

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTI-PHON:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:12-14.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 130.

RESPONSE:

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord:

Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive

to the sound of my pleading. **R**

2. If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,

Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness,

that you may be revered. **R**

3. I long for you, O Lord,

my soul longs for his word.

My soul hopes in the Lord

more than watchmen for daybreak.

More than watchmen for daybreak,

let Israel hope for the Lord. **R**

4. For with the Lord there is mercy,

in him is plentiful redemption.

It is he who will redeem Israel

from all its iniquities. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:8-11.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory and praise to you, O Christ. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; he who believes in me shall never die. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45.

COMMUNION ANTI-PHON:

All who live and believe in me will never die, says the Lord.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 23 Mar St Turibius of Mogrovejo, B

Daniel 13:1-9; 15-17; 19-30; 33-62; Psalm 23; John 8:1-11
St Turibius identified with the poor, the forgotten, and those against whom injustices were perpetrated, in Peru. He fought tirelessly on behalf of the downtrodden. Who in our society is forgotten or downtrodden?

Tue 24 Mar (St Oscar Romero, BM)

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 102; John 8:21-30
Transformed from a quiet, conservative cleric to a "voice for the voiceless", Romero inspires believers to actively serve the poor, speak truth to power, and courageously follow Christ even to the point of death.

Wed 25 Mar ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Psalm 40; Luke 1:26-38
Mary's "fiat" or "let it be done" is the crucial human response that enables God's plan, demonstrating ultimate trust and obedience. Mary's faith is a model for all believers to surrender to God's unexpected call.

Thu 26 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Genesis 17:3-9; Psalm 105; John 8:51-59
"Mary is the model of the faith to which God calls all of us: a total and unreserved yes to God's request to be present in and to the world through us." – Fr Richard Rohr OFM.

Fri 27 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Jeremiah 20:10-13; Psalm 18; John 10:31-42
"To give love, we also need to be able to receive it. This invitation to receptivity encourages us to listen to the stirrings of love, release into communion with God, and become more present to Divine love." – Colette Laflo

Sat 28 Mar Liturgy of the Day

Ezekiel 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:10-13; John 11:45-56
Violence is never a solution to anything. It only begets and creates a spirit of violence. Through prayer and non-violent action may God's dream of peace in our world and in our hearts become a reality.

Sun 29 Mar PALM SUNDAY

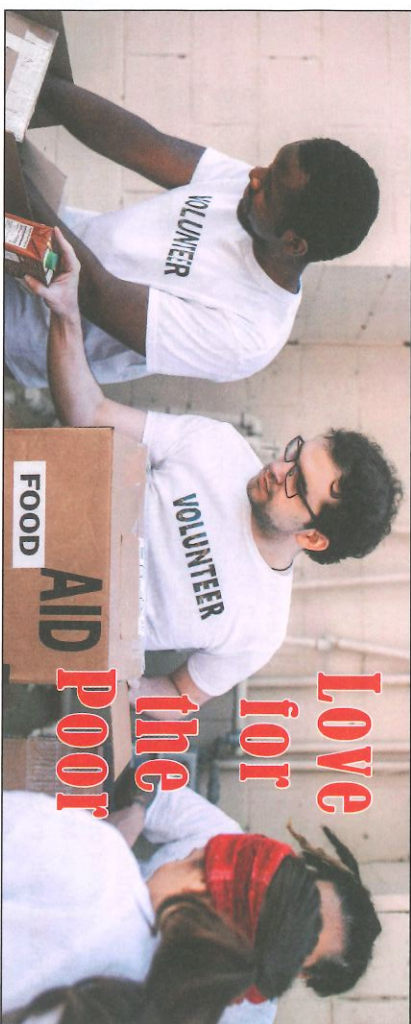
Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22; Matthew 26:14-27; 66
Today Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem as King is contrasted with the impending suffering of his Passion. Today's paradox invites us to embrace his humble, sacrificial path to resurrection. True kingship lies in selfless love.

KEY: SOLEMNITY: FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
B-Bishop; M-Martyr

Catholic Link

DILEXI TE, "I HAVE LOVED YOU"

5th Sunday of Lent • Year A
Divine Office: Week I • 22 March 2026



ove for the poor – whatever the form their poverty may take – is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God. (DT 103)

In Chapter Five of *Dilexi Te*, Pope Leo XIV emphasizes the importance of charity as the bond that unites Christians, strengthens the Church, and fulfills the commandment of Christ to "love your neighbour as yourself". He reminds us that charity is not an optional virtue, but a necessary one, as it is the heart of Christian life.

Love is not simply a feeling or an emotion, as romantic novels and movies depict it, but a deliberate choice to sacrifice oneself in service of others, especially the poor and the marginalized. Pope Leo points to the example of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, who washed his disciples' feet, and who gave his life for his friends.

Charity cannot be limited to individual acts of kindness, as important as these are, but must be expressed through the Church's institutions and structures. Pope Leo XIV highlights the Church's social teaching begun in 1891 by his namesake, Pope Leo XIII, which provides a framework for addressing the needs of the poor and promoting social justice. This guards us against the dangers of false charity which is motivated by ego and self-interest. True charity, he says, is motivated by a genuine love for God and a desire to serve others for their own sake.

Drawing *Dilexi Te* to a conclusion, Pope Leo XIV issues a call to conversion, appropriate to reflection during Lent. He urges Christians

to renew their commitment to charity and to recommit themselves to serving others. He reminds us that the Church's mission is not just to proclaim the Gospel, but to *live* it, and that charity is the lifeblood of the Church. It is not just the responsibility of a select few, but of every Christian. The laity, in their various contexts, can take an active role in serving others, and work towards creating a more just and compassionate society.

Pope Leo XIV does not exclude the importance of faith and prayer; it is integral to Christian charity. He quotes Saint John Chrysostom: "Almsgiving is the wing of prayer. If you do not provide your prayer with wings, it will hardly fly." Pope Francis touched on this in his final encyclical, *Dilexi Nos*. He said that the loving heart of Christ is the beginning and end of all Christian charity. By loving as Christ loves, we allow ourselves to be transformed by his love.

The final word goes to Pope Leo in this beautiful paragraph:

Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant, unites strangers, and reconciles enemies. It spans chasms that are humanly impossible to bridge, and it penetrates to the most hidden crevices of society. By its very nature, Christian love is prophetic: it works miracles and knows no limits. It makes what was apparently impossible happen. Love is above all a way of looking at life and a way of living it. A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today. (DT 120)

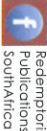
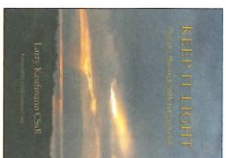
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