



# Society of African Missions

## “The Mission”

23 Bliss Avenue  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
Phone: 201-567-0450  
Visit our website  
[www.smafathers.org](http://www.smafathers.org)

### Mass Schedule

#### Sundays

10:00 am; 12 noon

#### Weekdays & Holy Days

9:30 am & 11:45 am

#### Confessions Saturdays:

After 11:45am Mass.

Or by appointment.

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

#### Bereavement & Visit to the Sick

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

#### Perpetual Mass Association

Office open Monday-Friday

from 9:30am to 3:00pm

#### S.M.A. Vocation Office

Fr Dermot Roache, SMA

Director

201-567-0450 Ext. 253

#### S.M.A. Museum

Open Monday-Sunday from

9:00am –5:00pm

Contact Fr. James McConnell

201-567-0450 Ext. 242

#### Sunday Collection: \$897

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support

your local parishes.



#### **Administration:**

**Fr Ranees A. Rayappan,**  
Provincial Superior

**Fr James McConnell,**  
House Superior

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Masses for the week of MARCH 17, 2024 – MARCH 23, 2024**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. March 17	10:00	Patrick Cabanilla+ & Gigi Jo Mercado+	
	12:00	United Ireland	Mary Quinn & Family
Mon. March 18	9:30	Fr Eamon Treanor+	Friend
	11:45	Andrej Mikulak+	Family
Tue. March 19	9:30	Guiseppe & Carmela Salituro+	Enrico Salituro
	11:45	Rose Mendoza+ & Alma Colobong+	
Wed. March 20	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Liv.)	Joseph & Noreen Hackman
	11:45	Benedict & Anthony Walsh+	Breda Walsh
Thurs. March 21	9:30	Catherine M Hamill+	Friend
	11:45	Moon Ho Ha+	Maria Kang
Fri. March 22	9:30	Memory of Joseph Choi and Mariana Cho+	Juliana and Joseph Family
	11:45	Mary Tietjen+	Family
Sat. March 23	9:30	Maureen McDonald+	Friend
	11:45	Lauren Widner+	Martha DiPaolo

### **Today's Readings:**

**First reading** *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

*Jeremiah tells us of God's continuing patience with us even when we are most stubborn.*

**Second reading** *Hebrews 5:7-9*

*It is through Jesus' obedient suffering that we can be saved.*

**Gospel** *John 12:20-33*

*St John reveals to us Jesus' thoughts and apprehension about his coming suffering.*



**Next Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 8pm - HOLY HOUR**

**PALM SUNDAY, Next Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 10am and 12 Noon.**

## ***“Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?”***

*(John 12:27)*

### ***Illustration***

*Michael Heath is a British cartoonist. He's been working for many years and his cartoons have appeared in all sorts of publications. Any topic is a source of inspiration to him. It could be political, social comment or even religious. In one drawing Michael has Jesus standing with a crowd of people round: him, men, women and children. To one side of the picture there's a rather puzzled-looking disciple who is being accosted by a very self-important looking man who says to the disciple, "I wonder if it's possible to see him privately". He clearly thought he shouldn't be with the riffraff and deserved a one-to-one interview.*

*So many people wanted to see Jesus that he hardly had time to rest. Perhaps we could pick out a few episodes in the Gospel stories about some of the various people who wanted to see him. By that I mean the ones who valued him and not the religious leaders who hated him and wanted him dead.*

*There's the story of Bartimaeus who was blind and begging by the roadside. When he heard Jesus and the crowd go by, he yelled out "Son of David, have pity on me." He was so loud and insistent the crowd told him to shut up. He was embarrassing them. But he took no notice and shouted even louder. Jesus gave him back his sight and Bartimaeus became one of his disciples.*

*Then there was the woman in a crowd who quietly touched Jesus' clothes, knowing she would be cured of her illness. Another was the courteous Roman centurion who asked for just a word from Jesus to cure his servant. When Jesus went to the town of Tyre on the coast, he joined in a battle of wits with the Greek woman who pleaded for her daughter's health. Jesus said he couldn't give the children's bread to dogs. Quick as a flash, the woman replied that even dogs ate the crumbs from the master's table. And perhaps the boldest of all was the group who tried to get their paralysed neighbour into the house where Jesus was staying. The crowd blocked the doorway, so they decided to take the roof off and lower the man in via the direct route.*

### ***Gospel reading***

*What all these people, and so many more, had in common was that they wanted Jesus to do something for them. But what about Jesus himself? Who looked after his needs? Today's Gospel reading is a bit strange; it's in two parts, which don't seem to be connected, but it might give us a clue as to what Jesus is thinking. The Greeks who spoke to Philip were clearly very polite. Perhaps Philip wasn't used to such courtesy because he seemed not to know how to deal with them. He had to go and ask advice from Andrew and the two of them went to Jesus. We don't know whether Jesus even met the Greek visitors, because his reply is concentrated on the events that he knows are waiting for him and which trouble his soul.*

### ***Application***

*Next Sunday is the start of Holy Week. We know this is the most solemn part of the Church's year. As the week unfolds, we find that Jesus, who has done so much good for everyone, is himself left almost friendless. In Gethsemane, when he is in agony, his closest apostles fall asleep and give him no comfort. He is betrayed by one of his own; the disciples run away when Jesus is arrested. Peter denies he even knows him. The crowd which cheered and waved palms when he entered Jerusalem now turns nasty when they find he's not going to drive the Romans out. Shouts of "Hosanna" become "Crucify him". Jesus is degraded and mocked by the soldiers. The religious leaders vent their hate on him and Rome condemns him unjustly. Jesus accepts all this suffering for our sake. As we heard in the reading from the letter to the Hebrews, "he became, for all who obey him, the source of eternal salvation".*

*Of course, we can't be physically with Jesus as we remember and re-enact the events of so long ago during Holy Week, but by opening our hearts as we proceed from Passion Sunday, through Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we can share in the joy of the risen Lord on Easter Day. If we let him, the Lord will write his law of love within our hearts.*

Living the Word

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:**

**Every Friday during Lent at 7:30pm**

### **CONFESSIONS :**

**Every Saturday afternoon during Lent from 4-5pm**