

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

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.

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

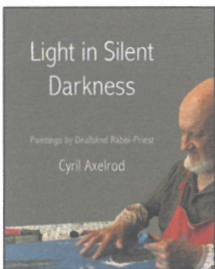
Books from Redemptorist Pastoral Publications

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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plus delivery



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CHRIST THE KING PARISH

1154 Woodlands Drive, Queenswood, PRETORIA,
0186

Webpage: Christ the King Catholic Church
Queenswood

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL 2026

18	Sat	18h00	RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues RIP Sr. Mary -Anne Tobin
19	Sun	08h00	RIP Augusta & Fernando Moutinho & Palmira Dias RIP Jean De Dieu RIP Michael, Owen & Maecala Clayton RIP Nonni Venturi & Fantozzi RIP Katie & Nerise Hendricks RIP Maria dos Reis Ferreira Birthday blessings Minda Costa
		10h00	RIP Clementina de Nobrega RIP Jose Batista Rodrigues RIP Christopher Gamsu RIP Collin & Dinah Creighton
		18h00	
20	Mon	18h00	COMMUNION SERVICE
21	Tues	18h00	
22	Wed	18h00	
23	Thu	18h00	
24	Fri	18h00	

SICK LIST

We pray for the sick, housebound and their caregivers.



Richard Heslop, Kevin Demmer, Gerty Carmichael, Harold de Jongh, Gordon Milburn, Lyn Bogle, Andrea Strydom, Veronica Wheeler, Leonardo, Ken Walters, Wendy Elliott, Genevieve van der Merwe, Gideon Wathen, Nadine Botha, Enita Davies, Michael Serrao, Vincent S, Leo Vest, Miriam Marais and Jan Staas

PARISH NOTICES

WEEKEND MASS TIME CHANGE:

The Mass on the Sunday of the 26th of April will be only one Mass at 09h00 in the morning and then evening Mass at 18h00. The Archbishop Most Reverend Dabula Mpako will be in attendance for the 09h00 Mass.

THANK YOU:

To everyone who attended the AGM thank you for your presence and participation. Thank you for the bring and share to celebrate Fr Daniel's birthday he enjoyed the time spent with you.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS NOTICE:

Mass on the 27th of April and the 1st of May will be at 08h00. There will not be any evening Masses on those days.

FHC FIRST RECONCILIATION:

The First Reconciliation practise for First Holy Communion will be held on the 23rd May 2026 at 08h00 in the church.

EASTERN DEANERY DAY:

All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this day of fellowship & prayer on the 30th May 2026 at the Church of the Beatitudes, Zwavelpoort. The day starts at 9am and ends at 4pm. Stalls are available to hire at a cost of R250 each. All payments can be made through the parish office by 20th May. Please wear anything YELLOW on the day. The final program for the day's events will be communicated.

BAPTISMS:

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

WEDDINGS:

All those wishing to be religiously married in the Parish must please contact the parish office **before booking the wedding venue** as there are matters of importance that need to be discussed.

REPOSITORY:

The hours are Sunday 07h45 till 09h45 and 30 min 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
Titling Account No. 011181230

SnapScan

Scan the SnapCode to complete the payment.



Queenswood Catholic Church

PARISH OFFICE

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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 family 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**

NEWS



We are looking for volunteers to assist with the SPRED program. Please contact Catarina on 0813413583 or Jordy on 0614128918.

If you would like to view the financials from the AGM held last week, please scan this QR Code for the details.

