

## First reading Proverbs 8:22-31

**Before the beginning of the earth, Wisdom was brought forth.**

Thus says the Wisdom of God: The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

## Responsorial Psalm 8:4-9. R2a

**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name through all the earth!**

When I see the heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars which you arranged,  
what is man that you should keep him in mind,  
the son of man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him little lower than the angels;  
with glory and honour you crowned him,  
gave him power over the works of your hands:  
you put all things under his feet.

All of them, sheep and oxen,  
yes, even the cattle of the fields,  
birds of the air, and fish of the sea  
that make their way through the waters.

## Second reading Romans 5:1-5

**To God through Christ in the love which is poured out through the Spirit.**

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

## Gospel Acclamation Cf. Revelation 1:8

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is and who was and who is to come.  
**Alleluia.**

## Gospel John 16:12-15

**'All that the Father has is mine; the Spirit will take what is mine and declare it to you.'**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

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## Feast Days this week

**Monday 16th June:** St Richard of Chichester

**Thursday 19th June:** St Romald

**Friday 20th June:** Sts Alban, Julius and Aaron, The Irish Martyrs (Ireland)

**Saturday 21st June:** St Aloysius Gonzaga

## The Cycle of Prayer

## Human Life

especially on the Day for Life (3rd Sunday in June)

## Background

The origins of the Day for Life are found in St John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. Preparation for the day is shared with the Bishops' Conferences of Ireland and of Scotland — though each marks the day on a different date. Since its inception it has focussed on a wide range of life issues.

## Prayer

*O God, our past and future hope,  
to you a thousand years are like yesterday,  
come and gone.*

*Teach us to see the world through your eyes,  
to recognise the faults of the past,  
and, however dimly, to see the future with hope.*

*Let us seek out the places of hurt  
where we can offer your love and compassion.*

*Find the places of darkness and despair  
where your mercy can bring light and comfort.*

*May we be heralds of a new world  
where every human life is treated with dignity,  
where all can live and have abundant life.*

Day for Life 2017

*In bygone times practically everybody agreed about the existence of God. At those days, religious divisions came from conflicting beliefs about God, rather than any conflict between theism and atheism. This is not the case nowadays. Not only do many openly profess their lack of faith, but the quality of life we pursue tends to promote a kind of atheism in all of us. Especially in our large cities, surrounded by a world of largely human inventiveness, people are at a distance from the things of nature. As a result even the rural-based of our population are bound to feel in some degree God's apparent remoteness from our situation, God's silence, remaining hidden to the end of our earthly days.*

*Today we celebrate the Most Holy Trinity, the revelation of the mystery of God's inner life. This mystery will remain for all of us as long as we live in this world, even though the veil which covers it is lifted ever so little. Our Bible assures us that not only is our God a personal God, but God exists as three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, while remaining one God. Although we cannot even begin to give a logical explanation for this, our faith enables us in some small measure to experience the presence of God. How this can happen is stated by St Augustine in a most beautiful passage from his "Confessions" (p. 211). "What do I love when I love my God?" he asks. Then he continues; "Not material beauty or beauty of a temporal order; not the brilliance of earthly light, so welcome to our eyes; not the sweet melody of harmony and song; not the fragrance of flowers, perfumes and spices; not manna or honey; not limbs such as the body delights to embrace. It is not these that I love when I love my God. And yet, when I love him, it is true that I love a light of a certain kind, a voice, a perfume, a food, an embrace; but they are of the kind that I love in my inner self." "So tell me something of my God," he asks. And loud and clear they answered, "God is he who made us."*

*Seeing God will change us utterly, and this salvation is a pure gift that always comes from the Father, announced and realised in his divine Son, and made effective in each of us through the action of the Holy Spirit. St Paul tells us that "in one Spirit we have access through Christ to the Father" (Eph 2:18). But the God's reaching down to us must be answered by the up-reach of our soul to God. To succeed in this we must break free from the sinful pursuits which hold us captive. Then as Paul says, like mirrors we will reflect the brightness of the Lord, until finally we are changed into that image which we reflect (2 Cor 3:17f)*

*God is love. There are Three Persons in the Trinity, the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. Together they represent the fullness of love. The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father. The Holy Spirit is their love for each other. We are made in the image of a triune God. God the Father, who created us, his Son who saved us, and the Holy Spirit who continues to guide us. Our lives should reflect the Trinity. We should be always creative like the Father, compassionate like his Son, and dispose our talents in the service of others like the Holy Spirit.*

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### **Prayer for Pope Leo XIV**

Lord of life, love and hope, we thank you for the election of our new Pope.

Watch over, protect and bless Pope Leo XIV

We pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, his faithful witness will be a beacon of hope in our fragile and often divided world.

May the joy of the Gospel inspire him with compassionate understanding so that, together, we can be peacemakers and life-givers.

May Pope Leo be a good and courageous shepherd, concerned for "the least, the last and the lost" of "every tribe and tongue and people and nation". Guide him to be a leader after your own heart, which is more loving than we can possibly imagine.

We ask you, Lord, to surround Pope Leo with people of pastoral wisdom as he adjusts to his new role. Fill him with confidence in the power of prayer. Help us to help him.

Amen.