



# 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: \$853**

Thank you for your support.

Please remember to support  
 your local parishes.

**Administration:**

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

**Fr James McConnell,**  
 House Superior

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**Masses for the week of JULY 7, 2024 – JULY 13, 2024**

Date	Time	Intention	Requested by:
<b>Sun.-Sat.</b>	<b>8:00</b>	<b>Liv. &amp; Dec. Benefactors of the SMA</b>	
Sun. July 7	10:00	Vicki Valcourt Helms+	Martha DiPaolo
	12:00	Virgil & Laura Costa	Victoria Costa
Mon. July 8	9:30	Edison & Edna (Living)	Edna
	11:45	Gregorio & Damiana Maglikian+	Luz Dimacali
Tue. July 9	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Prayer Group
	11:45	Lourdes M. Lamigo (Living)	Luz Dimacali
Wed. July 10	9:30	William Cole Hackman (Living)	Joseph & Noreen
	11:45	Conrado & Dolores Maglikian+	Luz Dimacali
Thurs. July 11	9:30	Gilberto Guinto+	Perpetual Prayer Group
	11:45	Monica Kang Family	Cecilia Kay
Fri. July 12	9:30	Thomas Stanfield+	Dom & Terri Porto
	11:45	Rose Peltier+ & Larry Peltier+	Michelle Supper
Sat. July 13	9:30	Helen J. Esposito+	Dom & Terri Porto
	11:45	Ida Casucci+	Marisa Pastore

**Today’s Readings:**

***First Reading Ezekiel 2:2-5***

*Ezekiel is commissioned by God to speak to the disobedient Israelites. God tells him to deliver the message as commanded, even if they do not want to listen.*

***Second Reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10***

*Paul says that when he is weak, he is strong in Christ.*



***Gospel Mark 6:1-6***

*Jesus teaches in the synagogue at Nazareth but the people reject him. He is amazed by their lack of faith, and he is only able to heal a few sick people because of their unbelief.*

## ***“There is a prophet among them.”***

### *Illustration*

*Around this time last year, a group of schoolchildren in Birmingham sent drawings to children at an asylum centre in Dover after children's murals at the centre were removed. Immigration officials had them painted over, as it was felt they were too welcoming! Pupils from St Gerard's Catholic Primary School in Birmingham said this action made them feel sad. They sent their drawings to help make the refugee children feel "more welcome". Around 100 pictures and stories were sent by 8- and 9-year-olds before the school broke up for the summer.*

*At the same time, discussions were going on in Parliament, in parishes and on the streets about a new Illegal Immigration Bill, which many felt fuelled hostility towards refugees. The Churches spoke out on behalf of refugees, particularly children, even though this meant going against government plans and even some significant popular opinion.*

*Despite protests, the Illegal Migration Act became law on 20 July 2023, although Churches and human rights groups remained concerned about the impact it would have on refugee children in particular. The Jesuit Refugee Service, CAFOD, the Catholic Social Action Network, Columban missionaries and Pax Christi Scotland were among those asking supporters to oppose “this cruel and unworkable” legislation. Plans for detaining child refugees were heavily criticised. The Jesuit Refugee Service UK said, “it is vital that all children are protected from the lifelong trauma that detention inflicts.” Campaigners urged the government to focus on creating “a compassionate, fair, and effective system”, including being less hostile to people fleeing to the UK to seek sanctuary. Some refugees were so desperate they travelled in small boats across the English Channel.*

### *Gospel Teaching*

*Our readings today suggest that we – as individuals and as members of Christian communities – should become prophets who speak up against anything we see going on that goes against Christian values. In the example given it is ‘welcoming the stranger’, which is Church policy.*

*It is not easy. Biblical prophets were often afraid to accept the call from God, not wanting to have their lives interrupted, and so made a list of all the reasons why they could not accept the call, including their personal limitations. God called on them to be courageous and committed, trusting they had something valuable to offer.*

*In the Gospel we hear that Jesus was dismayed when he experienced a lack of faith in his own town of Nazareth. Indeed, it even undermined his ability to perform miracles. He lamented individuals and communities taking on the values of society rather than of faith. We are encouraged to speak out as people of faith and to be prophets of our time. We are challenged by the example of Jesus to speak out against injustice and violence. Vulnerable groups tend to come second to personal profit and advancement and the vulnerable environment is carelessly used and not well protected. We cannot be indifferent to these realities of our time.*

### *Application*

*The reluctance to be a prophet in the world has not changed in our age. Do we feel reluctant to engage in issues for the common good for all the same reasons – too busy, not skilled enough, or afraid? Perhaps we ignore the news, both local and international. Perhaps we are indifferent to the suffering of communities we don't know. However, just like the prophets of old, God needs us now, and we are invited to respond.*

*Learn more about the issues that threaten the quality of life of people and the environment so that we will no longer be passive observers but Christians who contribute to discussions with a clear set of values. Do we have a parish justice and peace group or projects which reach out to vulnerable people in the parish? Even the smallest of acts has the potential to seed change and make life better for everyone.*

*On a personal level, perhaps we will be challenged this week to welcome a stranger. Are you aware of someone who is not included in mainstream society? Are they unable to access things you take for granted? It may be someone you passed on the street or saw on the news. Perhaps it is a refugee child who feels alone in the world. As that person comes to mind, spend time asking God how you can respond. What needs to be done to enable this person to be a part of our community? What structural and political changes are required? Do we need to be critical of our assumptions and prejudices? Do we need to ask more questions and take less for granted? Do we need to speak out for social justice? Let us be more prophetic.*