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Consensus

Last week's *Link* devoted itself to what Pope Francis had to say about dialogue. This week we examine the notion of consensus as the purpose of dialogue, and what the pope sees as its foundation.

He begins with a question: "Is it possible to seek the truth that responds to life's deepest meaning?" Clearly for him, truth is not something superficial. It goes to the heart of things, and for him that "heart" is the dignity and worth of every human being created in the image and likeness of God. This leads the pope to assert: "If society is to have a future, it must respect the truth of our human dignity and submit to that truth."

Rigorous search for the truth is hard work. One of the tasks, says Pope Francis, is to learn how to unmask the various ways that the truth is manipulated, distorted and concealed. What we call "truth" is not only the reporting of facts and events, the sort of things we find in the daily papers. What we must not lose sight of are the deeper truths that are unchanging, as true now as in the past. True to the Catholic tradition on the natural law, Pope Francis affirms that "reason discovers universal values derived from nature."

What is happening these days, Pope Francis fears, is a "barren" way of thinking. As he sees it, good and evil no longer exist in themselves; there is only a calculus of benefits and burdens. Everything is "levelled down" where, in the end, the law of the strongest prevails.

And so, Pope Francis returns to his call to genuine dialogue involving all stakeholders, not just the powerful.

In a pluralistic society, dialogue is the

best way to realize what ought always to be affirmed and respected. Such dialogue needs to be enriched and illumined by clear thinking, rational arguments, a variety of perspectives and the contribution of different fields of knowledge and points of view.

Pope Francis advocates the need to develop dialogue as a new global "culture". He writes: "I have frequently called for the growth of a culture of encounter capable of transcending our differences and divisions. This means working to create a many-faceted polyhedron whose different sides form a variegated unity, in which the whole is greater than the part".

Now there's an interesting word, "polyhedron". It refers in physics to many-sided shapes like cubes, prisms and pyramids. Using this image, Pope Francis (who has a master's degree in science) applies it to society where differences coexist, complementing and enriching one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. As he writes,

Each of us can learn something from others. No one is useless and no one is expendable. This also means finding ways to include those on the peripheries of life. For they have another way of looking at things; they see aspects of reality that are invisible to the centres of power where weighty decisions are made.

The quest for a new "culture of encounter", concludes Pope Francis, means that we should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, and building bridges. This, he prays, should become a style of life.

SUNDAY MASS

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:5-9.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 116.

RESPONSE:

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I love the Lord, for he has heard my voice, my appeal; for he has turned his ear to me whenever I call. **R**
2. They surrounded me, the snares of death; the anguish of the grave has found me; anguish and sorrow I found. I called on the name of the Lord: 'Deliver my soul, O Lord!' **R**
3. How gracious is the Lord, and just; our God has compassion. The Lord protects the simple; I was brought low, and he saved me. **R**
4. He has kept my soul from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. **R**

SECOND READING: James 2:14-18.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. Alleluia.

GOSEL: Mark 8:27-35.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Live the Word

Mon 13 Sep St John Chrysostom, BD

1 Timothy 2:1-8; Psalm 28; Luke 7:1-10
So often our patience is tested by the journey of life, but we do have a choice in our attitude. Just as there are many challenges along the way, there are many blessings too. Do we choose to see them?

Tue 14 Sep EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 78; John 3:13-17
We know we are doing God's will if we, like Moses, can remember that the will of God will not lead us to where the grace of God will not sustain us. We journey forth as people of faith trusting that God will provide.

Wed 15 Sep Our Lady of Sorrows

Hebrews 5:7-9; Psalm 31; John 19:25-27
Like Mary, we will all have our time when we are called to stand by the cross of someone in severe pain. Stand by them sensitively and compassionately, and be a faithful messenger of loving kindness.

Thu 16 Sep Ss Cornelius, P & Cyprian, B Ms

1 Timothy 4:12-16; Psalm 111; Luke 7:36-50
How can God be totally just and at the same time be totally merciful? There is no contradiction here. Justice applies to any situation, and then mercy often tempers justice to make sure it is always just.

Fri 17 Sep (St Robert Bellarmine, BD)

1 Timothy 6:2-12; Psalm 49; Luke 8:1-3.
Like many other religious teachers, Jesus taught us how to live in this world. But, as we know, it didn't end there. Through Jesus, those who have died are resurrected and join him in eternity.

Sat 18 Sep Liturgy of the Day

1 Timothy 6:13-16; Psalm 100; Luke 8:4-15
God calls us to continue persevering even when all looks lost, or there is little sign of hope. During this time of Covid pandemic, remain faithful to prayer and trust the process as we live in faith, hope and love.

Sun 19 Sep 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 2:12.17-20; Psalm 54; Mark 9:30-37
In our economy we earn every penny by the sweat of our brows, and are respected for it. But in the economy of salvation God's generosity extends to all and we earn very little by our own efforts.

(KEY: SOLEMNITY; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial)
B=Bishop; D=Doctor; M=Martyr



24th Sunday of the Year
 11th/12th September 2021

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 Secretaries: Deborah Jordan / Vivien Cones
Office Hours: Weekdays 08h30-13h00



Date	Intentions
Saturday 11th 17h30 18h00	24th Sunday of the Year Allan Roos RIP Prayer & Rosary
Sunday 12th 07h30 09h00 18h00	24th Sunday of the Year Missa pro Populo 24th Sunday of the Year Jason Fourie RIP Prayer & Rosary
Monday 13th 08h00 18h00	St John Chrysostom Ryan Johansen RIP & Fam Prayer & Rosary
Tuesday 14th 08h00 18h00	Exultation of the Holy Cross Mortuary List Prayer & Rosary
Wednesday 15th 08h00 18h00	Our Lady of Sorrows Deceased Clergy of the Prayer & Rosary Archdiocese of Cape Town
Thursday 16th 08h00 18h00 18h30	Ss Cornelius & Cyprian Msgr Jock Baird Prayer & Rosary Springfield Confirmation Mass
Friday 17th 09h30 18h00	St Robert Bellarmine Gillian Paine RIP Prayer & Rosary
CONFESSION Saturdays	16h45 – 17h20 pm Or by Appointment

COVID-19
ADJUSTED ALERT LEVEL 3

- All Masses on Saturdays, Sundays, Fridays and Wednesdays are open to the public on a booking basis only.
- **Constantia Catholic on YouTube:** Masses will continue to be live streamed daily. Please note that Friday Mass will be at 9:30am, Saturday Mass (not live-streamed) has resumed and there is an additional Sunday Mass at 7:30am (not live-streamed). Please use this link to join: <https://bit.ly/YouTubeConstantiaCatholic>
- **ZOOM:** To join Daily Rosary at 6:00 pm each evening, please use **Zoom Link** below: <https://bit.ly/ConstantiaZoom>
- **Please see our emailers and website for regular updates.**

Prayer Intentions: For all in need of our prayers and their families: Fr Declan Doherty, Sarah Glenday, Neva Bruce-Brand, Malcolm Asher, Allen Galvin, Janet Kutzer, Patricia Reid, William De Villiers, Margaret Savage, Cecco Giovannini, Deolinda & Egidio Gouveia, Nicole Franck, Andrea Dama.

SPRINGFIELD CONFIRMATIONS
 The first of two Springfield Convent Confirmation Masses will take at our Parish this Thursday, 16th Sept at 6.30pm
 Due to Covid restrictions, attendance at this Mass is limited and by invitation only.

RCIA: Every Tuesday, at 7:30 pm in Parish Hall
Upcoming Topics:
14 Sept - Mary: Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church, our Mother.
21 Sept - The Saints: Role Models for our Daily Lives.
28 Sept - The Trinity: One God in Three Persons.

HUNGER Is Real Fund
 This fund was initiated by our parish in this time of crisis to alleviate the very real and ongoing need in our surrounding areas. Please contribute by EFT into the Parish Account - details at the bottom of this page - ref: HUNGER.
To all those who have made donations and continue to do so, a huge thank you for your amazing generosity.

Fr Declan Doherty has been admitted to hospital in KwaZulu Natal and will undergo a medical procedure over the weekend. He asks for our prayers that it is successful and for a speedy recovery.

SEASON OF CREATION - Parish Events
01 Sep – 4 Oct 2021
Mass: At every Mass and especially Sunday Masses, we will pray for our Common Home.
Daily Rosary: we will reflect on the four themes given by the SA Bishops Conference for this Season of Creation.
Novena to St Francis of Assisi: Fr Robert will lead the novena in Mass each day, starting on 25 Sep, nine days before St Francis' Feast Day and the end of the Season of Creation, on 4 October.
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Tue 28 Sept @ 7:00 pm: Benediction and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be dedicated to the Season of Creation and will include the Litany for healing the earth.

“Rivers do not drink their own water;
 trees do not eat their own fruit;
 the sun does not shine on itself and
 flowers do not spread their fragrance for
 themselves.
 Living for others is a rule of nature.
 We are born to help each other.
 No matter how difficult it is.
 Life is good when you are happy
 but much better when others are happy
 because of you.”
 - Pope Francis -

PRAYER FOR PEACE
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
 O God of justice and love, bless us, the people of Southern Africa, and help us to live in your peace.
 Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
 Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
 Where there is injury, let me sow pardon;
 Where there is discord, let me sow harmony.
 Divine Master, grant that I may not so much
 Seek to be understood, as to understand;
 To be loved, as to love;
 To receive sympathy, as to give it;
 For it is in giving that we shall receive,
 In pardoning that we shall be pardoned,
 In forgetting ourselves that we shall find
 Unending peace with others.
 Through Christ our Lord,
 Amen.

REFLECTION: 24th Sunday of the Year
 Each of us must make our own personal assessment of Jesus and answer the living question: "Who do you say I am?" It's We, not He, who's judged by our answer.
 Salvation is a personal affair. It really doesn't matter what other people think because, when we stand before God, we stand ALONE.
 Richard.

Available from the Church or Parish Office:
The Southern Cross Magazine: R30.00
Living Faith: Jul/Aug/Sept - R30.00
Nazareth House Jams: only R30 a jar!

Our parish mission is to be a welcoming and evangelising Catholic community, striving, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, to know, love and serve God more, as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Bank Details: Constantia Catholic Church | Standard Bank: Branch 025 309 | Current Account No 07 169 8965