

AFRICA

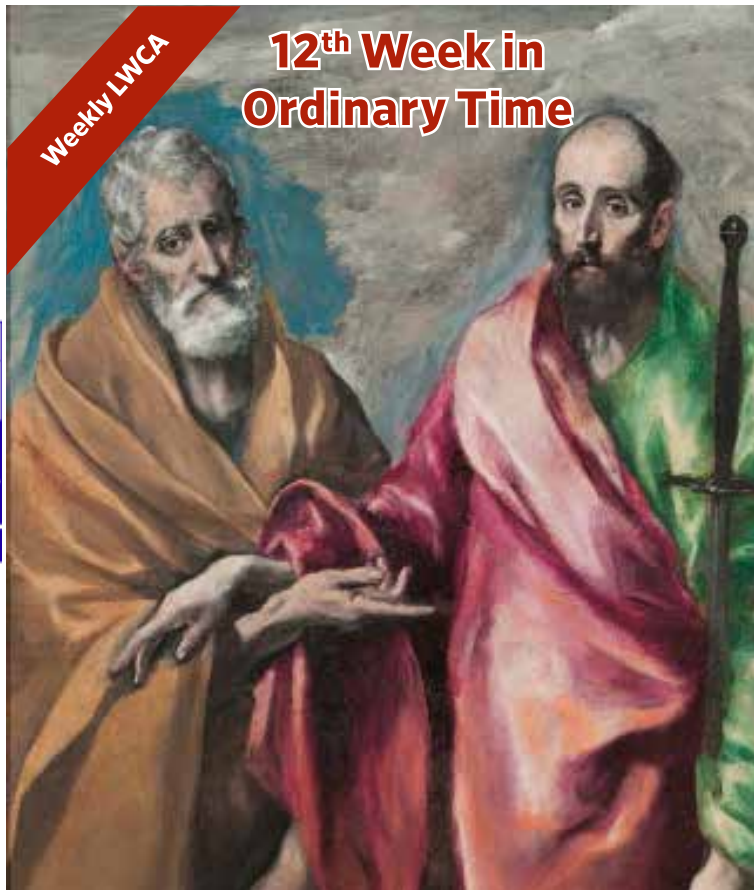
Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

12th Week in
Ordinary Time

bayard africain



Contents

Living with Christ June-July 2023

I Editorial

Praying with the Church

2 Pope's Prayer Intention

3-5 Focus on the Holy Mass

The Liturgy of the Word (second part)

Daily Readings and commentaries

6-14 June 25

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

15-41 June 26-30

12th Week in Ordinary Time

6-11 July 1

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Liturgical texts:

Texts contained in this work derived whole or in part from Daily Missal copyrighted by St Paul Communication/ Daughters of St Paul.

On our cover: Saints Paul and Peter

© Wikimedia commons

Editorial

June 2023



Rev. Fr. Walter C. Ihejirika, Nigeria

Pillars of our Church

This week has a major liturgical celebration: the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. These two apostles are strong pillars of our Catholic faith and assure the historicity and direct link of our faith to the founder Jesus Christ. In this solemnity, we affirm:

First, that we serve a God who delivers his children from unjust oppression as he delivered Peter from the hand of Herod. (Acts 12:1-11). Second, we are confident that after faithfully serving him here on earth, we will be greatly rewarded in heaven. “I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.” (2 Tim 4:6-8,17-18). Through *Living with Christ*, we hold firm our faith and express it boldly in the Church founded on Peter the Rock (Mt 16:13-19) We make effort to be found faithful and worthy of the graces and rewards of God.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the abolition of torture: We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

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

The Liturgy of the Word *(second part)*

After the reading of the Gospel, the priest or the deacon gives the homily. According to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 52), *the homily is to be highly esteemed as part of the liturgy itself; in fact, at those Masses which are celebrated with the assistance of the people on Sundays and feasts of obligation, it should not be omitted except for a serious reason.* In general, a homily is an explanation of the readings. It can also be an explanation of any other liturgical text like the collect, the prayer over the offerings, the preface, the prayer after Communion, etc.

In light of the above, the homily should not be substituted with a meeting during which the celebrant invites the faithful to fund some Parish projects. The homily cannot be considered as an exercise of fraternal correction or a message addressed to a particular person in the assembly. Such deviations must be avoided.

It is important to know that the homily must be given by a priest or a deacon, but never by a layperson. It is important to clarify this liturgical rule. Saying that the

homily cannot be given by a layperson does not mean that a lay person cannot intervene in some contexts. Sometimes it happens that the priest or the deacon cannot give the homily due to a language barrier. In this case, a well-prepared layperson like a catechist can share the word of God. In liturgy, the context must be taken into account in order to avoid some exaggerations.

After the homily, a moment of silence should be observed in order to give the faithful an opportunity to internalise the message that they have heard and to pray that the Lord may give them the grace to put into practice what they have heard. That moment of silence is also meant to let the Holy Spirit continue teaching the faithful since the celebrant cannot exhaust God's Word.

After the moment of silence, it is time for the profession of Faith or Creed. According to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, *the purpose of the Creed is that the congregation may respond to the Word of God as proclaimed. The congregation also honors and confess the great mysteries of faith by pronouncing the rule of faith in a formula approved for liturgical use and before the*

celebration of these mysteries in the Eucharist begins. There are two formulas that can be used: The Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed which is longer and the Apostles' Creed which is shorter.

After the profession of faith, there is the Universal Prayer or the Prayer of the Faithful. The assembly responds to the Word of God and offer prayers to God. Petitions are offered for the needs of the Church, for the public authorities, for the burdened by any kind of difficulty and for the local community. The celebrant begins the Prayer of the Faithful with an introduction and concludes it with prayer.

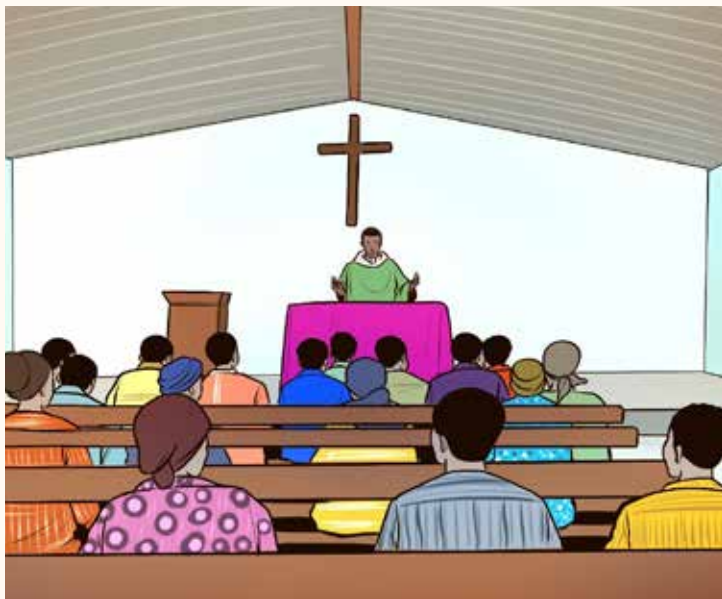
Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Kinshasa, D.R. Congo



Sunday June 25

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Jeremiah 20: 10-13 / Psalm (68) 69: 8-10. 14. 17. 33-35 (14c) /
Romans 5: 12-15 / Matthew 10: 26-33*



So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 10:32)



Commitment in Mission

This Sunday's Word has two essential themes: The encouragement of the Apostles by Jesus and the promise of the victory of life over death given by Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus sends the twelve apostles on a mission to Galilee. Jesus gives them directions for their mission and warns them of the dangers they will encounter. This would probably have led the disciples to be afraid as the mission was presented as high-risk. Today, this still happens to missionaries. They encounter rejection and jealousy. As an assurance, Jesus encourages them, "Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." (Mt 26). He exhorts them to proclaim the Word of God without fear. Jesus says: "Whoever recognizes me before men, I will recognize him before my Father in heaven. But if anyone denies me before men, I will also deny him before my Father in Heaven." (Mt 10:32-33). Prophet Jeremiah lived this reality in the sixth century before Christ. Like all prophets, he was rejected by the people of God. He was mocked for speaking out against their consciences, while remaining faithful to the mission he had received from God. However, God was with him, he assured him that his enemies would fall. Like Jeremiah we must stand firm in our mission as messengers of God's truth. By our baptism we



Sunday June 25

accept to denounce the evils and the vices of this world. We commit ourselves to speak the truth that liberates, is just and consequence is peaceful co existence. Unfortunately, because of the desire for power and materialistic things, we cling to evil. We turn away from Christ and his teachings that draw us to good and the redemption of our sins. Jesus Christ has brought the redemption that leads to eternal life. To live happily, the whole of humanity is called to accept the Good News of salvation announced by the messengers of God. Let us pray that the Lord will grant us his mercy. "... Have mercy on me in your great goodness, save me, you who are faithful. (Psalm 69:14).

Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, , Nairobi-Kenya



Entrance Antiphon (*Psalm (26) 27:8-9*)

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.

Collect

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Jeremiah 20: 10-13*)

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah said: I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! “Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my familiar friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived, then we can overcome him, and take our revenge on him.” But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, who test the righteous, who see the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. Sing



Sunday June 25

to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (68) 69:7-9.13 and 16.32-34)



R. In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame has covered my face.
To my own kin I have become an outcast,
a stranger to the children of my mother.
Zeal for your house consumes me,
and taunts against you fall on me. ***R.***



But I pray to you, O Lord,
for a time of your favour.

In your great mercy, answer me, O God,
with your salvation that never fails.
Lord, answer, for your mercy is kind;
in your great compassion, turn towards me. R.

The poor when they see it will be glad,
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy,
and does not spurn his own in their chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,
the seas and everything that moves in them. R.

Second Reading (Romans 5: 12-15)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: As sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned –sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the



Sunday June 25

trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (*John 15:26b.27a*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The Spirit of truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord; and you also are witnesses. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Matthew 10:26-33*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his apostles, "Have no fear of men; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, utter in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies



me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.”

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 Pope, bishops, priests, deacons and catechists, we pray to the Lord. R.

For our traditional and political leaders in Africa and in the rest of the world, let us cry out to the Lord. R.

For those threatened and killed for their faith, let us cry out to the Lord our God. R.

For a better governance in Africa and in the world, especially in time of social and political crisis, let us pray to the Lord. R.



Sunday June 25

For children, old people, the sick and the victims of terrorism ; for violence, poverty and lack of unity especially in Africa, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (143) 144:15*)

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday June 26

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (26) 27) **The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.**

Collect

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— *(Genesis 12:1-9)*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.” So Abram went, as the



Monday June 26

Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions which they had gathered, and the persons that they had gotten in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. Thence he moved to the mountain on the east

of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and called on the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on, still going towards the Negeb. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (32) 33:12-13.18 -
19.20 and 22)

**R. Blessed the people the
Lord has chosen as his
heritage.**

Blessed the nation
whose God is the Lord, the
people he has chosen as his
heritage. From the heavens
the Lord looks forth; he sees
all the children of men. R.



Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him, Who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. *R.*

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. He is our help and our shield. May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord. *R.*

Acclamation

(Hebrews 4:12)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The word of the Lord is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Matthew 7:1-5)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when there is the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (143) 144:15) **The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

Prayer after Communion

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your

son, we ask of your mercy, pledge of redemption.
O Lord, that what we Through Christ our Lord.
celebrate with constant **Amen.**
devotion may be our sure

Do not Judge

Commentary

Matthew 7:1-5

Do not judge and you will not be judged. What is the meaning of this statement? We risk misinterpreting it. On one hand, to judge is to condemn. We slander others, forgetting that we are not perfect. In doing so, we turn away from the path of mercy. On the other hand, it is necessary to make judgement - in the sense of distinguishing good from evil. We should have the courage to point out wrong doing. (see Lev 19:17; Gal 6:15). Before we pass judgment on others, let us first examine our own conscience.

Rev. Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, Nairobi-Kenya



Tuesday June 27

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: Cyril of Alexandria, bishop and doctor, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (26) 27) **The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.**

Collect

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Reading ————— ***(Genesis 13:2.5-18)***

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And Lot, who went with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents, so that the land could not support both of them dwelling together; for their possessions

were so great they could not dwell together, and there was strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle. At that time the Canaanites and the Perizzites dwelt in the land. Then Abram said to Lot, "Let there be no strife between you and me, and between your herdsmen and my herdsmen; for we are kinsmen. Is not the whole land before you? Separate yourself from me. If you take the left hand, then I will go the right; or if you take the right hand, then I will go to the left." And Lot lifted up his eyes, and saw that the Jordan valley was well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, in the

direction of Zoar; this was before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah. So Lot chose for himself all the Jordan valley, and Lot journeyed east; thus they separated from each other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, while Lot dwelt among the cities of the Valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord. The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes, look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see I will give to you and to your descendants for ever. I will make your descendants

as the dust of the earth;
so that if one can count
the dust of the earth,
your descendants also can
be counted. Arise, walk
through the length and
the breath of the land,
for I will give it to you.”
So Abram moved his tent,
and came and dwelt by the
oaks of Mamre, which are
the Hebron; and there he
built an altar to the Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (14) 15)

**R. Lord, who may abide in
your tent?**

Whoever walks without
fault; who does what
is just, and speaks the
truth from his heart. Who

does not slander with his
tongue. R.

Who does no wrong to
a neighbour, who casts no
slur on a friend, who looks
with scorn on the wicked,
but honours those who
fear the Lord. R.

Who lends no money at
interest, and accepts no
bribes from the innocent.
Such a one shall never be
shaken. R.

Acclamation
(John 8:12)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am
the light of the world, says
the Lord; he who follows
me will have the light of
life. **Alleluia.**



Gospel ————— **(Matthew 7:6.12-14)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Do not give dogs what is holy; and do not throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under foot and turn to attack you. So whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them; for this is the law and the prophets. Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is easy, that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard, that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm (143) 144:15) **The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

Prayer after Communion

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your son, we ask of your mercy,

O Lord, that what we pledge of redemption.
celebrate with constant Through Christ our Lord.
devotion may be our sure **Amen.**

Be Good to your Neighbour

Commentary

Genesis 13:2 – 18

Abram let his nephew Lot choose the side he liked. "Let there be no quarrel between me and you, between my shepherds and your shepherds, for we are brothers. (Gen 13:8). He could choose first the country that suited him, but he leaves the primacy to Lot. God gave him a more fertile land and promised him numerous descendants. He teaches us by this gesture that he who seeks the good of others will never be abandoned by the Lord.

Rev.Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, Nairobi-Kenya



Wednesday June 28

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

St Irenaeus, bishop and martyr

Entrance Antiphon

(Mal 2:6) **The law of truth was in his mouth; no dishonesty was found on his lips. He walked with me in integrity and peace, and turned many away from evil.**

Collect

O God, who called the Bishop Saint Irenaeus to confirm true doctrine and the peace of the Church, grant, we pray, through his intercession, that, being renewed in faith and

charity, we may always be intent on fostering unity and concord. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Genesis 15:1-12.17-18)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: It happened that the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But

Abram said, “O Lord God what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Elieze of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring; and a slave born in my house will be my heir.” And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; your own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the Lord; and he reckoned it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”

But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a she-goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” And he brought him all these, cut them in two, and laid each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram; and behold, a dread and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant



with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river of Euphrates.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 104) 105)***

**℟. The Lord remembers his covenant forever.
or Alleluia.**

Give thanks to the Lord; proclaim his name. Make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! ℟

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts that seek the Lord

rejoice. Turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. ℟

O children of Abraham, his servant, O descendants of the Jacob he chose, he, the Lord, is our God; his judgements are in all the earth. ℟

He remembers his covenant forever; the promise he ordained for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. ℟

***Acclamation
(John 15:4a.5b)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit. **Alleluia.**

Gospel ————— ***(Matthew 7:15-20)***

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit. A sound tree cannot bear evil fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May the sacrifice we offer you with joy on the heavenly birthday of Saint Irenaeus bring you glory, O Lord, and instill in us a love of the truth, so that we may keep the Church’s faith inviolate and her unity secure. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Jn 15:4-5) **Remain in me, and I shall remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me and I in him, will bear much fruit.**



Prayer after Communion

Through these sacred mysteries, we pray, O Lord, give us in your compassion an increase of that faith which brought glory to the Bishop Saint Irenaeus as

he maintained it even until death, and may the same faith bring to us who truly follow its justification in your sight. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Beware of False Prophets

Commentary

Matthew 7, 15-20

In today's gospel Jesus warns us about false prophets. We will recognize them by their fruits. A false prophet is someone who claims to speak on God's behalf when in reality he is lying. Jesus warns that these false prophets will come to you in sheep's clothing. Their appearance is deceptive and their effect is deadly. As Christians, we should keep off from those who teach contrary to the truth. When we recognize false prophets and their false teaching, we will be protecting ourselves and others.

Rev. Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, Nairobi-Kenya



Thursday June 29

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Solemnity

Sts Peter And Paul, Apostles

Entrance Antiphon

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their blood; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

The Gloria in excelsis is said.

Collect

O God, who on the solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul, give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that

your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading ————— ***(Acts 12:1-11)***

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the Church. He killed

James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell;

and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has

sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God,**

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (33) 34:2-3,4-5,6-7,8-9)

R. From all my terrors, the Lord set me free.

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad. *R.*

Glorify the Lord with me; / together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord, and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. *R.*

Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. This lowly one called; the Lord heard, and rescued him from all his distress. *R.*

The angel of the Lord is encamped around those who fear him, to rescue them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him. *R.*

Second Reading —
(2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the

good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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 16:13-19)

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord, accompany the sacrificial

gift that we present to your name for consecration, and may their intercession make us devoted to you in celebration of the sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface: The twofold mission of Peter and Paul in the Church.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, Holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For by your providence the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul bring us joy: Peter, foremost in confessing the faith, Paul, its outstanding preacher, Peter, who established the early Church from the remnant of Israel, Paul, master and



teacher of the Gentiles that you call. And so, each in a different way gathered together the one family of Christ; and revered together throughout the world, they share one Martyr's crown. And therefore, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts ...**

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 16:16.18) **Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant us, O Lord, who have been renewed by this Sacrament, so to live in the

Church, that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread and in the teaching of the Apostles, we may be one heart and one soul, made steadfast in your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

To You who Is Jesus?

Commentary

Matthew 16: 13-19

Today we celebrate two important figures; St. Peter the foundation of the Church and St. Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, fearless missionary. Jesus in the Gospel asks his disciples: "And who do you say that I am?" (Mt 16:15). Who is Jesus to us? Is he a God of miracles or a God who loves the suffering and supports the sick, or a God who is helpful when we are in need? Like Peter, Jesus must be our salvation, our hope and our truth. Through the intercession of St. Peter and Paul, may we keep our faith.

Rev. Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, Nairobi-Kenya



Friday June 30

12th Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: First Martyrs of the Church of Rome, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm 27:8-9) **The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.**

Collect

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of

your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(Genesis 17:1.9-10.15-22)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.” And God said to Abraham, “As for you, you shall keep

my covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your descendants after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised." And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her; I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a

child?" And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I will bless him and make him fruitful and multiply him exceedingly; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." When he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 128:1-2.3.4-5 (R. 4)***

**R. Indeed thus shall be
blessed the man who fears
the Lord.**

Blessed are all who fear
the Lord, and walk in his
ways! By the labour of
your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and
prosper: R.

Your wife like a fruitful
vine in the heart of your
house; your children like
shoots of the olive around
your table. R.

Indeed thus shall be
blessed the man who fears
the Lord. May the Lord
bless you from Sion. May
you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life! R.

***Acclamation
(Matthew 8:17)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ
took our infirmities and
bore our diseases. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Matthew 8:1-4)***

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Mat-
thew**

When Jesus came down
from the mountain, great
crowds followed him; and
behold, a leper came to
him and knelt before him,
saying, "Lord, if you will, you
can make me clean." And he
stretched out his hand and
touched him, saying, "Will;
be clean." And immediately
his leprosy was cleansed.
And Jesus said to him, "See
that you say nothing to any
one; but go, show yourself to

the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to the people.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm 144:15) **The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

Or: (Jn 10:11.15)

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your



Son, we ask of your mercy, pledge of redemption.
O Lord, that what we Through Christ our Lord.
celebrate with constant **Amen.**
devotion may be our sure

Keep the Commandment of God

Commentary

Genesis 17: 1, 9-10, 15-22

In Genesis, God said to Abram: "I am the almighty God, walk before me and be perfect" (Gen 17:1). Abram respected the instruction and God gave him numerous descendants making him the father of a multitude (Abraham). This is proof that God always keeps his covenant. Jesus, a descendant of Abraham through David, became the salvation of mankind. Jesus came to save the lost, strengthen the weak and heal the sick.

Rev. Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, Nairobi-Kenya



Saturday July 1

12th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or Saturday mass of B.V. Mary

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 27:8-9) **The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them forever.**

Collect

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— (Genesis 18:1-15)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: The Lord appeared to Abraham by the Oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men stood in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the earth, and said, “My lord, if

I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I fetch a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes.” And Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds, and milk, and the calf which he had prepared, and set it before them; and he

stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “She is in the tent.” The Lord said, “I will surely return to you in the spring, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, in the

spring, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “No, but you did laugh.” The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Luke 1:46-47.48-49.50
and 53.54-55 (R. 54b))***

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

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour. R.

For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed: for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. R.

And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. R.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity for ever. R.

Acclamation
(Matthew 8:17)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ took our infirmities and bore our diseases. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 8:5-17)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: As Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, begging him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralysed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority with soldiers under me and I say to one Go and he goes and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marvelled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found

such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; let it be done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment. And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all

who were sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps 144:15) **The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.**

Or: Jn 10:11.15

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy,

O Lord, that what we pledge of redemption.
celebrate with constant Through Christ our Lord.
devotion may be our sure **Amen.**

Fulfillment of the Promises of God

Commentary

**Genesis 18: 1-15,
Matthew 8: 5-17**

God never makes false promises. He fulfils all promises he makes. Thus, despite the doubts of Sarah, Abraham's wife, Isaac is born in miraculous circumstances. In the first reading, God in human guise comes to ask his friend for hospitality before showering him with his blessings. Jesus remains the manifest face of God's mercy. Moreover, the Gospel says: "He took our weaknesses, He himself bore our diseases. God is always close to those who keep their faith in him.

Rev. Fr. Jean- Paul Sakoto, Nairobi-Kenya



Publisher : Cédric BLOQUET

Publishing & Development Manager

Editor in Chief: Rev. Fr. François NZANZU a.a.

Assistant: Rev. Fr. Jean-Claude DIWEDIGA a.a.

Editorial Secretary: Virginia KABUGU

Graphic designer: Naomi SAWADOGO

Ghana Coordinator: Rev. Fr. Dennis OPOKU;

Associate Publishers: Fr. Walter Ihejirika, Regional Coordinator, LWC Nigeria,

Other **Contributors:**

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. KOMBI; Rev. Fr. Jean- Paul SAKOTO.

Digital

ISSN: 2424-7464 ; **Contact:** Living With Christ

Rue E104, Lot 1076 Ilot 116 - Cocody Riviera 3 Abidjan , Côte d'Ivoire

Address: P.O. BOX 08 BP 2469 Abidjan 08 -

Phone number : (+225) 25 22 02 11 11 -

E-mail: info@livingwithchrist-africa.com





WhatsApp : **+225 05 94 79 75 68 / +254727074304**



Website : **[https:// www.livingwithchrist.africa](https://www.livingwithchrist.africa)**



Facebook : **Living with Christ Africa**



Tiktok



YouTube

Growing up Daily with the Good News