. It discloses how God guided the Israelites every step of the way by journeying with them. As it were, they travelled at God's bidding gathering around the tent in trust and obedience. Amid tempting allures of the world, we are reminded that God walks by our side urging us on. The parable of the net presents us with a patient God who suspends collation and sorting of the good fish from the bad stuff until the end of time when everyone will be rewarded according to his or her deeds.

***Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria***



# Friday August 4

17<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

Saint John Mary Vianney, priest

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Ps (68) 69: 2.6)* **O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.**

### Collect

Almighty and merciful God, who made the Priest Saint John Vianney wonderful in his pastoral zeal, grant, we pray, that, through his intercession and example, we may win brothers and sisters in charity for Christ and attain with them

eternal glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Reading** —————  
**(Leviticus 23:3-4-11.15-16.27.34b-37)**

**A reading from the Book of Leviticus**

The Lord said to Moses, “These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, the holy convocations, which you shall proclaim at the time appointed for them. In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the

month in the evening, is the Lord's Passover. And on the fifteenth day of the same month is the feast of unleavened bread to the Lord; seven days you shall eat unleavened bread. On the first day you shall have a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. But you shall present an offering by fire to the Lord seven days; on the seventh day is a holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work." And the Lord said to Moses, "Say to the sons of Israel, when you come into the land which I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priests; and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, that you may find acceptance; on the day

after the Sabbath, from the day that you brought the sheaf of the wave offering; seven full weeks shall they be, counting fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath; then you shall present a cereal offering of new grain of the Lord. "On the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be for you a time of holy convocation, and you shall afflict yourselves and present an offering by fire to the Lord. "On the fifteenth day of this seventh month for seven days is the feast of booths to the Lord. On the first day shall be holy convocation; you shall do no laborious work. Seven days you shall present offerings by fire to the Lord; on the

eight day you shall hold a holy convocation and present an offering by fire to the Lord; it is a solemn assembly; you shall do no laborious work. "These are the appointed feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the Lord offerings by fire, burnt offerings and cereal offerings, sacrificed and drink offerings, each on its proper day."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
*(Psalm (80) 81)*

**R.** Sing joyfully to God our strength.

Raise a song and sound the timbrel, the sweet-

sounding harp and the lute; blow the trumpet at the new moon, when the moon is full, on our feast. **R.**

For this is a statute in Israel, a command of the God of Jacob. He made it a decree for Joseph, when he went out from the land of Egypt. **R.**

"Let there be no strange god among you, nor shall you worship a foreign god. I am the Lord your God, who brought you up from the land of Egypt. **R.**

**Acclamation (1 Peter 1:25)**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia.** The word of the Lord abides for ever; that word is the good news which was preached to you. **Alleluia.**



**Gospel** —————  
**(Matthew 13:54-58)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time: Coming to his own country, Jesus taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brethren James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?” And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honour except

in his own country and his own house.” And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Sanctify graciously these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Wis 16:20)* **You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.**

### Prayer after Communion

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts, and in

your never-failing care for them make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Humble Sacrifice!

### Commentary

**Leviticus 23: 1. 4-11. 15-16. 27. 34b-37**

Today the Church celebrates John Mary Vianney (1786-1859), Patron Saint of Parish Priests. He wanted to become a priest, but the seminary authorities felt he was not intelligent enough. In Ars, an obscure French village, he became a priest super confessor who could hear confession 16 hours a day. The first reading suggests that God accepts our sacrifices no matter how small they are. We are charged to emulate St. John Mary Vianney through a life of selfless in rendering humble service.

***Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria***



# Saturday August 5

17<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

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## **Ferial**

**Or: The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, Optional Memorial**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (66) 67: 6-7.36)* **God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.**

### **Collect**

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide we may use the

good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Reading** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Leviticus 25:1.8-17)*

**A reading from the Book of Leviticus**

The Lord said to Moses on Mount Sinai, “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven

weeks of years shall be to you forty-nine years. Then you shall send abroad the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the day of atonement you shall send abroad the trumpet throughout all your land. And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family. A jubilee shall that fiftieth year be to you; in it you shall neither sow, nor reap what grows of itself, nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. For it is a jubilee; it shall be holy to

you; you shall eat what it yields out of the field. “In this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his property. And if you sell to your neighbour or buy from your neighbour, you shall not wrong one another. According to the number of years of crops he shall sell to you. If the years are many you shall increase the price, and if the years are few you shall diminish the price, for it is the number of the crops that he is selling to you. You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God; for I am the Lord your God.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** —  
**(Psalm (66) 67)**

**R.** Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your salvation. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and shout for joy, with uprightness you rule the peoples; you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

The earth has yielded its fruit for God, our God, has blessed us. May God still give us his blessing that all the ends of the earth may revere him. **R.**

**Acclamation** (*Matthew 5:10*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are those who are persecuted for the righteousness's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
**(Matthew 14:1-12)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

At that time, Herod the tetrarch heard about the fame of Jesus and he said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist, he has been raised from the dead; that is why these powers are at work in him." For Herod had seized John and bound him and put him in prison, for the sake of Herodias,

his brother Philip's wife; because John said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." And though he wanted to put him to death, he feared the people, because they held him to be a prophet. But when Herod's birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and pleased Herod, so that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter." And the king was sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests he commanded it to be given; he sent and had John beheaded in the prison, and his head was

brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought it to her mother. And his disciples came and took the body and buried it; and they went and told Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (109) 110)* **Blessed the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.**

*Or:*

**Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive**

**mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant,

we pray, that this gifts, telling, may profit us for which he himself gave salvation. Through Christ us with love beyond all our Lord. **Amen.**

## Jesus Our Hope!

## Commentary

**Leviticus 25: 1. 8-17/ Ps 67: 2-3.  
5. 7-8/ Matthew 14: 1-12**

The first reading details the 50-year jubilee as a time for freedom from debt and service. It signaled a period of restoration, renewal, justice, and peace. In reality, the jubilee was not welcomed by everyone as evident in the life of John the Baptist.

As the gospel relates, John's head will end up on a dish. The world is still vile and many people threaten our jubilee. However, like the disciples of John, we must make concerted efforts to bury our hurts and bitter past so as to hold unto Jesus, our hope of glory.

***Rev. Fr. Justine Dyikuk, Nigeria***





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## Digital

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