



Society of African Missions

“The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue
Tenafly, NJ 07670
Phone: 201-567-0450
Visit our website
www.smafathers.org



Mass Schedule

Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

Weekdays & Holy Days

11:45 am

Christmas & New Year’s Day

10:00 am; 12 noon

Confessions

By appointment. Contact

Fr Dermot Roache 201-567-0450 Ext 212

Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. Dermot Roache
201-567-0450 Ext. 212

Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday
from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm

S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr. Eliecer Sandoval, SMA
551-449-4357

Sunday Collection:

July 11: \$1,191; July 18:\$607
Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support
your local parishes.

Administration:

Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,
Provincial Superior

Fr Dermot Roache,
House Superior

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Masses for the week of July 25, 2021 – July 31, 2021

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
Sun.-Sat.	8:00	Liv & Dec Benefactors of the SMA	
Sun. July 25	10:00	Ralph Iacullo+	Susan & Bob
	12:00	Mary Laird+	Martha Paladino
Mon. July 26	9:30	Helen Dougherty+	Martha Paladino
	11:45	Gregorio & Damian Maglikian+	Luz DiMacali
Tue. July 27	9:30	Millarda Barsatan+	Pacia Family
	11:45	Leticia Ricafrente Lawler+	John Lawler
Wed. July 28	9:30	Benedicto Saquibal+	Janeth Aberde
	11:45	Peter Cody+	Susan Cody
Thurs. July 29	9:30	Katie G. Neill (Liv.) Happy Birthday	
	11:45	Maria R. Valdes+	Friend
Fri. July 30	9:30	Robert Doonan+	Susan Murphy
	11:45	Enrico Jr. & Anna Salituro	Enrico & Filomena Salituro
Sat. July 31	9:30	Benedicto Saquibal	Angelica Sarenas
	11:45	Rev. Anthony De Maria+	

Today’s Readings:

First Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44

Instead of using an offering of food for himself, as he would be entitled to do, Elisha tells his servant to give the food to the people.

Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-6

The Spirit of God brings unity and peace and calls on us to be generous and gentle with one another.

Gospel John 6:1-15

The story of Jesus feeding thousands of hungry people who had come to listen to him.

“Giving out as much as was wanted.”

Illustration

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic prompted an outpouring of generosity to the poorest people and communities around the world. In the San Benito suburb of Lima in Peru, British Columban missionary Ed O’Connell reported that where families had no work and no income after weeks of lockdown they were supported by their own neighbours and by Columbans. Two communal kitchens were set up with food, and with the protective equipment of masks and gloves. Between them, they served over one hundred rations daily, reaching forty-five families, more than two hundred people. Those families with no food put out white flags and were given priority. “The people try to be resilient,” said Father Ed, “they keep going and share what they have with others when the need arises.”

This was mirrored in London where Catholic parishes provided emergency food in Trafalgar Square for up to two hundred people daily. “People who have lost jobs and homes during the pandemic are on the streets in growing numbers and they need to be looked after,” said Jesuit Father Dominic Robinson, chair of Westminster Justice and Peace Commission. The Jesuit Refugee Service also fed destitute refugees. “JRS has responded to this need by coordinating food deliveries across London using a vast network of dedicated volunteers,” reported their director, Sarah Teather. She thanked donors for food and money gifts, “helping us feed hundreds of refugees who suffer from hunger and poor health”.

Gospel Teaching

These glimpses of followers of Christ giving food to hungry people in our time reflect today’s Gospel, which demonstrates the compassion of Jesus and God’s great power and mercy. This is the only miracle found in all four Gospels, which means it is an exceptional event. When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist’s killing, he and the disciples withdrew by boat to a lonely place by the Sea of Galilee. But thousands of people went after him on foot. So, as he stepped ashore, he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed those who were sick. But he also recognised their hunger; not only for his words but for food. When the disciples attempted to disperse the crowd because food was scarce, Jesus instructed them to feed the people and then showed them how.

The feeding of the thousands – probably at least ten thousand, if we take women and children into account – is a favourite Gospel miracle for many. But there is some debate today about what the miracle was. Yes, it is possible that Jesus turned a scarcity of loaves and fishes into an abundance of food; but Jesus was not just in the business of feeding others – he was also teaching others how to feed hungry people. Some scholars think it possible that, when Jesus encouraged sharing, the generosity of the small boy prompted others to bring out their packed lunches and share with others in a miraculous outpouring of love. We hear that everybody ate as much as they wanted, with leftovers gathered so they would not be wasted.