

SUNDAY *Plus*

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III** Year A

Season of Creation ends



Fr Emil Kapaun celebrating Mass using the bonnet of a jeep as his altar, 7 October 1950, Wikipedia

In captivity, the cornerstone

The handworking skills that Kapaun had learned during his childhood in Kansas became useful again... The rice that [he] stole, the twigs that he gathered, the cooking pots that he shaped, together they were the means that allowed him to furnish

a hot meal to his fellow prisoners...

In a thousand ways Kapaun infused in the captives a desire to hang on, to live. "It was his actual deeds that gave the prisoners such a tremendous impact as they watched him living by God's law.

In a few words, Chaplain Kapaun practised what he preached."

Amid below-zero weather, starvation, and constant sickness, just staying alive had become a daily struggle. "By his example he sometimes forced the little bit of good remaining in these starving men to the fore," declared another prisoner... "When others were getting meaner, the priest was only kinder," said another American soldier. "The longer we were in the valley, the rougher it got – and the rougher it got, the gentler Fr Kapaun became." ...

Kapaun did not hide the fact

that he was a Catholic priest. The religious stole around his shoulders openly identified him. What rankled the Chinese even more was that Kapaun was a leader among the POWs. They knew that at night, groups of the Americans waited in their darkened huts as Kapaun moved steadily from one building to another to meet with them. Even though the Communists had banned religious activities, the chaplain led regular prayer services.

William L. Maher, *A Shepherd in Combat Boots: Chaplain Emil Kapaun of the 1st Cavalry Division*

Where the world sees threats, [the Church] sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome.

Pope Leo XIV

From beauty comes beauty

I have many times heard Michelangelo talk and argue about love... I well know, having been close to him for so long and so intimately... he has loved not only human beauty but universally every beautiful thing, a beautiful horse, a beautiful dog, a beautiful landscape, a beautiful plant, a beautiful mountain, a beautiful wood, and every place and everything beautiful and rare after its own kind, looking at

them all with marvellous feeling and admiration and so selecting what is beautiful from nature, as bees gather honey from the flowers, to make use of it later in their works, and as do all those who have made some name for themselves in painting...

He was never jealous of the works of others, even in his own art, though more from natural goodness than from any opinion he had of himself. Indeed, he has always praised everyone universally.

Ascanio Condivi (1525-1574), *Life of Michelangelo Buonarroti*

Lord, you find beauty and meaning in everybody and everything. Help me to see the world with your eyes.  Amen.



Feast of the week Wednesday 7 October

The Holy Rosary

The Holy Rosary is more than a string of beads: it's a spiritual lifeline, a rhythm of grace that draws us into the heart of Christ through the eyes of Mary. Each decade is a doorway into the mysteries of salvation: joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious. As we pray, we don't merely recite; we meditate, we walk with Jesus and Mary through the Gospel.

In a world of noise and haste, the Rosary offers stillness. It teaches us to listen, to ponder, to trust. Mary, our gentle mother, leads us by the hand, helping us see God's love in every moment of Christ's life – and in our own.

Let us reclaim this prayer as a daily companion. Whether in joy or trial, the Rosary steadies our hearts, strengthens our hope and deepens our love. Through it, heaven touches earth, and we are never alone.

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 5:1-7
Philippians 4:6-9
Matthew 21:33-43

Monday:
Galatians 1:6-12
Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday:
Galatians 1:13-24
Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday:
Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14
Luke 11:1-4

Thursday:
Galatians 3:1-5
Luke 11:5-13

Friday:
Galatians 3:7-14
Luke 11:15-26

Saturday:
Galatians 3:22-29
Luke 11:27-28

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 25:6-10
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-14