

1 February

BLESSED BENEDICT DASWA, Martyr

Memorial

THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY

Tshimangadzo Samuel Benedict Daswa was born on 16 June 1946 at Mbahe village near Thohoyandou, South Africa. Baptized in 1963 by Fr Augustine O'Brien MSC, he qualified as a teacher and later became a school principal. As a married man with eight children, he was very involved in both Church and community activities. On 2 February 1990, he was bludgeoned to death for refusing to take part in anti-Catholic practices of witchcraft.

From the Common of Martyrs: For One Martyr, except:

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Gal 6:14; 1Cor 1:18

Far be it from us to boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the word of the Cross is the power of God to us who have been saved.

Collect

O God, who were pleased to give light to your Church by adorning Blessed Benedict with the victory of martyrdom, graciously grant that, as he imitated the Lord's Passion, so may we, by rejecting evil and casting out the snares of the enemy and the leaven of malice, follow in his footsteps and be worthy to attain eternal joys. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen

FIRST READING

Wisdom 2:12-20

If the righteous man is God's child, he will help him, and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom

"Let us lie in wait for the righteous man,
because he is inconvenient to us and opposes our actions;
he reproaches us for sins against the law,
and accuses us of sins against our training.

He professes to have knowledge of God,
and calls himself a child of the Lord.
He became to us a reproof of our thoughts:
the very sight of him is a burden to us,
because his manner of life is unlike that of others,
and his ways are strange.
We are considered by him as something base,
and he avoids our ways as unclean;
he calls the last end of the righteous happy,
and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true,
and let us test what will happen at the end of his life;
for if the righteous man is God's child, he will help him,
and will deliver him from the hand of his adversaries.
Let us test him with insult and torture,
so that we may find out how gentle he is,
and make trial of his forbearance.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death,
for, according to what he says, he will be protected."

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 27:1-4 (R:1)

R/. The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
whom should I dread? **R/.**

When those who do evil draw near
To devour my flesh,
It is they, my enemies and foes,
Who stumble and fall. **R/.**

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then would I trust. **R/.**

There is one thing I ask of the LORD,
only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD,
to inquire at his temple. **R/.**

Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Finally, brethren, be strong in the Lord
and in the strength of his might.
Put on the whole armour of God,
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
For we are not contending against flesh and blood,
but against the principalities,
against the powers,
against the world rulers of this present darkness,
against the spiritual hosts of wickedness
in the heavenly places.
Therefore, take the whole armour of God,
that you may be able to withstand in the evil day,
and having done all, to stand.
Stand therefore,
having fastened the belt of truth around your waist,
and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
and having shod your feet
with the equipment of the gospel of peace;
above all taking the shield of faith,
with which you can quench
all the flaming darts of the Evil One.
And take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.

The Word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Acts 7:59

Alleluia. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." **Alleluia.**

"If any one serves me, the Father will honour him."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time:

Jesus said to his disciples,

"Truly, truly I say to you,

unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains alone;

but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

He who loves his life loses it,

and he who hates his life in this world

will keep it for eternal life.

Whoever serves me must follow me,

and where I am, there will my servant be also.

If anyone serves me, he must follow me;

and where I am, there shall my servant be also;

if anyone serves me, the Father will honour him".

The Gospel of the Lord.

Prayer over the Offerings

Most merciful God, pour out your blessing upon these offerings and confirm us in the faith that blessed Benedict professed by the shedding of his blood. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Jn 15:1-5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord, whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears much fruit.

Or:

Jn 8:12

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon heavenly delights, we humbly ask you, O Lord, that following the example of blessed Benedict we may bear in our hearts the marks of your Son's charity and suffering and ever enjoy the fruit of perpetual peace. Through Christ our Lord.