

This Week's Liturgy Calendar.

Ordinary Cycle of the Year (a)

Weekdays – year 2

Sunday 2nd August: **Eighteenth Sunday of the Year. (a)**

The first reading contains an invitation from God to come to the source of life. The banquet stands for the life of love and friendship God wishes to share with his people.

St. Paul assures us in the second reading, that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. No matter the difficulties challenges and problems, we are certain that Christ loves us and does not leave to face them alone.

The miraculous feeding of the 5000 is a pointer towards the Eucharist. Jesus shows his compassion for the people by healing their sick and giving them food to drink.

Monday 3rd August: **Monday in 18th week of the year.**

Jeremiah is living in dangerous times. The exile to Babylon has started. False prophets are giving the people false hope. Jeremiah uses the imagery of a farm yoke to try and get the people to see how much more difficult it will be to return to God's ways.

Jesus, saddened by the death of John the Baptist, tries to get away to a quiet place. The crowds follow him and again he ministers to them, making sure they have enough to eat. This miracle is the forerunner of the miracle of the Eucharist.

Tuesday 4th August: **Memorial of St. John Vianney.**

This saintly man is regarded by most as the patron saint of priests who work in parishes. He was born of poor parents near Lyon in 1786. He received very little formal education. He eventually began his studies for the priesthood but found Latin very difficult. He persisted and was ordained in 1815. He was given charge of the obscure and somewhat backward parish of Ars where he remained for 42 years. However, in a short space of time, by his own personal witness and commitment, he had completely changed the whole moral and spiritual life of that small community. His fame spread and people came from all over France especially to go to confession. He died in 1859 and was canonised in 1925.

Wednesday 5th August: **Wednesday in 18th week of the year.**

In the first reading, Jeremiah continues his message of hope for the people of Israel who are in exile in Babylon. He promises them that they are not forgotten and that the Lord will restore them because they have sought and found pardon for their faults and failings.

In the Gospel, another example of faith is put before us. A Canaanite woman approaches Jesus much to the embarrassment of the apostles who want to send her away but Jesus in a way tests her faith and then grants her wish.

Thursday 6th August: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

This feast reminds us that, according to ancient tradition, the mystery of the transfiguration took place. It was there that three disciples – Peter, James and John – became witnesses to the power, the glory and the majesty of God. This was to strengthen their faith and prepare them for what lay ahead of them as disciples. Their faith would be severely tested especially by the Passion and Death of Jesus. This feast is an opportunity for us to renew our faith in Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord, in whose glory we hope one day to share.

Friday 7th August: Friday in 18th week of the Year

We move on to another prophet in the first reading – the prophet Nahum who lived at the same time of Jeremiah's final years. He stresses the justice and mercy of God who will always come to the help of those who love him and keep his commandments.

Jesus highlights to his followers that it will not be an easy road they are asked to follow. It will require hard work, suffering and hardship.

Saturday 8th August: Memorial of St. Dominic.

Dominic was born in Castille in Spain in 1170. He studied for the priesthood and, when he was 46, Pope Honorius entrusted to him and his companions the mission to preach the Word of God to combat heresy that was rampant at the time. This was the beginning of the Dominican order. They worked from smaller houses rather than traditional monasteries and combined a life of study and contemplation. Dominic died in 1221.

Lord our God,
By the power of Jesus our Transfigured Lord,
You call us to transform the world in which we live and move and have
our being in the image of Jesus your Son.
Commit us to Justice and Love
That we might play our part in transforming this harsh and cold world
Into a sign and token
That you are with us.
We ask this through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.

