

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth; O sing to the glory of his name. O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14, 22-33.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 16.

RESPONSE:

Lord, you will show me the path of life.

1. Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord'. O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; you yourself who secure my lot. **R**
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, who even at night directs my heart. I keep the Lord before me always; with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved. **R**
3. And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; even my flesh shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to hell, nor let your holy one see corruption. **R**
4. You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, at your right hand, bliss forever. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-21.

GOspel ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn with love when you speak to us. Alleluia.

GOspel: Luke 24:13-35.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

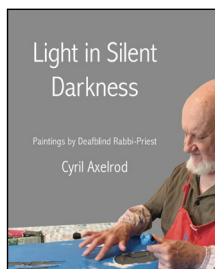
The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

A book of paintings by deafblind Rabbi-Priest Cyril Axelrod with reflections on each painting by friends who know him.

Fr Cyril celebrated 50 years as a priest in November 2020 and this book has been compiled as a tribute to him and his amazing life.

"Cyril has never seen a single painting which he himself created. Instead, he invites you to use your own gift of eyesight to see them.

But beyond that, to experience them with "heart-sight", as he does.



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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 20 Apr (St Marcellinus, B)

Acts 6:8-15; Psalm 119; John 6:22-29

"Sometimes, it is only in the midst of the "tempest," in the heart of a storm of circumstances which we can't control, that we come finally to realise something of the wonderful mystery of God." – Paul Murray

Tue 21 Apr (St Anselm of Canterbury, BD)

Acts 7:51-8:1; Psalm 31; John 6:30-35

St Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109) is best known for the motto "faith seeking understanding", a proactive, loving, and intellectual pursuit to deeper comprehend the truths already believed through God's revelation.

Wed 22 Apr Liturgy of the Day

Acts 8:1-8; Psalm 66; John 6:35-40

Humility is an essential ingredient in life because it provides a kenosis, an emptying of the self – the very desert spirit of letting go. At its core, humility dramatically opens up a beautiful space in our inner life.

Thu 23 Apr (St George, M)

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 66; John 6:44-51

Today's psalm reminds us that God never refuses divine mercy, inundating us as heavily as the new rains. It is an unmerited, undeserved gift, never withheld from the penitent.

Fri 24 Apr (St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, PrM)

Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 117; John 6:52-59

Jesus was not concerned with saying what people wanted to hear. He was concerned with speaking the truth. We ought never to compromise on the truth, even when it is hard to hear.

Sat 25 Apr ST MARK, E

1 Peter 5:5-14; Psalm 89; Mark 16:15-20

O glorious St Mark, by the grace of God the Father, you became a great evangelist preaching the Good News of Christ. Help us know Him well so that we may live our lives faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sun 26 Apr 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 2:14.36-41; Psalm 23; John 10:1-10

"We ask that streams of Easter light might flow into the intimacy and privacy of our hearts this morning, to heal us and encourage us and enable us to make again a new beginning." – John O'Donohue

KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
B=Bishop; D=Doctor; M=Martyr; Pr= Priest; E=Evangelist

Catholic Link

RESURRECTION IS A VERB

3rd Sunday of Easter • Year A
Divine Office: Week III • 19 April 2026

Rising to Forgiveness

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount takes us straight to the heart of being a Christian. To be baptised into Christ; to say with St Paul, "for me to live is Christ"; to commit to

a life centred on God in the power of the Holy Spirit, have practical consequences. Jesus spells some out: "Love your enemies and do good to them; and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and to the wicked. Be merciful just as your Father is merciful." (Matthew 5:43-48)

That is a core message of the Gospel. The way human beings are called to love one another is God's way. We are called to love one another with the same selfless outgoing love that we find in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son whose father runs out to embrace him in unconditional forgiveness.

What Jesus demands of us is that we see others, even our enemies, through God's eyes.

Forgiveness from the heart is often very difficult. For some, it is next to impossible. Jesus said to his disciples: "When your brother wrongs you seven times a day and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I am sorry,' you must forgive him."

As a priest, this is one of the most challenging texts I ever feel prompted to quote to people. But I follow the "law of gradualness" that both Pope St John Paul and Pope Francis affirmed. Forgiveness and reconciliation often take time. In the process, some have found the following way of praying

helpful: "Lord, I cannot forgive N./ yet. So, in the meantime, may I ask you to forgive N./ on my behalf?" It's amazing how quickly the grace for you yourself to do the forgiving comes through!

Part of the process is to silence our inner loud voices: "I'm the one who's been wronged." "I was the one in the right all the time." "I need to hear an apology first." "Forgiveness is unhealthy at this stage." "It's impractical." Ignore these shouting ego's voices. God's forgiveness is unconditional, and, says Jesus, so must ours be, from the heart.

This is where "resurrection is a verb" can apply. Past hurt, an experience of dishonesty or injustice against oneself, your wounded heart feeling itself wronged, can be a cross. But when forgiveness breaks through, resurrection breaks through. True reconciliation is a resurrection of a part of me that had died.

The popular spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen,

at first calls it a "stepping over", but as his thoughts progress, he says forgiveness is more like "climbing over". Rising above my hurt and feelings of anger, "we have to climb over the walls of angry feelings, of fear of being used or hurt again... of pride, and the desire to stay in control." But, says Nouwen, every time we do that, we rise above our ego in the forgiving power of the death and resurrection of Christ. We learn, in Christ, to become as merciful and compassionate as our Heavenly Father is merciful and compassionate. How true the saying, to err is human, to forgive is divine!



The Return of the Prodigal Son by James Tissot, in the Brooklyn Museum

