

Monday 16 Mar 2026 of the fourth week of Lent

First Reading Isaiah 65:17-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Now I create new heavens and a new earth, and the past will not be remembered, and will come no more to men's minds. Be glad and rejoice for ever and ever for what I am creating, because I now create Jerusalem 'Joy' and her people 'Gladness'. I shall rejoice over Jerusalem and exult in my people. No more will the sound of weeping or the sound of cries be heard in her; in her, no more will be found the infant living a few days only, or the old man not living to the end of his days. To die at the age of a hundred will be dying young; not to live to be a hundred will be the sign of a curse. They will build houses and inhabit them, plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 29:2. 4-6. 11-13. R. v.2

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

1. I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me
and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead,
restored me to life from those who sink into the grave. (R.)
2. Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him,
give thanks to his holy name.
His anger lasts but a moment; his favour through life.
At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn. (R.)
3. The Lord listened and had pity.
The Lord came to my help.
For me you have changed my mourning into dancing:
O Lord my God, I will thank you for ever. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation See Amos 5:14

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and the Lord will be with you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 4:43-54

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus left Samaria for Galilee. He himself had declared that there is no respect for a prophet in his own country, but on his arrival the Galileans received him well, having seen all that he had done at Jerusalem during the festival which they too had attended.

He went again to Cana in Galilee, where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a court official there whose son was ill at Capernaum and, hearing that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judaea, he went and asked him to come and cure his son as he was at the point of death. Jesus said, 'So you will not believe unless you see signs and portents!' 'Sir,' answered the official 'come down before my child dies.' 'Go home,' said Jesus 'your son will live.' The man believed what Jesus had said and started on his way; and while he was still on the journey back his servants met him with the news that his boy was alive. He asked them when the boy had begun to recover. 'The fever left him yesterday' they said 'at the seventh hour.' The father realised that this was exactly the time when Jesus had said, 'Your son will live'; and he and all his household believed.

This was the second sign given by Jesus, on his return from Judaea to Galilee.

Tuesday 17 Mar 2026 Saint Patrick, Bishop

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

‘Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you came to birth, I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.’

I said, ‘Ah, Lord, I do not know how to speak: I am a child!’ But the Lord replied,

‘Do not say “I am a child”. Go now to those to whom I send you and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to protect you – it is the Lord who speaks!’

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me:

‘There! I am putting my words into your mouth.’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 116. R. Mk 16:15

(R.) Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.

1. O praise the Lord, all your nations,
acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)
2. Strong is his love for us;
he is faithful for ever. (R.)

Second Reading Acts of the Apostles 13:46-49

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly to the Jews, ‘We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

“I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.”

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus, the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside.

Gospel Acclamation Luke 4:18-19

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor, and freedom to prisoners.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Luke 10:1-12. 17-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, ‘The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, “Peace to this house!” And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, “The kingdom of God is very near to you.” But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, “We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the Kingdom of God is very near.” I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town.’ The seventy-two came back rejoicing. ‘Lord,’ they said, ‘even the devils submit to us when we use your name.’ He said to them, ‘I watched Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and the whole strength of the enemy; nothing shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your names are written in heaven.’

Wednesday 18 Mar 2026 of the fourth week of Lent

First Reading Isaiah 49:8-15

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

At the favourable time I will answer you, on the day of salvation I will help you. (I have formed you and have appointed you as covenant of the people.) I will restore the land and assign you the estates that lie waste. I will say to the prisoners, 'Come out', to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves'. On every roadway they will graze, and each bare height shall be their pasture. They will never hunger or thirst, scorching wind and sun shall never plague them for he who pities them will lead them and guide them to springs of water. I will make a highway of all the mountains, and the high roads shall be banked up. Some are on their way from afar, others from the north and the west, others from the land of Sinim. Shout for joy, your heavens; exult, you earth! Your mountains, break into happy cries! For the Lord consoles his people and takes pity on those who are afflicted. For Zion was saying, 'The Lord has abandoned me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Does a woman forget her baby at the breast, or fail to cherish the son of her womb? Yet even if these forget, I will never forget you.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:8-9. 13-14. 17-18. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures? (R.)
2. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall

and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation John 11:25-26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 5:17-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to the Jews: 'My Father goes on working, and so do I.' But that only made the Jews even more intent on killing him, because, not content with breaking the sabbath, the spoke of God as his own Father, and so made himself God's equal. To this accusation Jesus replied:

'I tell you most solemnly, the son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees the father doing: and whatever the father does the son does too. For the father loves the son and shows him everything he does himself, and he will show him even greater things than these, works that will astonish you. Thus, as the father raises the dead and gives them life, so the son gives life to anyone he chooses; for the father judges no one; he has entrusted all judgement to the son, so that all may honour the son as they honour the father. Whoever refuses honour to the son refuses honour to the father who sent him. I tell you most solemnly, whoever listens to my words, and believes in the one who sent me, has eternal life; without being brought to judgement he has passed from death to life. I tell you most solemnly, the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and all who hear it will live. For the Father, who is the source of life, has made the Son the source of life; and, because he is the Son of Man, has appointed him supreme judge. Do not be surprised at this, for the hour is coming when the dead will leave their graves at the sound of his voice: those who did good will rise again to life; and those who did evil, to condemnation. I can do nothing by myself; I can only judge as I am told to judge, and my judging is just, because my aim is to do not my own will, but the will of him who sent me.'

Thursday 19 Mar 2026 Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:4-5. 12-14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The word of the Lord came to Nathan:

‘Go and tell my servant David, “Thus the Lord speaks: When the days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. (It is he who shall build a house for my name, and I will make his royal throne secure for ever). I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.”’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. v.37

(R.) The son of David will live for ever.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that
your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish
your dynasty for ever and set up your throne
through all ages.’ (R.)

3. He will say to me: ‘You are my father, my God,
the rock who saves me.’ I will keep my love for him
always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The promise of inheriting the world was not made to Abraham and his descendants on account of any law but on account of the righteousness which consists in faith. That is why what fulfills the promise depends on faith, so that it may be a free gift and be available to all of Abraham’s descendants, not only those who belong to the Law but also those who belong to the faith of Abraham who is the Father of all of us. As scripture says: I have made you the ancestor of many nations – Abraham is our father in the eyes of God, in whom he put his faith, and who brings the dead to life and calls into being what does not exist.

Though it seemed Abraham’s hope could not be fulfilled, he hoped and he believed, and through doing what he did became the father of many nations exactly as he had been promised: Your descendants will be as many as the stars. This is the faith that was ‘considered as justifying him’.

Gospel Acclamation Psalm 83:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord; continually they sing your praise!

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Matthew 1:16. 18-21. 24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.’ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do.

Friday 20 Mar 2026 of the fourth week of Lent

First Reading Wisdom 2:1, 12-22

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The godless say to themselves, with their misguided reasoning:

‘Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. He claims to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a son of the Lord. Before us he stands, a reproof to our way of thinking, the very sight of him weighs our spirits down; his way of life is not like other men’s, the paths he treads are unfamiliar. In his opinion we are counterfeit; he holds aloof from our doings as though from filth; he proclaims the final end of the virtuous as happy and boasts of having God for his father. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God’s son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.’ This is the way they reason, but they are misled, their malice makes them blind. They do not know the hidden things of God, they have no hope that holiness will be rewarded, they can see no reward for blameless souls.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:16. 18. 19-21. 23. R. v.19

(R.) The Lord is near to broken hearts.

1. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. (R.)

2. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. (R.)

3. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel John 7:1-2. 10. 25-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus stayed in Galilee; he could not stay in Judaea, because the Jews were out to kill him.

As the Jewish feast of Tabernacles drew near, after his brothers had left for the festival, Jesus went up as well, but quite privately, without drawing attention to himself.

Meanwhile some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, ‘Isn’t this the man they want to kill? And here he is, speaking freely, and they have nothing to say to him! Can it be true the authorities have made up their minds that he is the Christ? Yet we all know where he comes from, but when the Christ appears no one will know where he comes from.’

Then, as Jesus taught in the Temple, he cried out:

‘Yes, you know me and you know where I came from.

Yet I have not come of myself:

no, there is one who sent me and I really come from him,

and you do not know him,

but I know him

because I have come from him

and it was he who sent me.’

They would have arrested him then, but because his time had not yet come no one laid a hand on him.

Saturday 21 Mar 2026 of the fourth week of Lent

First Reading Jeremiah 11:18-20

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The Lord revealed it to me; I was warned. Lord, that was when you opened my eyes to their scheming. I for my part was like a trustful lamb being led to the slaughter-house, not knowing the schemes they were plotting against me, 'Let us destroy the tree in its strength, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name may be quickly forgotten!'

But you, Lord of hosts, who pronounce a just sentence,
who probe the loins and heart?
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,
for I have committed my cause to you.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 7:2-3. 9-12. R. v.2

(R.) Lord, my God, I take shelter in you.

1. Lord God, I take refuge in you.
From my pursuer save me and rescue me,
lest he tear me to pieces like a lion
and drag me off with no one to rescue me. (R.)
2. Give judgement for me, Lord; I am just
and innocent of heart.
Put an end to the evil of the wicked!
Make the just stand firm,
you who test mind and heart,
O just God! (R.)
3. God is the shield that protects me,
who saves the upright of heart?
God is a just judge
slow to anger;
but he threatens the wicked every day. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation See Luke 8:15

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Happy are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 7:40-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Several people who had been listening to Jesus said, 'Surely he must be the prophet', and some said, 'He is the Christ', but others said, 'Would the Christ be from Galilee? Does not scripture say that the Christ must be descended from David and come from the town of Bethlehem?' So, the people could not agree about him. Some would have liked to arrest him, but no one actually laid hands on him.

The police went back to the chief priests and Pharisees who said to them, 'Why haven't you brought him?' The police replied, 'There has never been anybody who has spoken like him.' 'So' the Pharisees answered 'you have been led astray as well? Have any of the authorities believed in him? Any of the Pharisees? This rabble knows nothing about the Law – they are damned.' One of them, Nicodemus – the same man who had come to Jesus earlier – said to them, 'But surely the Law does not allow us to pass judgement on a man without giving him a hearing and discovering what he is about?' To this they answered, 'Are you a Galilean too? Go into the matter, and see for yourself: prophets do not come out of Galilee.'