

Counter-Reformation

Clichés by now, but the following might help summarise our description of the Counter-Reformation. The Catholic response has been described as “too little, too late”; the Protestant Reformation as “throwing the baby out with the bath water.”

There can be no denying historical aberrations in the Catholic Church, especially the sale of indulgences to have one's relatives obtain total or partial release from purgatory. Doctrinal issues were more divisive. The Catholic Counter-Reformation during the almost 20-year long Council of Trent, (on and off from 1545–1563) was a comprehensive response to the Protestant Reformation. It was deeply rooted in the intellectual, cultural, and philosophical shifts of the 16th century. Scholastic philosophy had not moved hearts. That only happened with the Renaissance, as we saw in an earlier article. The art, music, architecture and literature of the Renaissance began to touch people at a deeper level. Scholasticism was increasingly challenged by Renaissance Humanism that coincided with the Reformation.

Realising this, the Council of Trent tried bridging late medieval spirituality with emerging Humanistic schools of thought. It not only addressed corruption but also solidified doctrine on more pastoral lines, shifting from a medieval and feudal ecclesiastical structure to a more centralized Church.

Among the doctrinal challenges to Trent was how to respond to “Sola Fide” and “Sola Scriptura” – the core Reformation tenets of “faith alone” and “scripture alone”. Trent formulated a systematic rebuttal, declaring that salvation was achieved through faith *and* works, and that Scripture *and* Tradition were equally authoritative. In a sense, it adopted a both/and approach, rather than an either/or one.

But this required a major structural change

to the education of clergy. Seminaries were mandated. The Council reaffirmed the theology of St Thomas Aquinas and emphasized other intellectual training for clergy, encouraging better study of scripture and demanding that preachers be scripture-based rather

than relying on superstition and fake miracle stories.

Then there was the problem of grace and free will. While Calvinism highlighted predestination, the Council of Trent took a counter-position by strengthening the emphasis on human free will and co-operation with God's grace, affirming the dignity of human nature and its capacity for good works. Grace builds on nature.

Grace does not replace nature.

One of the important developments at the Council of Trent was pastoral care of souls, articulated as “salus animarum” (the salvation of souls), leading to practical changes in the lifestyles of bishops and priests, and their duty to put the pastoral needs of people first.

This is where St Ignatius of Loyola comes in, and why he founded the Jesuits in 1534, formally recognised by the pope in 1540. I remember we were taught in catechism that the Jesuits were the Church's “elite shock troops” through their education, missionary work, and strict loyalty to the Pope. Ignatius developed the “Spiritual Exercises”, a manual for spiritual discipline. This helped the Jesuits who went on to start renowned schools and universities across Europe and eventually Asia, Africa and the Americas. Countless Jesuits were tortured and martyred for the spread and defence of the faith. Think of the movies “The Mission” (South America), and “Silence” (Japan).

In conclusion, “counter” reformation sounds harsh. But one of the Church's mottos is, “Ecclesia semper reformanda” – the Church constantly reforming.



Council of Trent, painting in the Museo del Palazzo del Buonconsiglio, Trento

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 63.

RESPONSE:

For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

1. O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.
For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water. *R*
2. I have come before you in the sanctuary,
to behold your strength and your glory.
Your loving mercy is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise. *R*
3. I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. *R*
4. For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me. *R*

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1-2.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we might know what is the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-27.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 31 Aug Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 2:1-5; Psalm 119; Luke 4:16-30

'Integrity' means living honest lives, living authentically according to the values we profess. Today, let us identify one unredeemed aspect (or hypocrisy) in our lives, and re-commit ourselves to change.

Tue 1 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Psalm 145; Luke 4:31-37

"He's got the whole world in his hands" is a hymn that we often sing at Mass and, of course, we hold to be true. Yet why do we still worry, and not have genuine faith in God's action in our lives and our world?

Wed 2 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Psalm 33; Luke 4:38-44

It is so easy to allow panic and despair to take hold of us in crisis situations in our lives. But in keeping Christ at our centre each day, in prayer, panic and despair will inevitably give way to trust and hope.

Thu 3 Sep St Gregory the Great, PD

1 Corinthians 3:18-23; Psalm 24; Luke 5:1-11

On love and action, St Gregory very wisely taught that "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist".

Fri 4 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; Psalm 37; Luke 5:33-39

"Prayer enables us to be converted continually, to remain in a state of continuous reaching out to God, which is essential if we wish to lead others to him. It helps us to believe, to hope, to love." – Pope St John Paul II.

Sat 5 Sep (St Teresa of Kolkata)

1 Corinthians 4:6-15; Psalm 145; Luke 6:1-5

None of us as individuals can change the world, but we can make a real difference where we are, right here and now. So, as Mother Teresa says, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

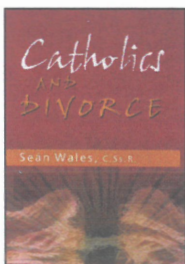
Sun 6 Sep 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 95; Matthew 18:15-20

The true road to spiritual wholeness – holiness – is the honest acceptance of and openness to the cross, which inevitably confronts us in the various troubles, aches, and pains of our daily life.

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
P=Pope; D=Doctor

A succinct and careful explanation of a complex yet increasingly commonplace pastoral situation, this book seeks to help both those affected by divorce and those who strive to minister to them. It is rooted in the conviction that whatever the marital situation, God never abandons us and is always ready to bring healing and wholeness. The booklet carries the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur of the Catholic Church.



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CHRIST THE KING PARISH

1154 Woodlands Drive, Queenswood, PRETORIA,
0186

Webpage: Christ the King Queenswood
Tel: 012 333 4738

MASS INTENTIONS AUG - SEP 2026

29	Sat	17h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues
30	Sun	08h00	RIP Augusta & Fernando Moutinho RIP Maria dos Reis & Jose Ferreira Aborted babies Fruit of the womb for our family Vocation discernment
		10h00	RIP Clementina de Nobrega
		17h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues
31	Mon	18h00	COMMUNION SERVICE
01	Tues	18h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues
02	Wed	18h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues
03	Thu	18h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues
04	Fri	18h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues Happy birthday Serena Meja Happy Birthday Jerome Solomons

SICK LIST

We pray for the sick, housebound and their caregivers.



Richard Heslop, Shammy Naidoo, Kevin Demmer, Harold de Jongh, Gordon Milburn, Veronica Wheeler, Leonardo, Ken Walters, Wendy Elliott, Genevieve van der Merwe, Gideon Wathen, Nadine Botha, Enita Davies, Michael Serrao, Vincent S, Leo Vest, Pat Vosloo and Jean Loudon

PARISH NOTICES

SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a 2nd collection on the weekend of the 5th and 6th of September for Communications Sunday. Please give generously.

WORLDWIDE FLAVOUR FESTIVAL

This will be taking place on the 4th October. The food will be available from after the 08h00 Mass but the festival officially kicks off after the 10h00 Mass. The currency of the day for the food zone will be vouchers. Booklets of vouchers are available after every Mass. The family pack is R350.00 for a family of four and individual tickets are R150.00

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE COMMISSION

We invite you to a Family Day Celebration on the 26th of September 2026 starting at 09h00 till 15h00 in the Loreto school grounds. More information on the event is available on the notice board. Please contact Irene 0711607346 or Rose Mkhabela on 0829634847. For the couples celebrating the years of marriage applicable to the bishops blessing please contact Felicitus on 0826673984. For stall information contact Joyce Ditshoke 0826362587 or Dineo Lekganyane 0749945358

BAPTISMS:

Our next baptism will be on the 4th of October after the 10am Mass. All parents wanting to baptise their children must contact the parish office to make an appointment with Fr Daniel.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social committee will be serving tea after the 10h00 Mass.

PARISH FINANCES

TITHING:

All parishioners who are tithing can find the record of payments made on the notice board. Please check that your payment is registered. If you would like to tithe, please fill in the form in the box.

Please continue to support our Parish via the banking details or the attached Snapscan code

Email details: Finance@christking.org.za

Banking details:

Christ the King Catholic Church

Standard Bank Branch 051001

Main Account No. 011564733

Tithing Account No. 011181230

SnapScan

Scan the SnapCode to complete the payment.



Queenswood Catholic Church

NEWS

NGOME SEPTEMBER PILGRIMAGE

Please contact the parish office to ascertain that you are on the list and that your payment has been received. This will determine if your place on the bus has been confirmed.

Please send through all proof of payments to the office as the size of the bus will be determined by the number of paid people on the list. The bus will leave the church on the morning of the 18th at 05h00 and will arrive at the church on the 20th in the late afternoon.

A copy of the itinerary is available upon request from the parish office.

PARISH OFFICE

Parish Priest:

Fr. Daniel Kivuw'a IMC

Tel: 012 333 4738 / 071 306 3769

Email: dankbwa@yahoo.fr

Parish Office Administrator:

Angela Solomons

secretary@christking.org.za

Office Hours:

Mon to Fri 07h30 - 15h30

Tel: 012 333 4738

For any appointments with Fr. Daniel, please contact Angela, she manages Fr. Daniel's diary.

University Chaplain:

Fr Charles Mundia 071 364 0150

Email: cmundia@gmail.com

CARITAS

CHRIST THE KING OUTREACH PROGRAMME



We provide various food parcels, baby and adult clothing, all household items and toys to the less fortunate. We support various homes for both adults and children. Should you have items that you wish to donate these can be dropped off at the parish office during the week or left in the baskets at the back of the church over the weekends. We continue to assist many families in our parish with everyday necessities thanks to your generous donations. Should you wish to donate to this worthy cause our banking details are:

Christ the King Catholic Church
Queenswood: Standard bank, Cheque account, Account number 011182709, Branch code 000145