

AFRICA

# Living with Christ

GROWING UP DAILY WITH THE GOOD NEWS

Weekly LWCA

**31<sup>st</sup> Week in O. T.**

bayard afrique



AFRICA ● 30-31 October - 1-5 November 2022 ● Digital n°05

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#### **Liturgical texts:**

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**On our cover:** ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR, OCT 07: People during the mass of Father Pedro Opeka in the village of Akamasoa, Antananarivo, Madagascar on oct 07, 2007. Father Pedro is nominated Nobel Peace Prize 2013.

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# Editorial

November 2022



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

## The church in Heaven and on Earth united

Every year on November 1st, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. In this solemn celebration, the whole church, both in heaven and on the earth, is united. All of us are called to share in the holiness of God and to live holy lives on earth.

In the same month, the Church celebrates two other major Solemnities: the Solemnity of All Souls and Solemnity of Christ the King which marks the end of the liturgical year whereby the cycle of the Church's liturgical celebrations culminates in the beginning of the new liturgical year. The Solemnity of Christ the King is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time. It is also the final Sunday of the liturgical year, the last Sunday before the First Sunday of Advent. This year, the Solemnity of Christ the King will be celebrated on November 20th. Sunday, November 27th will be the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Liturgical Year A.



# The Pope's Prayer Intention

***For children who suffer:*** We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

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

### **The Sacrament Of Penance**

**T**he sacrament of penance is also called sacrament of reconciliation. It was instituted by Jesus Christ. After his resurrection, he appeared to his disciples and gave them the power to remit sins as written in John 20, 23: «If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven».

The sacrament of penance is one of the two sacraments of healing. Sin is a spiritual illness. Sin breaks two fundamental relationships: the relationship between God and the sinner; the relationship between the Church and the sinner. After confession, many people experience inner peace because they can definitely feel the relationship between them and God and they can participate fully in the Eucharist. Therefore, the sacrament of penance heals the penitent bringing them from darkness to Light.

The minister of the sacrament of reconciliation is the priest or the bishop. A deacon or any other minister

cannot hear confessions because they are not ordained to the priesthood. It is important to say that the penitent does not confess his sins to the priest, but to God represented by the priest. He is an instrument that God uses to convey his mercy to humankind. God is full of mercy and compassion for his children. He is ready to forgive them whenever they ask for forgiveness.

At the end of the sacrament of confession, the minister (*priest or bishop*) proposes a penance to the penitent. Penance is not punishment meant to humiliate the penitent. It is rather a prayer that the penitent recites to thank the Lord for his mercy and to ask for his grace. It can also be a work of mercy that the penitent is asked to perform during a certain period of time. The minister must be welcoming. His role is not to embarrass but to give hope by showing God's love to the penitent.

The sacrament of Penance is not to be confused with spiritual direction. A spiritual director helps a person or a couple or a family to grow in their human, Christian or religious life. But the sacrament of Penance has to do with the confession of sins. Nevertheless, spiritual direction can lead to confession and confession may lead

to spiritual direction. The sacrament requires human presence. One cannot confess their sins on phone or through social media.

According to the canon Law (can. 989), after having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully their grave sins at least once a year. The matter of the sacrament of penance is contrition, confession, desire to amend life, and making of reparation by doing what the minister gives as penance. The form is made up of the following words pronounced by the minister: "...N, I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

In a general way, the sacrament of penance takes place in the confessional, a kind of box where the priest hears the confessions of the penitent. It can be administered elsewhere provided the place is fitting.

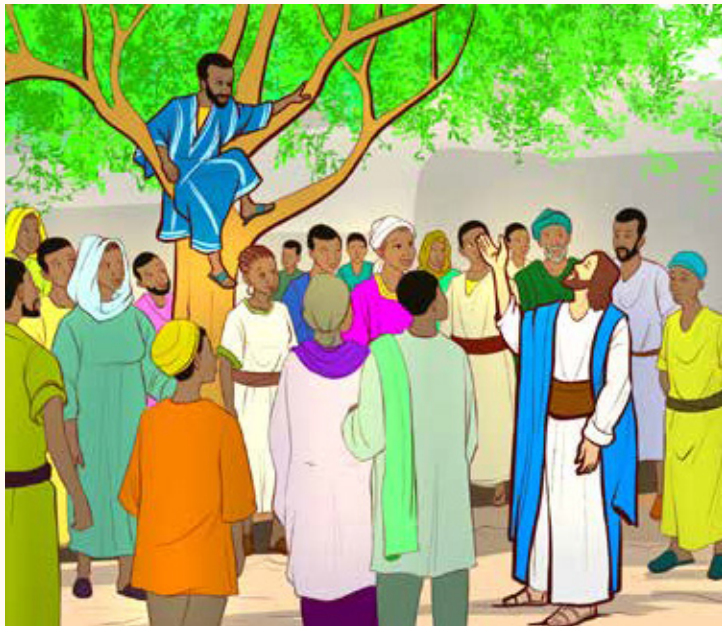
***Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,***  
*Rome-Italy*



# Sunday October 30

## 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Wisdom 11:22-12:2 / Psalm (144) 145:1-2. 8-9. 10-11. 13cd-14 / 2  
Thessalonians 1:11-2:2 / Luke 19:1-10*



“So, he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him.”





## *What Can I Learn from Zaccheus?*

**T**he gospel of today talks about the conversion of Zacchaeus, the man presented in the bible as short and rich. Despite his riches, he was never happy. Nobody wanted to befriend him. His town mates hated him because of working with and for the Romans. To them, Zacchaeus was a deceitful man and a traitor.

With Jesus, this chief tax collector, who was using his power and position in the government of his time to steal the money of his country, decided to take steps for a complete change in his life. He shows everyone that total conversion is possible. through his encounter with Jesus. He immediately decided to give half of his money to the poor and made restitution for the frauds of which he had been self-confessedly guilty. He does this because he finds in Jesus a new and wonderful friend. Just like some of us, Zacchaeus was probably thinking that being wealthy could give him security and happiness. When he meets Jesus, he finds in him the source of true happiness, and security. A



**Sunday** October 30

real friend indeed. He felt secure and satisfied when Jesus said he was to have lunch in his home. It was a privilege he had never had in his life.

Zacchaeus is happy to receive Jesus in his home. He promises in front of the public to change his life. He feels guilty about the injustices he had done to the people. How many times have we met Jesus? It could be through the Holy Eucharist or other circumstances and have we been inspired to change our way of life? Do we feel guilty about our sins and confess them? There is a lot to learn from the story of Zacchaeus.

***Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo a.a -Nairobi-Kenya***



**Entrance Antiphon** (*Psalm (37) 38:22-23*)

**Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!**

**Collect**

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading** (*Wisdom 11:22-12:2*)

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

Lord, the whole world before you is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls upon the ground. But you are merciful to all, for you can do all things, and you overlook men's sins, that they may repent. For you love all things that exist, and you loathe none of the things which you have made, for you would not have made anything if you had hated it. How would anything have endured if you had not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by you have been preserved? You spare all things, for they are yours, O Lord who love the living. For your immortal spirit is in all things. Therefore you correct little by little

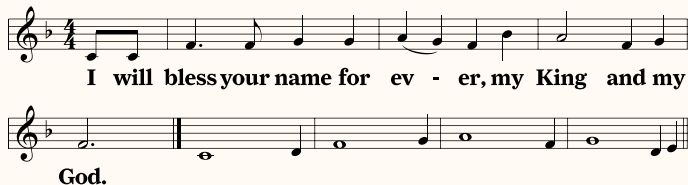


Sunday October 30

those who trespass, and remind and warn them of the things wherein they sin, that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in you, O Lord.

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

***Responsorial Psalm (Psalm <sup>(144)</sup> 145:1-2.8-9. 10-11. 13cd-14)*** —————



***R.* I will bless your name for ever, my king and my God.**

I will extol you, my God and king,  
and bless your name for ever and ever.

I will bless you day after day,  
and praise your name for ever 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 (2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2)*** —————  
**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians**

Brethren: We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

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



Sunday October 30

**Acclamation** (*John 3:16*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should have eternal life. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** (*Luke 19:1-10*)

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

At that time: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So, he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So, he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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 our Church in its mission to further the reign of God in the world, we pray to the Lord: R.

For wisdom, selflessness and humility in those committed to public service, we pray to the Lord: R.

For strength and comfort for all who are suffering physically, spiritually or emotionally, we pray to the Lord: R.

For our parish community, challenged to see the face of Christ in everyone, we pray to the Lord: R.

## **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Communion Antiphon** (*Psalm (15) 16:11*)

**You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**



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**Or:**

*(John. 6:58)*

**Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me shall have life because of me, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**





# Monday October 31

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Psalm (37) 38:22-23)* **Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!**

## Collect

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading ————— *(Philippians 2:1-4)*

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brethren: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own

interests, but also to the interests of others.

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

***Responsorial Psalm***——  
***(Psalm (130) 131)***

**R. Keep my soul in peace  
at your side, O Lord**

O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor haughty my eyes. I have not gone after things too great, nor marvels beyond me. R

Truly, I have set my soul in tranquillity and silence. As a weaned child on its mother. as a weaned child is my soul within me. R

O Israel, wait for the Lord, both now and forever. R

**Acclamation**  
***(John 8:31b-32)***

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel***——  
***(Luke 14.12-14)***

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

At that time: Jesus said to the ruler who belonged to the Pharisees, who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the



lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (15) 16:11)* **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

*or*

*(John 6: 58)* **Just as the living Father sent me and I had life because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me shall have life because of me, says the Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase

in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Unconditional Hospitality**

## **Commentary**

**Luke 14:12-14**

Hospitality is required of all people and cultures. Africans are known for this practice and I hope that this tradition will live on. It is also a religious obligation on each one of us as Christians to be unconditionally hospitable and generous. Our hospitality should not be selective. As providers of hospitality, we must always be sensitive to the needs of others especially those not in a position to pay us back: less privileged and those abled differently.

***Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo a.a,***  
*Nairobi-Kenya*



# Tuesday November 1

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## ***Solemnity***

All saints

### **Entrance Antiphon**

**Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of the God.**

### **The Gloria in excelsis**

*(Glory to God in the highest)* **is said.**

### **Collect**

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow

on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***First Reading* ————— (Revelation 7:2-4.9-14)**

**A reading from the Book of Revelation**

I, John, saw another angel ascend from the rising of

the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God upon their foreheads.” And I heard the number of the sealed, a hundred and forty-four thousand sealed, out of every tribe of the sons of Israel. After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation

belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!” And all the angels stood round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.” Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” And he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”

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

seek him, who seek the face of  
the God of Jacob. *R.*

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(23)</sup> 24:1-2.3-4ab.5-6)***

*R.* These are the people who  
seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord's is the earth  
and its fullness, the world,  
and all who dwell in it. It is  
he who set it on the seas; on  
the rivers, he made it firm. *R.*

Who shall climb the  
mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy  
place? The clean of hands  
and the pure of the heart,  
whose soul is not set on vain  
things. *R.*

Blessings from the Lord  
shall he receive, and right re-  
ward from the God who saves  
him. Such are the people who

***Second Reading —  
(1John3:1-3)***

**A reading from the first  
Letter of Saint John**

Beloved: See what love the  
Father has given us, that we  
should be called children  
of God; and so we are. The  
reason why the world does  
not know us is that it did  
not know him. Beloved, we  
are God's children now; it  
does not yet appear what  
we shall be, but we know  
that when he appears we  
shall be like him, for we  
shall see him as he is. And  
everyone who thus hopes in  
him purifies himself as he is  
pure.

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

**Acclamation** (*Matthew 11:28*)

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
(*Matthew 5:1-12a*)

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

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”





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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints be pleasing to you, O Lord, and grant that, just as we believe the Saints to be already assured of the immortality, so we may experience their concern for our salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Matthew 5:8-10)* **Blessed is the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

As we adore you, O God, who alone are holy and wonderful in all your Saints, we implore your

grace, so that coming to perfect holiness in the fullness of your love, we may pass from this pilgrim table to the banquet of our heavenly homeland. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Who Are the Saints we Are Celebrating Today?**

### **Commentary**

**Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14**

As we remember all the saints, we are called to ask ourselves “What will happen to us when we shall die? Today’s celebration is focused on all the saints of Heaven, but especially on those we could call the little people of Heaven: those obscure, un-canonized, un-beatified, uncelebrated, and anonymous saints whose names are not found in the liturgical calendar of the Church. These saints could be our deceased grandparents, parents, husbands and wives, uncles and aunts, teachers and other professionals. They did nothing extraordinary but they knew how to love and be good. Following their examples, let us also learn to love and to be good as we live the beatitudes.

***Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo,***  
*Nairobi-Kenya*



# Wednesday November 2

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## ***The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed***

**(All Souls' Day)**

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(1 Thes 4:14; 1 Cor 15:22)*

**Just as Jesus died and has risen again, so through Jesus God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be brought to life.**

### **Collect**

Listen kindly to our prayers, O Lord, and, as our faith in your Son, raised from the dead, is deepened, so may our hope of resurrection for your departed servants also

find new strength. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***First Reading*** ————— ***(Job 19:1.23-27b)***

**A reading from the Book of Job**

Job answered: “Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! Oh, that with an iron pen and lead they were graven in the rock for ever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at last he will stand upon the

earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then from my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

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

***Responsorial Psalm —***  
***(Psalm (22) 23:1-3.4.5.6)***

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

**or: Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me.**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are

the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul. R.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of the death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. R.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. R.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending. R.

**Second Reading** —————  
**(Romans 5:5-11)**

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

Brethren: Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man — though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall

we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. Not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. **Alleluia.**

## ***Gospel*** ————— ***(Matthew 5:1-12a)***

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

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are

those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Look favourably on our offerings, O Lord, so that your departed servants may be taken up into glory with your Son, in whose great mystery of love we are all united. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## Communion Antiphon

*(John 11:25-26)* **I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.**

## Prayer after Communion

Grant we pray, O Lord, that your departed servants, for whom we have celebrated this paschal Sacrament, may pass over to a dwelling place of light and peace. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Why Should We Pray for the Departed Soul?

## Commentary

**Romans 5:5-11**

Today, we commemorate all the Faithful Departed in purgatory. Why do we celebrate this feast? To pray for the dead is therefore an act of charity and of piety, certainly obligatory for a Christian who professes to have charity in his heart. We read in the Holy Scripture: "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins," (2 Maccabees 12:46). Through our prayers, let us, therefore, keep praying to God that the purgation be shortened and all our faithful departed be forgiven of the sins they had committed. We pray that their struggle be shortened and that their repose be peaceful.

**Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo,**  
*Nairobi-Kenya*



# Thursday November 3

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## *Ferial*

or Saint Martin de Porres, religious

### **Entrance Antiphon**

*(Ps (37) 38:22-23)* Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

### **Collect**

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *First Reading* ————— *(Philippians 3:3-8a)*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brethren: We are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh. Though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If any other man thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more;



circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law a Pharisee, as to zeal a persecutor of the Church, as to righteousness under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

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

***Responsorial Psalm —  
(Psalm <sup>(104)</sup> 105:2-3.4-5.6-7)***

**R. Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.**

**Or: Alleluia.**

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. R.

Turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. Remember the wonders he has done, his marvels and his words of judgement. R.

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

**Acclamation***(Matthew 11:28)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, says the Lord.  
**Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————*(Luke 15:1-10)*

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

At that time: The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable; "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine

in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. 'Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her

friends and neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is a joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become

for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (15) 16:11)* **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray,

so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**What Does It Mean to  
Look for One Lost Coin  
when You Have Millions?**

**Commentary**

**Luke 15:1-10**

In today's gospel, we read about two parables: the lost sheep and the lost coin. Through these two parables, Jesus is teaching us that God does not rejoice in the loss of anyone but desires that all be saved and restored to fellowship with Him. And the restoration of a single sinner makes the whole heavenly community celebrate and rejoice. The owner of the sheep as well as the housewife who lost the coin as mentioned in the gospel represents God. The lost sheep and the lost coin represent us who are sinners.

***Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo,***

*Nairobi-Kenya*



# Friday November 4

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Memorial

Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Psalm (37) 38:22-23)* **For-  
sake me not, O Lord, my  
God; be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to  
my help, O Lord, my strong  
salvation!**

### Collect

Preserve in the midst of  
your people, we ask, O  
Lord, the spirit with which  
you filled the Bishop Saint  
Charles Borromeo, that  
your Church may be con-  
stantly renewed and, by con-  
forming herself to the like-  
ness of Christ, may show his

face to the world. Who lives  
and reigns with you. **Amen.**

### Reading ————— *(Philippians 3:17-4:1)*

**A reading from the Letter  
of Saint Paul to the  
Philippians**

Brethren, join in imitating  
me, and mark those who  
so walk as you have an  
example in us. For many,  
of whom I have often told  
you and now tell you even  
with tears, walk as enemies  
of the cross of Christ. Their

end is destruction, their god is the belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brethren, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in this way in the Lord, my beloved. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —***  
***(Psalm (121) 122:1-2.3***  
***-4ab.4cd-5)***

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. R.

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. R.

For Israel's witness it is to praise the name of the Lord. There were set the thrones for judgement, the thrones of the house of David. R.



## Acclamation

(1 John 2:5)

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

## Gospel

(Luke 16:1-8)

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

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that his man was wasting his goods. And he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.' "And the steward said to himself, 'What shall I do,

since my master is talking the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that people may receive me into their houses when I am put out of the stewardship.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' "He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' "And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' "Then he said to another 'And how much do you owe?' "He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' "He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' "The master commended the dishonest steward for his prudence; for the sons of

this world are wiser in their own generation than the sons of light.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

Look, O Lord, upon the offering placed on your altar in commemoration of Saint Charles, and grant by the power of this sacrifice that as you made him an attentive pastor,

outstanding in the merit of his virtues, so may you make us abound in good fruit by our works. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Psalm (15) 16:11)* **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the sacred mysteries of which we have partaken,



O Lord, we pray, give us that determination which made Saint Charles faithful in ministry and fervent in charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Paradox of a Christian Learning from a Dishonest Manager**

### **Commentary**

**Luke 16:1-8**

In the gospel of today, Jesus speaks about a dishonest manager. However, he does not praise him as some people always think. When he says “...the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than the children of light” what does this mean? Who are the children of light? These, are those who follow Jesus Christ, who is the Light. As the dishonest manager, sensing that he was in danger of losing his job, and immediately thought about the right strategy to save his life, Jesus wants us to acquire such prudence. Let us always sense whenever our spiritual being is in danger and find a solution to save our lives.

***Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo,***  
*Nairobi-Kenya*



# Saturday November 5

31<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

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## Entrance Antiphon

*(Psalm (37) 38:22-23)* Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

## Collect

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reading ————— *(Philippians 4:10-19)*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brethren: I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me; you were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I complain of want; for I have learnt, in whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in any and all circumstances I have learnt the secret of facing plenty



and hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that at the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving except you only; for even in Thessalonica you sent me help once and again. Not that I seek the gift; but I seek the fruit which increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more; I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his

riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

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

***Responsorial Psalm——***  
***(Psalm <sup>(111)</sup> 112:1b-2.5-6.8a***  
***and 9)***

**R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.**

**Or: Alleluia.**

Blessed the man who fears the Lord, who takes great delight in his commandments. His descendants shall be powerful on earth; the generation of the upright will be blest. R.

It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. He will never be moved;

forever shall the just be remembered. R.

With a steadfast heart, he will not fear. Open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm forever. His might shall be exalted in glory. R.

**Acclamation (2**  
*Corinthians 8:9)*

**Alleluia. Alleluia.** Though Jesus Christ was rich, yet for your sake, he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel** —————  
*(Luke 16:9-15)*

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

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, "Make friends

for yourselves by means of unrighteous mammon, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal habitations. "He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." The Pharisees, who were

lovers of money, heard all this, and they scoffed at him. But he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts; for what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

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

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become

for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps (15) 16:11)* **You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly

Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Using Generously our Wealth to Prepare our Future**

## **Commentary**

**Luke 16:9-15**

Today's gospel is the continuation of yesterday's by which Jesus commended the dishonest steward, not because of his dishonesty, but because of his being smart and wise. He was clever because he took effective steps to guarantee his future employment by using his master's wealth. Now today, continuing with the same gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples and us to follow in the footsteps of this dishonest steward who used money generously to make friends for himself. Jesus, therefore, calls us to use also our wealth for our future eternal life. This is done whenever we share with our brothers and sisters in need.

***Rev. Fr. Dieudonne Kathembo Tsongo,***  
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