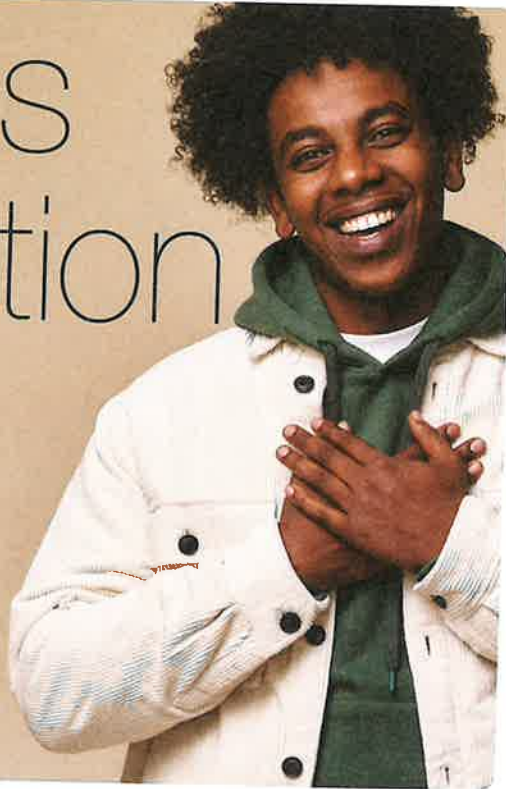


SUNDAY *Plus*

The Most Holy Trinity **Divine Office Week I** Year A

God's invitation



Before saying his total yes to God, [Augustine's] soul shudders and writhes in painful conflicts. On one side there is God, inviting him; on the other, his old habits, his former "friends," who "tug gently at his clothing of flesh" and whisper to him: "You dismiss us? Remember, the moment we leave you, that certain thing will no longer be allowed you, nor will that other – forever!"

God urges him to hurry and Augustine pleads, "Not at once, just another moment!" And he goes on for weeks, in a state of indecision, in a turmoil, until, assisted by a powerful thrust from God, he summons his courage and makes up his mind...


In the human drama of faith there is a mysterious element: the intervention of God. Paul of Tarsus

experienced it on the road to Damascus and describes it in this way: that day, the Lord "appeared also to me": "by the grace of God, I am what I am..."

The grace of God, in fact, has force, but does not mean to force us; it has a holy violence, but intended to make us fall in love with the truth, not to violate freedom...

The banquet table [of grace] is always laid, open to all. As for me, I try to take daily advantage of it, erecting again today the life of faith knocked down by the sins of yesterday. I wonder if Christians who, like me, feel themselves sometimes good, sometimes sinners, will agree to be "good dinner guests", with me?

Pope John Paul I, *Illustrissimi*

My Lord and my God, I love you and adore you.
Fill me with your love and let me radiate it to
the people around me.  Amen.

Give me yourself

Give me yourself, O my God,
give yourself to me.
Behold I love you,
and if my love is too weak a thing,
grant me to love you more strongly.
I cannot measure my love to know how much
it falls short of being sufficient,
but let my soul hasten to your embrace
and never be turned away until it is hidden
in the secret shelter of your presence.
This only do I know,
that it is not good for me
when you are not with me,
when you are only outside me.
I want you in my very self.

St Augustine

We are used to calculating things – and
at times it is necessary – but this does
not apply in love!

Pope Leo XIV

Feast of the week Wednesday 3 May

St Charles Lwanga and companions

Twenty-two Catholics and twenty-three Anglicans died at Namugongo, Uganda, in 1885-1886. Most were adolescent boys and pages at the court of Mwanga II, the Kabaka (King) of Buganda, a kingdom within Uganda. All had refused Mwanga's sexual demands. Joseph Mukasa, a convert to Christianity, tried to protect the boys and was the first to be killed.

Charles Lwanga, aged twenty-six, declared that they refused to obey Mwanga in anything which went against their religious belief. Mwanga sentenced them to be burned alive at Namugongo, a two-day march from the palace. The youngest was Kizito, aged fourteen.

Fr Siméon Lourdel, a French Missionary of Africa who had baptised several of the boys, was forced to accompany the group and watch their executions. He reported that Lwanga's last words were, "Katonda," or "My God." Kizito's were "Good-bye, friends. We are on our way." As the flames rose, all were heard praying and encouraging one another.



READINGS

Today:
Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9
2 Corinthians
13:11-13
John 3:16-18

Monday:
2 Peter 1:2-7
Mark 12:1-12

Tuesday:
2 Peter 3:11-15,
17-18
Mark 12:13-17

Wednesday:
2 Timothy 1:1-3,
6-12
Mark 12:18-27

Thursday:
2 Timothy 2:8-15
Mark 12:28-34

Friday:
2 Timothy 3:10-17
Mark 12:35-37

Saturday:
2 Timothy 4:1-8
Mark 12:38-44

Next Sunday:
Deuteronomy 8:2-3,
14-16
1 Corinthians
10:16-17
John 6:51-58