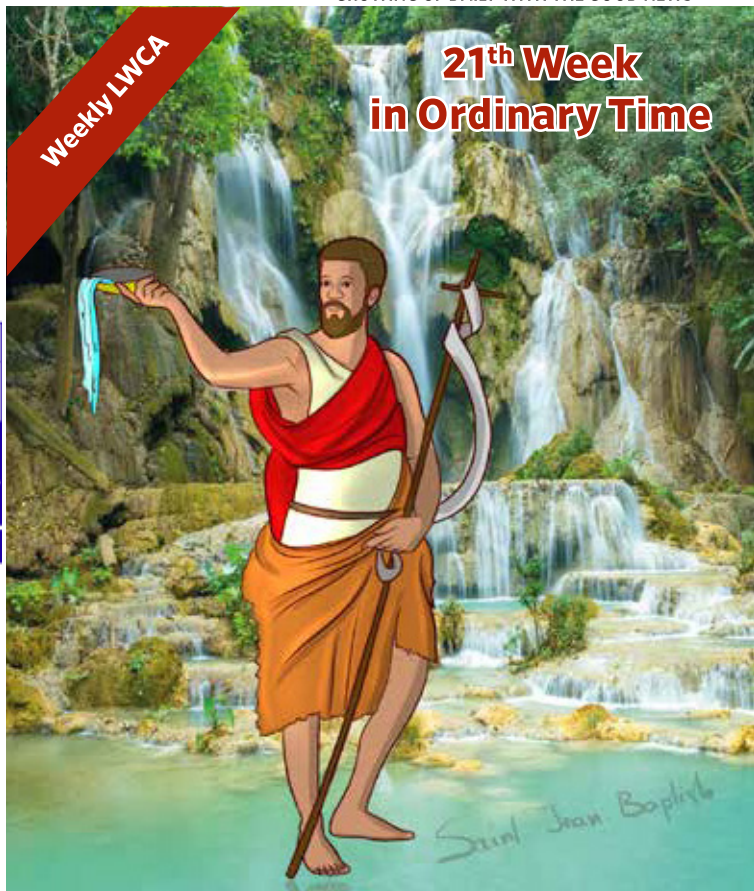


Weekly LWCA

**21th Week
in Ordinary Time**

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On our cover: An Illustration of John
the Baptist

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Editorial

August-September 2023



Rev. Fr. François Nzanzu, a.a. Nairobi-Kenya

The Mighty Power of Prayer

This week is dedicated to two key figures: Saint Monica and her son Saint Augustine. Saint Monica prayed for the conversion of her son Augustine and God heard her prayers. A prayer done with faith is powerful. The purpose of prayer is not necessarily to tell God how you want Him to do things. Rather, it's to better understand Him and His ways, bringing yourself into alignment with His will.

Saint Monica is the patron saint of people in difficult marriages, difficult children, and the conversion of relatives, particularly one's own children. She is the consoling friend in heaven who wholly understands the despair of parents who feel helpless and confused as they watch their children drift away from the church. Indeed, a pray done in faith is powerful and bears fruits.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For World Youth Day : We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

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

The Liturgy of the Eucharist : the Eucharistic Prayer

During Holy Mass, Eucharistic Prayer starts with the preface right after the prayer over the offerings. The preface always begins with a dialogue between the celebrant and the assembly (***The Lord be with you; and with your spirit...***). The Missal contains many prefaces. They are used according to the mysteries that are celebrated in specific celebrations. There are prefaces of the main liturgical seasons (Advent season, Lenten season, Easter season and Ordinary Time), there are prefaces of the Sundays in ordinary time, there are prefaces of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there are prefaces for the Apostles, there are prefaces for the Saints, there are prefaces for Holy martyrs, there are common prefaces, etc. The preface can be sung or recited.

In general, there is a link between a preface and the other liturgical texts used during Holy Mass (Opening prayer, prayer over the offerings, prayer after communion). All these texts and the readings help

the faithful understand better the liturgical theme of the day. The preface ends with the *Sanctus* which is a very important song in the Eucharistic celebration. It reminds that the Eucharist is beyond the assembly as it involves visible and invisible beings. The liturgy that is celebrated on Earth is a participation in the celestial liturgy in which the Angels and all the Saints sing God's glory day and night.

The Missal contains many Eucharistic prayers. The most used Eucharistic prayer is the second one because of its shortness. The third and the fourth are rarely used. It is important to mention that some prefaces constitute a whole unit such that the celebrant is obliged to do so. During the consecration, the assembly is invited to keep silent because it is a crucial moment of the celebration. That is the reason why during some specific moments of the Eucharistic Prayer a minister rings the bell to call for the assembly's attention.

In the Eucharistic prayer, there are two major requests called epiclesis. In the first one, the celebrant asks God the Father to make holy bread and wine by sending the Holy Spirit upon them so that they may become

the Body and Blood of Jesus-Christ. This first request is called the ***Epiclesis on the gifts***. The second request is when the celebrant prays so that by the partaking of bread and wine, the spirit may transform the Christians into one People. This request is called the ***Epiclesis on the community***. In fact, the aim of the Eucharist is unity. From the African perspective, those who share the same meal form one family. In the liturgy, those who participate in the same Eucharistic Banquet belong to the same family.

The Eucharistic prayer ends with the elevation (*when the Sacred Body of Christ and the chalice containing the Most Precious Blood of Christ are lifted up and presented to the assembly*). At that specific moment the celebrant sings: through him, and with him and in him...taking the chalice and the paten with the host and raising both.

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



Sunday August 27

21st week in Ordinary Time

*Isaiah 22: 19-23 / Psalms 138: 1-2. 2-3. 6. 8 (8bc) / Romans 11: 33-36
/ Matthew 16: 13-20*



"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19



Who Is Jesus to You?

Today Jesus asks two questions to his disciples: Who do people say that I am? and Who do you say that I am? In response to the first question, people gave various opinions about Jesus. For some he is John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets. Jesus is worried about his public image. He is concerned about his own identity. He wants to know what people think about him. He wants his apostles to form their personal convictions about him. Peter answered on behalf of the people and all the apostles: 'You are the Christ the Son of the living God.' With this response, Peter made a good profession of faith. Peter acknowledged that Jesus was the promised Messiah and Redeemer sent by God to save humanity. However, Jesus is more than what people think about him, he is God. The human categories applied to Jesus as carpenter, teacher, healer, prophet and leader are inadequate to identify Jesus.

The question of the identity of Jesus is for his disciples of all generations. It is also a question for each one of us individually today: Who is Jesus for you or for me personally? It is a question which needs from us a



Sunday August 27

personal response. This question demands from me a serious commitment. I will identify with Jesus and relate and deal with other people according to my image of him. My personal answer can be different from that one of Peter depending on what kind of image I have about Jesus. What is my personal conviction? Is Jesus my God and my personal Savior?

In the first reading, the people of Israel were asked to choose whom they wanted to serve and they all said: "We shall serve the Lord, for he is our God." Jesus also calls us today to identify with him, be with him, to walk with him and to remain with him forever.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Meso Paluku, Nairobi -Kenya



Entrance Antiphon (*Psalm (84) 85:1-3*)

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (Isaiah 22:19-23) —————

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

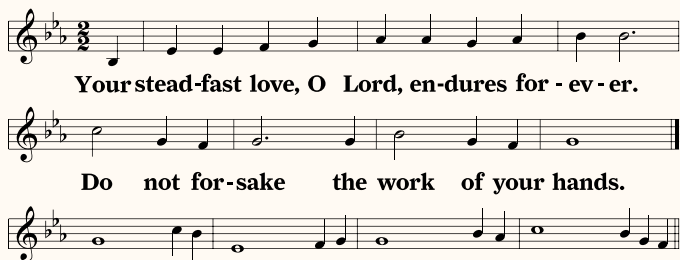
Thus says the Lord to Shebna, who is over the household: “I will thrust you from your office, and you will be cast down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your belt on him, and will commit your authority to his hand; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house David; he shall open, and none shall



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shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a sure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house." The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (137) 138:1-2a.2bcd-3.6 and 8bc)



R. O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy temple. **R.**



I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
You have exalted your name and your promise over all.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul. R.

The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands. R.

Second Reading (Romans 11:33-36) —————

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. **Amen.**
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Sunday August 27

Acclamation (*Matthew 16:18*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Matthew 16:13-20*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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.

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday August 27

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (102) 103: 13-15*)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer
the heart.

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work
of your mercy, and graciously perfect and sustain us, so
that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**



Monday August 28

21st Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Augustine, bishop

Entrance Antiphon

In the midst of the church
he opened his mouth, and
the Lord filled him with
the spirit of wisdom and
understanding and clothed
him in a robe of glory.

Collect

Renew in your church, we
pray, O Lord, the spirit with
which you endowed your
Bishop Saint Augustine that,
filled with the same spirit,
we may thirst for you, the
sole fount of true wisdom,
and seek you, the author

of heavenly love. Through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(1 Thessalonians 1:1-5.8b-10)

**A reading from the first
Letter of Saint Paul to the
Thessalonians**

Paul, Silvanus, and
Timothy, to the Church of
the Thessalonians in God
the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ: Grace to you
and peace. We give thanks
to God always for you all,
constantly mentioning



you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brethren beloved by God, that he has chosen you; for our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. Your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us what a welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from

heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm 149)***

**℟. The Lord takes delight
in his people.
or: Alleluia**

Sing a new song to the Lord, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel rejoice in its Maker; let Sion's children exult in their king. **℟.**

Let them praise his name with dancing, and make music with timbrel and harp. For the Lord takes delight in his people; he crowns the poor with salvation. **℟.**



Let the faithful exult in glory, and rejoice as they take their rest. Let the praise of God be in their mouths. This is an honour for all his faithful. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 10:27)

Alleluia. Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; and I know them, and they follow me. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Matthew 23:13-22)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut the kingdom of heaven against

men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you traverse sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves. Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If any one swears by the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If any one swears by the altar, it is nothing; but if any one swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift



Monday August 28

sacred? So he who swears by the temple, swears by it and by him who dwells in it; and he who swears by heavens, swears by the throne of the God and by him who sits upon it.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Celebrating the memorial of our salvation, we humbly beseech your

mercy, O Lord, that this Sacrament of your loving kindness may be for us the sign of unity and the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 23:10.8) Thus says the Lord: **You have but one teacher, the Christ, and you are all brothers.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May partaking of Christ's table sanctify us, we pray, O Lord, that, being made

members of his body, we may become what we have received. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Warning against Hypocrisy**Commentary****Matthew 23:13-22**

Today, Jesus denounces the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees. He warns them against their hypocritical attitude. For Jesus, their hypocritical behavior is turning some people away from the kingdom. Instead of encouraging people to enter heaven, they are keeping them from entering. This tells us that our hypocritical behavior is a hindrance for us and other people to enter heaven. Jesus wants us to avoid hypocrisy if we want to encourage others and help them to enter the kingdom of God.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Meso Paluku, Nairobi -Kenya



Tuesday August 29

21st Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Martyrdom of John the Baptist

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (118) 119: 46-47) I spoke,
O Lord, of your decrees
before kings, and was not
cofounded I pondered your
commands and loved them
greatly.

Collect

O God, who willed that
Saint John the Baptist
should go ahead of your
Son both in his birth and in
his death, grant that as he
died a Martyr for truth and
justice, we, too, may fight
hard for the confession of

what you teach. Through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Jeremiah 1:17-19)*

A reading from the Book
of Jeremiah

In those days: The word
of the Lord came to me
saying, “Gird up your
loins; arise, and say to
them everything that I
command you. Do not
dismayed by them, lest I
dismay you before them.
And I, behold, I make you
this day a fortified city,

an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests, and the people of the land. They will fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, says the Lord, to deliver you.”
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (70) 71:1-2,3-4a,5-6ab,15ab and 17)***

***R. My mouth will tell of
your salvation, Lord.***

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice, rescue me, free me; incline your ear to me and save me. R.

Be my rock, my constant refuge, a mighty stronghold to save me, for you are my rock, my stronghold. My God, free me from the hand of the wicked. R.

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. On you I have leaned from my birth; from my mother's womb, you have been my help. R.

My mouth will tell of your justice, and all the day long of your salvation. O God, you have taught me from my youth, and I proclaim your wonders still. R.

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

Alleluia. Alleluia.
Blessed are those who

are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Mark 6:17-29)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

At that time: Herod sent and seized John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife; because he had married her. For John said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and kept him safe. When

he heard him, he was much perplexed; and yet he heard him gladly. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and the leading men of Galilee. For when Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will grant it." And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." And she went out, and said to her mother, "What shall I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist." And she came in immediately with haste to the king, and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the

Baptist on a platter.” And the king was exceedingly sorry; but because of his oaths and his guests, he did not want to break his word to her. And immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard and gave orders to bring his head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl; and the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Through these offerings which we bring you, O Lord, grant that we may make straight your paths, as taught by the voice crying in the desert of Saint John the Baptist, who powerfully sealed his teaching by the shedding of his blood. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(John 3:27.30) **John answered and said, He must increase; but I must decrease.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, as we celebrate the heavenly birth of Saint John the

Baptist, that we may more, may rejoice as its
revere, for what it signifies, clear effects in us. Through
the saving Sacrament we Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
have received and, even

The Passion of John the Baptist

Commentary

Mark 6:17-29

Today is the memorial of the passion of John the Baptist. John is a good example to imitate. He had courage to speak out against evil in the society and to challenge powerful leaders and religious authorities of his time. His simplicity, humility, fasting, penance are virtues worth imitating. He denounced sin and corruption calling people to repentance. He took his mission seriously and paid the supreme sacrifice with his life.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Meso Paluku, Nairobi -Kenya



Wednesday August 30

21st Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (84) 85:1-3) Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Collect

O God, who cause minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire that you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is

found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(1 Thessalonians 2:9-13)*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

You remember our labour and toil, brethren; we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you, while we preached to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our behavior to you believers; for you

know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (138) 139)***

***R. O Lord, you search me
and you know me.***

O where can I go from your spirit, or where can I flee from your face? If I climb the heavens, you are there. If I lie in the grave, you are there. *R.*

If I take the wings of the dawn or dwell at the sea's furthest end, even there your hand would lead me; your right hand would hold me fast. *R.*

If I say, "Let the darkness hide me and the light round men be night," even darkness is not dark to you the night shall be as bright as day. *R.*

**Acclamation** (1 John 2:5)**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Whoever keeps Christ's word, in him truly love for God is perfected. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 23:27-32)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

A that time: Jesus said, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but within you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe to you, scribes and

Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers."

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of

unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (102) 103: 13-15) The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth,

and wine to cheer the heart.

or

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord; such as these I will raise up on the last day.



Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy, and graciously perfect and

sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Denunciation of the Scribes and Pharisees

Commentary

Matthew 23:27-32

Jesus continues denouncing the hypocrisy of Scribes and Pharisees. He wants us to look at ourselves today. Sometimes we are not different, we are not sincere. Our outward and inward dispositions do not march. Outside we look righteous but inside we are filthy. Jesus wants honesty, truthfulness, sincerity, transparency, unpretentiousness, justice, mercy, love. He calls us to live authentic lives without pretending to be what we are not. As Christians, we are called to be sincere in our daily life.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Meso Paluku, Nairobi -Kenya



Thursday August 31

21st Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (84) 85:1-3) Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Collect

O God, who cause minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire that you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is

found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(1 Thessalonians 3:7-13)*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Brethren, in all our distress and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith; for now we live, if you stand fast in the Lord. For what thanksgiving can we render to God for you stand fast in all the joy which we feel for your sake before our God, praying earnestly night

and day that we may see you face and supply what is lacking in your faith? Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you; and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one to another and to all men, as we do to you, so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (89) 90)***

***R. Fill us with your
merciful love, O Lord, and
we shall exult.***

You turn man back to dust, and say, “Return, O children of men.” To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night. *R.*

Then teach us to number our days, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Turn back, O Lord! How long? Show pity to your servants. *R.*

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love: we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us; give success to the work of our hands. O give success to the work of our hands. *R.*

Acclamation

(Matthew 24:42a.44)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Watch, therefore, and be ready; the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
Alleluia.

Gospel

(Matthew 24:42-51)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Watch, for you do not know the day when the Son of Man will come. For as a thief in the night, so the Son of Man will come, and you will not expect him. Therefore you must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you

do not expect. “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed,’ and begins to beat his fellow servants, and eats and drinks with the drunken, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the hypocrites; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (102) 103: 13-15) The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer the heart.

or

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord; such as these I will raise up on the last day.

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy, and graciously perfect and

sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Stay Awake and
be Watchful****Commentary****Matthew 24:42-51**

The gospel is about staying awake in meeting the Lord when he returns suddenly at the end of time. Jesus invites us to an active waiting for the Lord's return. We need to find time, to pray, read and meditate on the scriptures. We need quiet to enter deep into our hearts to seek God. How charitable and generous are we towards those in need? Let us build genuine relationships with our neighbors. We need to be aware of the shortness of our lives and our life beyond the grave.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Meso Paluku, Nairobi -Kenya



Friday September 1

21st week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 85:1-3) Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Reading ————— *(1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Collect

O God, who cause minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire that you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through

Brethren, we beg and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your

sanctification: that you abstain from immortality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honour, not in the passion of lust like heathens who do not know God; that no man transgress, and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we solemnly forewarned you. For God has not called us for uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 96) 97)***

R. Rejoice in the Lord, you just.

The Lord is king, let earth rejoice; let the many islands be glad. Justice and right are the foundation of his throne. R.

The mountains melt like wax before the face of the Lord, before the face of the Lord of all the earth. The skies proclaim his justice; all peoples see his glory. R.

The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the souls of his faithful; he sets them free from the wicked. R.

Light shines forth for the just one, and joy for the upright of heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you just; to

the memory of his holiness
give thanks. R.

Acclamation (*Luke 21:36*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Watch at all times, praying that you may be able to stand before the Son of man. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Matthew 25:1-13*)

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

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable; “The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took

lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the

door was shut. Afterward the other maidens came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of

unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (102) 103: 13-15)

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth, and wine to cheer the heart.

or

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord; such as these I will raise up on the last day.

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy, and graciously perfect and

sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Parable of the Ten Virgins**Commentary****Matthew 25:1-13**

The teaching of the parable of the ten virgins is that we have to be prepared. Jesus in this parable is the groom and the people in the Church are the bride. We are warned to avoid the conduct of the foolish virgins who were not prepared. But we are called to imitate the example of the wise virgins who had enough oil in their lamps. Our preparedness while fulfilling our daily duties is what counts. Our participation in the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church, our prayers, our acts of charity and generosity, our devotions are all different ways of waiting for the coming of the Lord.

Rev. Fr. Jean-Marie Meso Paluku, Nairobi-Kenya



Saturday September 2

21st week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: Mass of B.V. Mary

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (84) 85:1-3) **Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me, save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.**

Collect

O God, who cause minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire that you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed

on that place where true gladness is found. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Reading ————— *(1 Thessalonians 4:9-11)*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Brethren; Concerning love of the brethren you have no need to have any one write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and

indeed you do love all the brethren throughout Macedonia. But we exhort you brethren, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs and to work with your hands, as we charged you. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 97) 98)***

**R. The Lord comes to
judge the peoples with
fairness.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation. R

Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world, and

those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, and the hills ring out their joy. R

At the presence of the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the peoples with fairness. R

***Acclamation (John
13:34))***

Alleluia. Alleluia. A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Matthew 25:14-30)***

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

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “It will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talent, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with

them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ And he who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had

received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But the master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my

own interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity

and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (102) 103: 13-15) **The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth**

bread from the earth, and wine to cheer the heart.

or

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord; such as these I will raise up on the last day.

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy, and graciously perfect and

sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Parable of the Talents**Commentary****Matthew 25:14-30**

The gospel is about the parable of the talents. Each one of us has received a talent from God. God wants us to fructify our talents for the benefit of the Church and of the entire society. We are all called to use our talents whatever little they may be. Let us not hide our talents. We are servants who at the end of time here on earth will give an account to God, on how we used the talents we received from him. The little we do with our talent will be appreciated by God and will win us happiness and entry into heaven.

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