

God in Beauty

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We all know how to use the language of beauty. "What a beautiful morning", "that's a beautiful thought!", "he gave her a beautiful surprise". But when asked "what is beauty?" we struggle to find appropriate words. Somehow, words like excellence, perfection, proportion, balance, clarity etc may come to mind. We had much rather just enjoy a beautiful sunset than analyse why we find it beautiful.

Yet, we are drawn to the beautiful, the good, the noble. The excellence or perfection of a painting, or the elegance of a formula in mathematics, or the pleasing resolution in a piece of music, such things deepen our wonder at the presence of beauty all around us and within us.

It is not hard to find traces of beauty, elegance and excellence in the world religions. Usually there is the added specific beauty of worship, chant, symbol and silence. For Christians the beauty of Jesus is itself a revelation of what human beauty can mean. Commenting on the royal wedding song which we know as Psalm 45, St Augustine speaks about the beauty of Jesus:

"He then is beautiful in heaven, beautiful on earth; beautiful in the womb, beautiful in his parents' arms; beautiful in his miracles; beautiful under the scourge; beautiful in inviting to life...beautiful in laying down his life; beautiful in taking it up again; beautiful on the Cross; beautiful in the sepulchre; beautiful in heaven."

The beauty of Jesus is but a reflection – and a perfect reflection – of the beauty of God. In another

ancient poem (Psalm 27), the writer prays:

"There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord, to inquire at this temple."

It is abundantly clear from our Scriptures (Old and New) that beauty is a spiritual quality and that moral goodness, purity of heart and holiness, reside in the heart of beauty.

In recent times the most persuasive champion of the view that beauty can bring us closer to God and that God comes to us in beauty was Pope Benedict XVI. In many sermons and writings, he argues that "the true apology of the Christian faith, the most convincing demonstration of its truth...are the saints and the beauty that the faith has generated".

Benedict articulated a theology of evangelization in which the very beauty of the Christian life draws others towards the beauty of God. Hence the lives of the saints and martyrs "demonstrate a singular beauty which fascinates and attracts, because a Christian life lived in fullness speaks without words". Rational explanations and theological arguments rarely lead to conversions. The beauty of unselfish love which mirrors the personal love God has for everyone is far more compelling.

The fact that true beauty embraces the ugliness of pain and the mystery of death throws light on the power of self-sacrificing love to transform everything into something beautiful for God.



SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 25.

RESPONSE:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

1. O Lord, make me know your ways.
Teach me your paths.
Guide me in your truth, and teach me;
for you are the God of my salvation. **R**
2. Good and upright is the Lord;
he shows the way to sinners.
He guides the humble in right judgement;
to the humble he teaches his way. **R**
3. All the Lord's paths are mercy and
faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and commands.
The Lord's secret is for those who fear him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Show us your merciful love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 2 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 8:5-11

One unwavering quality we should always nurture is a certain conviction that God desires to exercise loving authority in our lives. All that we have to do is to trust God and let God take control.

Tue 3 Dec St Francis Xavier, Pr

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Luke 10:21-24

"It is not the actual physical exertion that counts towards one's progress, nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."
– St Francis Xavier

Wed 4 Dec (St John Damascene, PrD)

Isaiah 25:6-10; Psalm 23; Matthew 15:29-37

Our God is all around us, truly present in all of creation. In your prayer become aware of God's presence, and reflect on the words of St John Damascene, that "The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God."

Thu 5 Dec Liturgy of the Day

Isaiah 26:1-6; Psalm 118; Matthew 7:21-24-27

A recommendation by St Ignatius of Loyola is to consider all our current decisions and actions from the point of view of the day of judgment. Perhaps this will help us mould the way we live our lives today.

Fri 6 Dec (St Nicholas, B)

Isaiah 29:17-24; Psalm 27; Matthew 9:27-31

As we approach Christmas let us remember that, "The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves." – St Nicholas of Myra

Sat 7 Dec St Ambrose, BD

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Psalm 147; Matt. 9:35–10:1.5-8

"Let them remember that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that God and man may talk together; for "we speak to God when we pray; we hear God when we read the divine saying." – St Ambrose

Sun 8 Dec 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

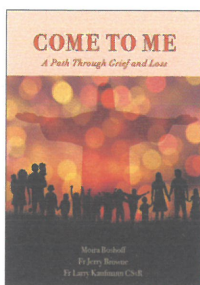
Baruch 5:1-9; Psalm 126; Luke 3:1-6

Like John the Baptist we, too, are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This can only be done by the witness of our actions, and the sincerity of our words.

KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
Pr=Priest; D=Doctor; B=Bishop

The title of this book is well chosen: Come To Me. Taken from Jesus' words, "Come to me all who labour and are burdened...", this book echoes the intimate and encouraging invitation of Jesus to go him with our burdens.

Moira Boshoff, from her years of experience in care ministry, helps us to name our pains, and Father Jerry Browne's reflections bring us closer to the Jesus who stretches out his hand of invitation. The book also involves readers in the process of reflection by bringing their own experience to bear on the various issues presented.



R80
plus delivery



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CHRIST THE KING PARISH

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(For banking details please contact the Parish Office)

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER 2024

30	Sat	18h00	For all deceased souls
01	Sun	08h00	For the deceased souls of the De Sousa and Sardinha families RIP Augusta & Fernando Moutinho
		10h00	RIP Clementina de Nobrega RIP Joao Filipe, Maria Encarnação Filipe, Gilberto Filipe & Eduardo Filipe In thanksgiving on our 35th wedding anniversary Luchas & Helouise
		18h30	For a special intention for Jarrad
02	Mon	18h00	COMMUNION SERVICE
03	Tues	18h00	RIP Brenda Tifflin
04	Wed	18h00	RIP Wally Bruton
05	Thu	18h00	RIP Edward Solomons
06	Fri	18h00	RIP Ruth Heslop

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Veronica Wheeler, Wendy Elliott, Genevieve van der Merwe, Gideon Wathen, Venancio Ruguwa, Okopantse Matshane, Moira Lottering, Pieter Du Pokoy, Cecilia Forbes, Innita Davies, Miriam Marais and Lyne Bogle.

We would appreciate an update every 2nd month as to whether they stay on the list or if they are well enough to be removed.

Should you wish to add a loved one to our sick list please send their details to

secretary@christking.org.za

PARISH NOTICES

PRIESTS' ANNUAL RETREAT - all priests in the Archdiocese, including Fr Daniel, will be attending the annual retreat for priests. Fr Daniel will therefore be away from **2 December to 5 December 2024**.

We ask for your prayers for the success of this retreat.

SECOND COLLECTION ADVENT APPEAL: There will be a second collection for the Archbishops Advent Appeal starting this weekend and ending the week-end of the 22nd of December 2024.

Please give generously.

NEW MASS TIMES: Archbishop Mpako has approved the change to the Sunday evening Mass time. From 12 January 2025, the Sunday evening Mass will move from 18h30 to 18h00. Thank you for your support as we implement this adjustment to better serve our parish community.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE: Walk through 4 Holy Doors in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Consolation in Turin with Fr Daniel. Visit Our Lady's sanctuary in Basilica and participate in the processions around the streets of Italy. Posters are on the noticeboard with additional information.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND DECORATING OF THE CHURCH

We are looking for volunteers to assist with decorating the church and setting up the Christmas tree.

Please contact Celine 0844487972 if you are willing to assist.

CHRISTMAS TREE TAGS Our Christmas tree will soon be up in the church, adorned with tags for gifts for children and the elderly. Please support this project by taking a tag and returning it with a gift to make this Christmas special for all.

BISCUIT SALE We are selling biscuits after the masses as fundraising for the Parish. Please support this worthy endeavor.

REPOSITORY: The repository will be open every Sunday between 9am and 10am. Our Bible diaries have arrived. Grab yours before they are sold out.

NEW OPERATING SECURITY / CHURCH HOURS: The security is on a new rotational roster which means the church will open for **Adoration** during the following hours: 10h00 till 22h00 Monday to Saturday and from 07h30 to 19h30 on Sunday.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK



01 Dec: Mr Tyronne Dahlen, Ms Catherine Uys, Ms Yonwaba Mzizi

02 Dec: Mrs MaryLynn Kemp

03 Dec: Mr Kgothatso Maleka, Mr Michael Di Cicco, Mr Wilbertus Bell Bosma

04 Dec: Mr Anesuishe Malaila, Mr Edmund Cah, Mr Harald Wagner, Mr Stewart Leith, Mr Carlos Fernandes

05 Dec: Mrs Hilary Dicky Bosma

(If your birthday does NOT appear on the weekly list, you are NOT registered on the electronic system. Please inform the Parish Secretary at 012-333 4738 to update your particulars).

PARISH FINANCES

TITHING. There are Tithing application sheets in the front of the church please fill one in and either drop it in the slot or email to

finance@christking.org.za We encourage you to tithe to support the parish and its many projects that are underway.

Thank you to everyone who currently supports the works of the church.

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

Snapscan code

Banking details:

Christ the King Catholic Church

Standard Bank Branch 051001

Main Account No. 011564733

Tithing Account No. 011181230

Snapscan

SnapScan

Scan the SnapCode to complete the payment.



Queenswood Catholic Church

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 **08h00 - 16h00**

Tel: 012 3334738

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

University Chaplain:

Fr Manuel Graca: m.c.graca16@gmail.com

Tel: 073 254 4185

HUMANITAS

OUTREACH. We would like to ask the generous community to continue their support of this worthy cause. This is one of the outlets we use to service the needy in our community.

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.**

All donations are gratefully accepted.

The Southern Cross
The Catholic Magazine for Southern Africa

- **Nuncio: My first impressions of SA**
 - **TARGET: The Living Stones**
 - What is a Jubilee Year?
 - Behind the Holy Doors
 - 8 ways to get closer to God
 - The day a saint shoved me
 - Get ready for the season of Advent
 - In Bethlehem, love changed history
 - The story behind 'O Little Town Of Bethlehem'
- **YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED** - about...On the roots of Christmas trees and salvation for nonbelievers
- **Saint of the Month with Poster: St Frances Cabrini...**and much more...

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NEW PRICE R40**

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FEEDBACK FROM THE PPC MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2024.

At the Parish Pastoral Council meeting on 16 November 2024, key decisions made included:

- Resolution on the adjustment of the Sunday evening Mass time to 18h00 from 12 January 2025,
- Approval of an additional R5,000 donation to the Archdiocesan fundraising campaign, and
- Adoption of plans and budgets for 2025.
- Maintenance priorities were set, including security enhancements and infrastructure improvements.
- Efforts to boost youth involvement were discussed and will soon be implemented.

These decisions reflect a focus on community engagement, financial stewardship, and parish development.



DEDICATION / TITHE

After prayerful consideration, I would like to be included as a Dedication / Tithe Contributor.

Once completed, please email to Finance@christking.org.za or leave at the **Parish Office** during office hours.

SURNAME: _____

NAME: _____

CELLPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Your dedication number will be emailed, sms'd or phoned through to you.

I have decided that I can dedicate R_____

- Monthly to the works of the Church
- Annually to the works of the Church
- I will do this by EFT into the Parish Tithe Account
- I would like to give cash in an envelope
- Please contact me to make a Bequest to the church in my Last Will and Testament

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your kind contribution.