

Breaking Open The Word

REDEMPTORIST
Daily Devotional
2026



**Daily Mass Readings and Reflections with a note on the Saint of
the Day and Prayers**

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Breaking the Word: Redemptorist Mass Companion 2026 is a maiden publication of the Redemptorists Publications India, of the Province of Bangalore. This Mass Companion contains the following:

- Liturgically approved Daily Mass Readings and Psalms - ESV translation used in the CCBI Lectionary.
- Additional liturgical readings for special Redemptorist feasts and celebrations.
- Daily inspirational reflections on the readings of the Mass.
- Brief note on the Saint of the day including Redemptorist Saints and Blessed.

- International days of commemoration of special events and themes.
- Daily Prayers, Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Mass prayers, Novenas on various occasions and special days.
- Redemptorist devotions like Mother of Perpetual Succour Novena, Prayer to St. Gerard and much more.
- Popular programmes on RMC's YouTube integrated with QR codes for easy access.

Redemptorist Publications India is a unit of the Holy Redeemer Foundation. It strives to serve the Church and society through periodicals such as Breaking the Word- (the Sunday Homily bulletin) and many other pastoral books to enrich Christian Spirituality and Faith.

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Cum Permissu Superiorum

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Fr. Rogério Gomes, C.Ss.R

Superior General

Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer

Rome, ITALY

Message

Dear Faithful Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am pleased to present the Redemptorist Mass Companion: Breaking the Word 2026. This work has been carefully prepared under the supervision of the Redemptorist missionaries of the Bangalore Province, with the collaboration of Redemptorists from various parts of the world. It is a valuable and practical annual devotional resource designed to accompany the liturgical year, featuring daily Scripture readings, spiritual reflections, prayers, and information on saints and feast days.

The purpose of these texts is to help you live each day more closely united to God, guiding your meditation and personal prayer. They also encourage more conscious participation in the celebration of the Eucharist, promote reflection on the practical aspects of Christian life such as faith, hope, service to others, humility, and forgiveness and foster a deeper knowledge of the lives of saints, blesseds, and martyrs.

I believe this booklet can be a true companion for your journey. You can carry it with you in your daily activities and, whenever the opportunity arises, use it as a means to encounter the Lord through personal meditation, helping you deepen your life of faith.

May this resource be a powerful instrument of evangelization for all who use it!

Fr. Rogério Gomes, C.Ss.R

Fr. Edward Joseph, C.Ss.R.,
Provincial Superior,
Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer
Province of Bangalore, India

Message

With gratitude to Almighty God, it is with great joy that we present the second edition of the Redemptorist Mass Companion. This renewed publication stands as a valuable resource, designed to deepen the spiritual lives of individuals, families, and faith communities by fostering a richer engagement with the Sacred Liturgy and the Word of God.

The mission of the Redemptorists - to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ with zeal and compassion - finds new expression in this edition. Rooted in the tradition of our charism, the Mass Companion supports ongoing formation and reflection, inviting the faithful to encounter Christ more profoundly in the celebration of the Eucharist.

In a world marked by rapid change and many challenges, the need for accessible, prayerful, and theologically sound resources remains urgent. This edition is a testament to the Redemptorist commitment to accompany the faithful on their spiritual journey, offering insights and reflections that illuminate the Mass readings in order to help nurture a living relationship with Christ.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Redemptorist Publication India team and all the contributors whose dedication and spiritual insights have made this second edition possible. May their efforts bear abundant fruit in the lives of all who use this companion as a guide and inspiration.

May Mary, Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Church, continue to intercede for us, that through our prayerful participation in the Eucharist, we may be transformed into faithful witnesses of God's love and mercy in the world.

Fr. Edward Joseph, C.Ss.R.,

Fr. Charles Vijay Kumar, C.Ss.R.

Director,

Holy Redeemer Foundation

Message

Dear Friends in the Most Holy Redeemer,

It is with profound joy and gratitude that we present to you the second edition of *Breaking the Word – Redemptorist Mass Companion*, 2026.

The success and warm reception of the maiden edition in 2025, affirmed our shared hunger for a deeper, more meaningful encounter with the Word of God, and the richness of Redemptorist spirituality. Many wrote to us, shared photos of the book being used in homes, chapels, and monasteries, and testified to how this simple companion helped make the daily liturgy come alive. For that, we thank you — our readers, friends, and fellow pilgrims.

Building on that inspiration, the 2026 edition comes to you with renewed commitment and enriched content. Each page continues to echo the Redemptorist mission: to preach the Gospel ever anew, especially to the most abandoned. This companion offers daily reflections, prayers, and insights into the lives of saints, grounding you in the Word and calling you to action. This year, we have twenty-four Redemptorists from across the globe, contributing to the writing of the daily reflections; my very special thanks to each one of them.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our editorial team — Fr. George Puthenpura, C.Ss.R., Fr. Assisi Saldanha, C.Ss.R., and Fr. Juventius Andrade, C.Ss.R. — whose theological wisdom and pastoral insights shaped this work from its foundations.

Our sincere gratitude to the Core Team who brought extraordinary dedication and coordination to this second edition: Fr. John Paul, C.Ss.R., Fr. Robin Kumar, C.Ss.R. along with Rohit Singh Deo and Felicia Joseph who coordinated the project. Special thanks to Fr. Sandeep Menezes, Sreya Urs, Roshini Mathew, Sindhu Joseph, Sapna Joseph, Diana Asha, Sunil D'souza, Romi Alex, Joanne Kripa, and Tanushree Singha, who meticulously collated and reviewed the content. Your passion and perseverance are deeply appreciated.

Our appreciation to the Tech Team - Fr. Anto Chacko, C.Ss.R., Sreejith S., Gerard Anthony and the DbTez team - for helping us manage the complex process of content development and digital infrastructure, and Sanjay for the thoughtful and creative visual layout and design work.

We also remain deeply thankful to Fr. Edward Joseph, C.Ss.R., our Provincial, and the Provincial Council for their continued support, trust, and encouragement in nurturing this initiative.

As you journey through the liturgical year with this companion in hand, may the Spirit of the Redeemer speak to your heart daily. May it stir within you a deeper desire to live the Gospel and proclaim it with joy, boldness, and compassion.

Thank you for walking this path with us once again. Together, may we continue to break the Word and be broken by it - for the life of the world.

"He has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature."

2 Peter 1: 2-7

Beloved: May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature,

having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love.

Psalms 91: 1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16

O my God, I trust in you.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shade of the Almighty, says to the Lord, "My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!" **R.**

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him, protect him, for he knows my name. When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress. **R.**

I will deliver him, and give him glory. With length of days I will content him; I will show him my saving power. **R.**



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Acclamation: Revelation 1: 5ab

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead; you have loved us and freed us from our sins by your blood. Alleluia.

"They took the beloved son and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard."

Gospel: Mark 12: 1-12

At that time: Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and the scribes and the elders in parables. "A man planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a pit for the wine press and built a tower, and leased it to tenants and went into another country. When the season came, he sent a servant to the tenants to get from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent to them another servant, and they struck him on the head and treated him shamefully. And he sent

another, and him they killed. And so with many others: some they beat, and some they killed. He had still one other, a beloved son. Finally he sent him to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But those tenants said to one another, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." And they took him and killed him and threw him out of the vineyard. What will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the tenants and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this Scripture: "The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?" And they were seeking to arrest him but feared the people, for they

perceived that he had told the parable against them. So they left him and went away.

Reflection

After the Easter season, the readings of Ordinary Time of the Year. unravel the mystery of discipleship in the lives of believers. For example, both the readings of today address the issues of "corruption in the world because of evil desire". Peter names it; the Gospel of Matthew illustrates it in parable.

We live in a time when corruption plagues us all, be it at the level of politics, society, religion and even in the Church itself. There are several different images of what that all looks like from which people function. Here are two key examples:

The first, namely that the world out there is corrupt, so do not be influenced by it. The second, namely that the tendencies any of us recognize in the world, already exist within us. The second is like Jesus' statement in the Gospel of Mark concerning evil desires proceeding from the human heart.

Though the parable was addressed to

the Jewish leaders, the Gospel becomes truly saving when and if we allow this parable to speak to us directly today. We are very often corrupt and given into corruption. Today, we are invited to search our hearts and respond to grace. It doesn't mean that we should live in guilt and shame because at the core we are bad. The true mystery of our motives become salvific when we encounter Jesus Christ without pretence and open our hearts to the call to conversion, to let the grace of the Lord enter and penetrate our being, to search our hearts and seek purification of our attitudes and desires, our motivation and intentions.

The greater mystery is that "the stone which the builders-yes, that's us, you and me-rejected has become the cornerstone!" That's the mystery to be grateful for which we receive as grace in this Eucharist, the Lord Himself who illumines us and calls us to conversion and change.

Saint of the Day: St. Justin, Martyr

St. Justin was an early Christian Apologist and philosopher. He was born to a Greek family which followed the Greek pagan religion. A meeting with an elderly Christian man showed him the limits of Greek philosophy and the necessity for divine revelation as found in the Scriptures. This made Justin convert to Christianity; Justin

hoped to remove misunderstandings about Christianity and to persuade others to embrace the faith by engaging in dialogue with seekers of truth. He wrote books about the Christian faith. Justin's works include his two Apologias addressed to the Roman emperor and the senate. He was martyred for his faith.

QUOTE:

"Our hope is not in this present life, but in the life to come."

- St. Justin, Martyr

Homilies
on the go



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2 Peter 3: 12-15a, 17-18 *“We are waiting for new heavens and a new earth.”*

Beloved: Waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish,

and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Psalms 90: 2, 3-4, 10, 14 & 16 *O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.*

Before the mountains were born, or the earth or the world were brought forth, you are God, from age to age. **R.**

You turn man back to dust, and say, “Return, O children of men.” To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, or like a watch in the night. **R.**

Seventy years is the span of our days, or eighty if we are strong. And most of these are toil and pain. They pass swiftly and we are gone. **R.**

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let your deed be seen by your servants, and your glorious power by their children. **R.**

Acclamation: Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia. Alleluia. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us.

Alleluia.

Mark 12:13-17 *“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”*

At that time:

They sent to Jesus some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone’s opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar’s.” Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they marvelled at him.

Reflection

One Sunday morning, as the offertory basket was passed around, a man reached into his leather purse to find a coin for the offering. He carefully searched and picked out a small coin, ready to drop it in.

But before he could, the man standing behind him gently placed a higher-value currency in his hand. Surprised by the unexpected generosity, the man hesitated for a moment but then placed the note in the basket with gratitude. After Mass, still moved by the kindness he had received, he approached the man and asked, "How can you be so generous?" With a kind

smile, the man replied, "I simply gave you back the money that fell from your purse." The man stood in stunned silence.

Jesus teaches that we have obligations both to the earthly government and to God. Paying taxes is part of supporting the welfare of society, while giving to God reflects our faith and gratitude. Just as we contribute to the nation through taxes, we should also be generous to the Church, which serves our spiritual needs and helps the poor. Our gifts, whether to state or to God, must be out of conviction, and not out of compulsion. God loves a cheerful giver.

Saint of the Day: St. Marcellinus and St. Peter, Martyrs

Marcellinus and Peter were early Christian martyrs who lived during the persecution of Christians under the Roman Emperor Diocletian. Marcellinus was a priest and Peter was an exorcist. Peter freed the jailor's daughter from demonic possession and the entire family became Christians. Marcellinus baptized them. When the authorities heard about it, they

were arrested and brought before the magistrate, where they bravely testified. They refused to renounce their faith even in the face of torture. They were eventually beheaded. Their lives are examples of unwavering faith and courage in the face of persecution. They are the patron saints of those who suffer from plagues and infectious diseases.

QUOTE:

"My power is not my own, but Christ working through me."

- St. Peter the Exorcist

AUGUST 9 *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples*

August 9th marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, a day dedicated to celebrating and recognizing the contributions, cultures, and rights of indigenous peoples globally. Established by the United Nations, this observance highlights the rich diversity and heritage of indigenous communities while raising awareness about the challenges they face, including discrimination, marginalization, and threats to their lands and resources. It emphasizes the importance of preserving indigenous languages, traditions, and knowledge systems. The day also calls for the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights as enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, fostering a more inclusive and respectful world for all.

AUGUST 12 *World Youth Day*

August 12th is celebrated as World Youth Day, an international observance dedicated to recognizing the vital role that young people play in creating a better future. Established by the United Nations, this day highlights the potential of youth as agents of positive change and encourages their participation in all aspects of society. It provides a platform to address the challenges and issues faced by young people, including education, employment, and mental health. World Youth Day promotes the empowerment and inclusion of young people in decision-making processes, fostering their development and ensuring their voices are heard in shaping a sustainable and equitable world.

AUGUST 22 *International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief*

August 22nd is observed as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief. Established by the United Nations, this day aims to honour and support the victims and survivors of religiously motivated violence. It underscores the importance of standing up against religious intolerance, discrimination, and violence, and promoting a culture of peace and mutual respect among different religious and belief communities. The day serves as a reminder of the right to freedom of religion or belief, enshrined in international human rights laws, and calls for collective efforts to address and prevent acts of violence based on religion or belief, ensuring justice and protection for all individuals.

AUGUST 23 *International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (UNESCO)*

August 23rd marks the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, established by UNESCO to honour the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. This day commemorates the 1791 uprising in Saint-Domingue (now Haiti), which played a crucial role in abolishing slavery. It serves as a reminder of the enduring impact of slavery on contemporary society and encourages reflection on the struggle for freedom and human rights. Events worldwide promote education, awareness, and dialogue about the historical consequences of the slave trade, fostering a commitment to preventing racism and discrimination in all its forms.

WHO'S WHO IN THE BIBLE PRAYING WITH BIBLICAL CHARACTERS



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EPISODE No.	TITLE	PRESENTER
EPISODE 01	INTRODUCTION: 1 - Who's Who in the Bible: Praying with Biblical Characters	Fr. Juventius Andrade, C.Ss.R.
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