

Weekly LWCA

**14th Week in
Ordinary Time**

bayard afrique

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Editorial

July 2023



Rev. Fr. Elvis Mensah,
Accra Ghana

When was your Last Confession?

There are seven Sacraments in the Roman Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance or Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders.

One of the above Sacraments which seems to have a low level of patronage is Confession. There have been countless occasions that I have been to the confessional with few faithful coming for Confession as against the greater numbers who receive the Holy Eucharist on Sunday.

The question is, why the low turn-out? What is actually preventing communicants from the confessional? Do communicants doubt the vow of secrecy?

Irrespective of the reason, my observation is indicative of the fact that people find it difficult approaching a Priest for Confession.

In this month of July, I encourage you to embrace the Sacrament. Enough of the excuses. Go for Confession. If God isn't tired in forgiving you, you shouldn't be tired in forgiving yourself through Confession.



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

The 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 9

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Zechariah 9: 9-10 / Psalm 145: 1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13-14 /
Romans 8: 9. 11-13 / Matthew 11: 25-30*



Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)



God Alone is Our Peace

Are you currently faced with a lot of trials? Is your heart burdened? Are you experiencing pain or loss at this moment?

1. Put to Death all that is Sinful within you. Saint Paul says in today's second reading: "we are debtors, not to the flesh... if you live according to the flesh, you will die but if you live by the spirit, you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Truly, being worldly-minded, living according to the flesh only brings about frustration. When we fail to trust and obey God, we become like the "wise and understanding" from whom secrets of the kingdom are hidden. Every sin is a rejection of God and an abuse of freedom that God gave to us.

2. Learn from Jesus – Forgive and Forget. In his joy, Jesus presents a special invitation to every one of us who may be troubled, disturbed, harassed and rejected like sheep without a shepherd. And what is this invitation? "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me. (Matthew 11:28-29) Coming to Jesus implies learning from Him. We



Sunday July 9

cannot say we have truly come to Jesus if we fail to learn from Him. And what do we learn from Jesus? Forgiveness (non-violence).

3. Learn from Jesus – Be Humble and Gentle. In a world where people would rather have their way by violence, Jesus wants us to learn from his simplicity, gentleness and lowliness. Jesus said: “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” We often wrongly assume that we can be happy by lording it over others but Jesus teaches us to do the opposite. Our first reading today states: “Behold your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he (yet), humble and riding on a donkey.” Humility is not a sign of weakness rather it is a sign of courage and great inner strength.

In conclusion, leave it for God. Stop worrying over your problems. By worrying, we magnify our problems and God appears lesser in our eyes. Know that God alone holds the Key to your Happiness.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Ps (46) 47: 10-11*)

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Through our Lord...

First Reading (Zechariah 9:9-10) —————

A reading from the book of the Prophet Zechariah

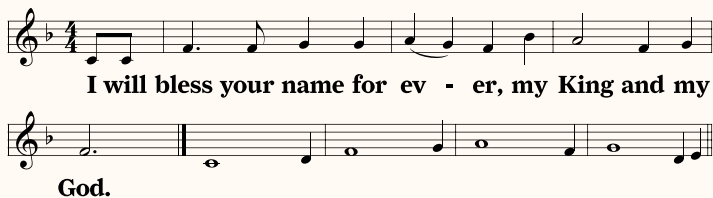
Thus says the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

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



Sunday July 9

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Ps ⁽¹⁴⁴⁾ 145:1-2.8-9.10-11.13cd-14)



**R. I will bless your name forever, my king and my God.
Or Alleluia**

I will extol you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name forever and ever. **R.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,
and all your faithful ones bless you.



They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds. R.

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall,
and raises up all who are bowed down. R.

Second Reading (Romans 8:9.11-13) —————

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brethren: You are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God really dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body you will live.

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



Sunday July 9

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 11:25-30*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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



Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

R. Lord, hear us!

For good leaders in Africa and in other parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. **R.**

For more fruitful apostolates and pastoral works and for personal experience with Christ, let us pray to the Lord our God. **R.**

For those who still do not believe in Christ, for our salvation and the salvation of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. **R.**

For peace, mercy, and food security in Africa. Let us pray to the Lord our God. **R.**

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Sunday July 9

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (32) 33:9*)

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Monday July 10

14th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (46) 47: 10-11) **Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with saving justice.**

Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Genesis 28:10-22a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: Jacob left Beersheba, and went towards Haran. And he came to a certain place, and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And



Monday July 10

behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants; and your descendants shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you" Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I did not know it." And he was afraid,

and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone which he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first. Then Jacob made a vow, saying, "If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father's house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (90) 91)

R. O my God, I trust in you.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shade of the Almighty, says to the Lord, “My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!” R.

He will free you from the snare of the fowler, from the destructive plague; he will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge. R.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him, protect him, for he knows my name. when he calls on me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress. R.

Acclamation
(2 Timothy 1:10)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(Matthew 9:18-26)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: While Jesus was speaking, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. And behold, a woman who had suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years came up

behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, I shall be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house, and saw the flute players, and the crowd making a tumult, he said, “Depart; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. And the

report of this went through all that district.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven. Through Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (32) 33) **Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that having been replenished by such great gifts, we

may gain the prize of the salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Practical Faith
Against all Odds****Commentary****Matthew 9:18-26**

In today's Gospel passage, we meet two persons who were in very tough situations - a ruler whose daughter had just died and a woman who suffered from a haemorrhage for twelve years. What is so beautiful about these two was that they had the courage to approach Jesus and believed strongly that Jesus would offer a solution. The ruler went to invite Jesus to bring his daughter back to life. The woman said to herself "If only I touch his garment, I shall be made well." Faith does not begin with the miracle, rather it attracts the miracle.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Tuesday July 11

14th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Benedict, abbot

Entrance Antiphon

There was a man of venerable life, Benedict, blessed by grace and by name, who, leaving home and patrimony and desiring to please God alone, sought out the habit of holy living.

Collect

O God, who made the Abbot Saint Benedict an outstanding master in the school of divine service, grant, we pray, that putting nothing before love of you, we may hasten with a loving heart in the way of

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

Reading ————— **(Genesis 32:22-32)**

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: Jacob arose at night and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. And Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled

with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and Jacob's thigh was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then he said, "Your name shall no more be called Jacob but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Tell me, I pray, your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying,

"For I have seen God face to face and yet my life is preserved." The sun arose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his thigh. Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the sinew of the hip, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh on the sinew of the hip. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (16) 17)***

***R.* In justice, I shall behold
your face.**

O Lord, hear a cause that is just, pay heed to my cry. Turn your ear to my prayer: no deceit is on my lips. *R.*

From you may my justice come forth. Your eyes discern what is upright. Search my heart and visit me by night. Test me by fire, and you will find no wrong in me. *R.*

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God. Turn your ear to me; hear my words. Display your merciful love. By your right hand you deliver from their foes those who put their trust in you. *R.*

Guard me as the apple of your eye. Hide me in the shadow of your wings. As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; when I awake I shall be filled with the vision of your presence. *R.*

Acclamation

(2 Timothy 1:10)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own, and my own know me. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Matthew 9:32-38)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Behold, a mute demoniac was brought to Jesus. And when the demon had been cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds marvelled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went



about all the cities and villages, preaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Look kindly, Lord, upon these holy offerings, which we make in honour of Saint Benedict, and grant that, by following his example in seeking you, we may merit the gifts of unity in your service and of peace. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Lk 12:42) **This is the servant, faithful and wise, whom the Lord set over his household to give them their measure of wheat in due season.**

Prayer after Communion

Having received this pledge of eternal life, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, attentive to the teaching of Saint Benedict,

we may faithfully serve your designs and love one another with fervent charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Rich Harvest but Only Few Labourers

Commentary

Matthew 9:32-36

While Jesus was going about healing the sick and freeing those oppressed by demons, some persons from among the crowds criticised him saying He was doing all that by the power of Beelzebul. Dear Friend, do you constantly catch yourself complaining about others? When Jesus saw the huge crowds of people in need of healing, He was so moved with compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus concluded that the harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few and immediately asks that we pray to God to send more labourers.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Wednesday July 12

14th week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (46) 47: 10-11) **Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with saving justice.**

Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a.17-24a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread; and Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do.” So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to

Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth. Thus the sons of Israel came to Egypt to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. Now Joseph was governor over the land; he it was who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came, and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers, and knew them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. And he put them all together in prison for three days. On the third day, Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: If you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined in prison, and let the rest go and carry

grain for the famine of your households, and bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so. Then they said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us and we would not listen; therefore is this distress come upon us." And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the lad? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. Then he turned away from them and wept.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (32) 33)

R. May your merciful love
be upon us, as we hope in
you, O Lord.

or: Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord
upon the harp; with a
ten-stringed lute sing him
songs. O sing him a song
that is new; play skilfully,
with shouts of joy. **R.**

The Lord frustrates the
designs of the nations; he
defeats the plans of the
peoples. The designs of
the Lord stand forever, the
plans of his heart from age
to age. **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.**

Acclamation

(Mark 1:15)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The
kingdom of God is at hand;
repent, and believe in the
Gospel. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —

(Matthew 10:1-7)

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

At that time: Jesus called
to him his twelve disciples
and gave them authority
over unclean spirits, to cast
them out, and to heal every
disease and every infirmity.
The names of the twelve
apostles are these: first

Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These Twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying. 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (32) 33) **Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that having been replenished by such great gifts, we

may gain the prize of the salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Evil We Do Lives with Us

Commentary

Genesis 41:55-57.42:5-7.17-24.

When Joseph's brothers were being wicked to him, they felt they could cut short his dreams but unknown to them, they were indirectly making those dreams a reality. The same Joseph that was considered unnecessary by his brothers became Governor of Egypt. Learn to treat your assistants, your subordinates, your employees, and those beneath your rank with love and respect. You don't know what God has planned for their future. The evil we do lives with us.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Thursday July 13

14th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or St Henry, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (46) 47: 10-11) **Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with saving justice.**

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

Reading —————
(Genesis 44:18-21.23b-29; 45:1-5)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow

In those days: Judah went up to Joseph and said, “O my lord, let your servant, I beg you, speak a word in my lord’s ears, and let not your anger burn against your servant; for you are like Pharaoh himself. My

lord asked his servants saying, ‘Have you a father, or a brother?’ And we said to my lord, ‘We have a father, an old man, and a young brother, the child of his old age; and his brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother’s children; and his father loves him’. Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me, that I may set my eye upon him. Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall see my face no more.’ When we went back to your servant my father we told him the words of my lord. And when our father said, ‘Go again, buy us a little food,’ we said, ‘We cannot go down. If our youngest brother goes with us, then we will go

down; for we cannot see the man’s face unless our youngest is with us.’ Then your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons; one left me, and I said, ‘Surely he has been torn to pieces; and I have never seen him since. If you take this one also from me, and harm befalls him, you will bring down my grey hairs in sorrow to Sheol.’” Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him; and cried, “Make every one go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said

to his brothers, “I am Joseph; is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, I beg you.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; God sent me before you to preserve life.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

**R. Remember the wonders
the Lord has done.**

or: Alleluia.

But he called down a famine on the land; he broke their staff of bread. He had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, sold as a slave. R.

His feet were weighted down in chains, his neck was bound with iron, until what he said came to pass, and the word of the Lord proved him true. R.

Then the king sent orders and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free. He made him master of his

house and ruler of all his possessions. R.

Acclamation

(Mark 1:15)

Alleluia. Alleluia. The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the Gospel. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Matthew 10:7-15)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his apostles, “Preach as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without pay, give

without pay. Take no gold, no silver, nor copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff; for the labourer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it, and stay with him until you depart. As you enter the house, salute it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace return to you. And if any one will not receive you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly, I say to you, it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.”

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation,
dedicated to your name
purify us, O Lord, and day
by day bring our conduct
closer to the life of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (32) 33) **Taste and see
that the Lord is good.
Blessed the man who
seeks refuge in him.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the

prize of the salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Learning to Forgive: Lessons from Joseph

Commentary

Genesis 44:18-21,23-29;45:1-5,

Joseph had every moral justification to deal mercilessly with his brothers but found a way to forgive them. Joseph saw a higher purpose in their wicked act – he was able to understand that his sufferings and pains, were all for a reason; that even though his brothers never meant well for him, God sent him ahead of them to preserve life. Have you been deeply offended in the past? Sometimes God allows such painful experience to happen only because He knows that something good could come out of it. Let go the grudge.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Friday July 14

14th week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or **St Camillus de Lellis**, (*Optional Memorial*)

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (46) 47: 10-11) **Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with saving justice.**

Collect

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow

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

Reading ————— (Genesis 46:1-7.28-30)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days: Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night, and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here am I.” Then he said, “I am

God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again; and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes." Then Jacob set out from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. They also took their cattle and their goods, which they had gained in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob and all his offspring with him, his sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters; all his offspring he brought with him into Egypt. He sent Judah before him to Joseph, to appear

before him in Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. Then Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck, and wept on his neck a good while. Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm ⁽³⁶⁾ 37)***

***R. From the Lord comes
the salvation of the just.***

Trust in the Lord and do good; then you will dwell in the land and safely

pasture. Find your delight in the Lord, who grants your heart's desire. *R.*

The Lord takes note of the days of the blameless; their heritage will last forever. They shall not be put to shame in evil days; in time of famine they shall have their fill. *R.*

Then turn away from evil and do good, and you may abide forever; for indeed, the Lord loves justice, and will never forsake his faithful. The unjust shall be wiped out forever, and the descendants of the wicked destroyed. *R.*

But from the Lord comes the salvation of the Just, their stronghold in time of distress. The Lord helps them and rescues them, rescues and saves them

from the wicked: because they take refuge in him. *R.*

Acclamation

(John 16:13a; 14:26d)

Alleluia. Alleluia. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————

(Matthew 10:16-23)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his apostles, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you

up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how you are to speak or what you are to say; what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and the children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one

town, flee to the next; for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel, before the Son of man comes.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (32) 33) **Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that having been replenished by such great gifts, we

may gain the prize of the salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Innocent as Doves but
Wise as Serpents****Commentary****Matthew 10:16-23**

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus makes His disciple understand that building God's kingdom is never an easy task. Preaching light to a world that prefers darkness, can be likened to sheep moving in the midst of wolves. Now the question is: "how will Christians survive in a world that prefers darkness?" Jesus recommends two things. One, to be wise like a snake. Two, to be innocent as a dove. Do not permit hatred in your own heart no matter what. Jesus wants us to be innocent; that is, pure in our hearts.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



Saturday July 15

14th week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Bonaventure, bishop

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps (15) 16:15) As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, just as we celebrate the heavenly birthday of the Bishop Saint Bonaventure, we may benefit from his great learning and constantly imitate the ardour of his charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Genesis 49:29-33; 50:15-26a)

A reading from the book of Genesis

In those days: Jacob charged his sons, and said to them, “I am to be gathered to my people; bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite, in the cave that is in the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with

the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as burying place. There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah - the field and the cave that is in it were purchased from the Hittites." When Jacob finished charging his sons, he drew up his feet into the bed, and breathed his last, and was gathered to his people. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil which we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, forgive, I pray you, the transgression

of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you' And now, we beg you, forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him, and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Fear not, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you, and your little ones." Then he reassured them and comforted them. So Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he and his father's house; and Joseph lived a hundred and ten years. And Joseph

saw Ephraim's children of the third generation; the children also of Machir the son of Manasseh were born upon Joseph's knees. And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die; but God will visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land which he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." Then Joseph took an oath of the sons of Israel, saying, "God will visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (104) 105)

R. You who are poor, seek God, and your hearts will revive.

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! *R.*

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. *R.*

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

Acclamation (*John 16:13a; 14:26d*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of God rests upon you. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —————
(*Matthew 10:16-23*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus said to his apostles, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master; it is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master

of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them; 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 everyone 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 over the Offerings

Look upon the offerings of the Church, O Lord, as she makes her prayer to you, and grant that, when

consumed by those who believe, they may bring ever greater holiness. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (82) 83:4-5) **The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise.**

Prayer after Communion

Having consumed these gifts, we pray, O Lord, that by our participation in this

mystery, its saving effects upon us may grow. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fear Not: Trust in God's Forgiveness**Commentary****Genesis 49:29-33, 50:15-26**

After their father's death, the brothers of Joseph were not convinced that Joseph had truly forgiven them. So, they went to prostrate themselves before Joseph to ask for pardon. It is interesting to note that Joseph's forgiveness came before, not after his brothers offered their apology. There are times we still feel guilty even after we have gone for confession. We feel we haven't been forgiven by God yet. As Joseph assured his brothers, we need to let go of our fears and trust completely in God's mercy.

Rev. Fr. Abu Evaristus, Nigeria



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