

## Easter Message 2018

*Be the Other Disciple; the One Whom Jesus Loved*

Dear rothers and Sisters in Christ,

1. **With great joy, I announce to you the Good News of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus** from the dead and invite you to extend to one another the great Christian affirmation: *Christ is Risen*. During these Paschal days, let this "Christ is Risen alleluia" acclamation be your typical form of greeting one another even in place of the usual 'good morning/good evening' salutation, as a way of underscoring the immensity of this great News while at the same time calling one another to the consequent Christian responsibility and mission.

In this Easter Message, I wish to let the anonymous beloved disciple of Jesus, exclusively found in the Gospel according to John, speak to us and guide us into what it really means to be an authentic disciple of the risen Lord. I also make specific reference to the youths, to whom this year is specially dedicated.



---8) and prompted the miraculous catch of fish, it was this same anonymous disciple who recognised him first and told Peter: "It is the Lord". Furthermore, when Jesus invited Peter to follow him after his three-fold profession of love, the beloved disciple was also there following them and Jesus' remark about him ("If I want him to stay behind till I come, what does it matter to you") created an impression in the community that this disciple would not die (21:20---23). This link between the ideal nameless disciple and the community of Jesus' followers is indeed a fittingly conclusion to the Fourth Gospel. It provides the necessary guarantee of continued presence of the beloved disciple in the life and mission of the Church and its individual members.

3 **The prominence of this beloved disciple** of Jesus is also equally evident in the rest of the Gospel according to John, especially when Jesus' hour comes, starting from chapter 13 and beyond. During the Last Supper, when Jesus declares that one of his disciples was going to betray him, it was this nameless disciple who was reclining next to Jesus, close to his chest and who enquired on behalf of others who it was that was going to betray the Lord (John 13:21---26).

In addition, after Jesus was arrested and brought before Annas, this was the same 'other disciple' who followed alongside Peter and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest and spoke to the door-keeper to let Peter in as well (John 18:12---16). Moreover, as Jesus hang dying on the cross, he saw his mother and 'the disciple whom he loved' standing near her (John 19:26) and this became the perfect moment for Jesus to pronounce his Last Will: "Woman this is your son" and to the disciple: "This is your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (John 19:25---27)." Thanks to the enduring fidelity of this beloved disciple, indeed the Church has been bequeathed the most precious gift of Jesus' very own mother.

4 **It is undoubtedly clear, from the foregoing that this disciple was particularly close to Jesus;** he was a faithful disciple indeed. What is curious however is how such a close companion could not be identified by proper name in the entire Fourth Gospel. Many commentators, in this regard have generally tended to identify the beloved disciple of Jesus with St John, the evangelist to whom this Gospel is attributed. However, it is more prudent to maintain the original intention of the inspired author

to keep the identity of this particular disciple anonymous in order for subsequent individual believers and followers of Jesus in all ages to identify with this unnamed disciple.

5 **It is in this vein that I specifically wish to dedicate this reflection to the youths in view of the Diocesan Year of the Youth (DYY) 2018,** calling on every young person to identify with this nameless beloved disciple of Jesus. This Easter therefore, let *the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved* be you, the young person. Be the one who is leaning close to the chest of Jesus, ensuring no one betrays the Lord again (John 13:23---25). Allow yourself to be that faithful disciple whom the crucified Jesus entrusts to the maternal care of his own mother, having seen you holding on to the values of the Gospel even in the most trying moments of life (John 19:26---27). You be that ever-alert disciple who never sits back upon receiving the Good News of the Risen Lord, but outruns everyone in matters of faith and good morals (John 20:3--5). This Easter and always, be you the Johanne *other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved*.

6 **This beloved disciple of the Lord serves also as the living model of fidelity** to the commitments we make in life. Married couples should become this "beloved disciple" to their spouses in all the different phases of their life together. Parents must be 'the disciple that Jesus loved' to their children as much as children ought to be to their parents. Priests and consecrated persons need to draw inspiration of true and faithful discipleship and service from the nameless disciple of the Gospel according to John. Politicians and all those entrusted with the responsibility of presiding over the public welfare must learn to become that nameless follower of Jesus who distinguished himself as truly honourable and trustworthy. It is unfortunate that selfish and unscrupulous individuals have tainted the nobility of politics and civil service with so much betrayal and corruption that people are no longer able to see the 'beloved and faithful disciple, but rather Judas Iscariot and betrayal.

7 **May the inspirations drawn from the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved bring about a total paradigm shift in the way we live** our Christian commitment and service towards one another. Before dying on the cross, Jesus entrusted his beloved disciple to the maternal care of his own mother. Together with this model disciple and our blessed mother Mary, may we find true joy in the victory of Christ over death and live authentic Christian lives. *The Lord is Risen, Alleluia.*

**Given on this Holy Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of March in the Year of the Lord 2018**

**+Patrick Chisanga, OFM Conv.  
Bishop of Mansa Diocese**



**Rt. Rev. Patrick Chisanga**

2 **Unlike the synoptic Gospels** (Mark, Matthew and Luke) the Johannine version of the resurrection story accords particular prominence to a certain nameless figure that is characteristically referred to as 'The Other Disciple.' This *other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved* (John 20:2), was the one who, together with Simon Peter, received the breaking news from Mary of Magdala, early hours of the first day of the week, about the empty tomb and outran his older companion in the ensuing race towards the tomb (John 20:4---5), though he did not go in until after Peter

It is remarkable to note that when this "other disciple" who reached the tomb first also went in, *he saw and he believed* whereas Peter, though having seen the very same things, "the linen cloths lying on the ground and also the cloth that had been over his head" (John 20:6---9) could not bring himself to believe. Confronted by all the signs of death surrounding him, this particular disciple was still able to believe in the victory of life over death.

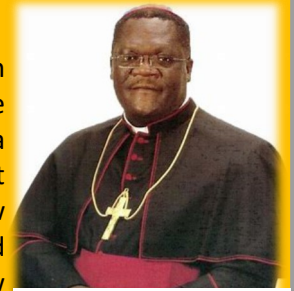
Later on, when the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (John 1:1

## PROGRAMME FOR RECORDING MASS

DAY	PARISH	CELEBRANT	DATE
5 <sup>th</sup> Easter	Bahati	Fr. Katoloshi F.	29/04/18
6 <sup>th</sup> Easter	Bahati	Fr. Sankalimba	06/05/18
Ascension	Musonda Girls' Tec. Sec	Fr. Kombe J.	13/05/18
Pentecost	Kabunda	Fr. Musonda F.	20/05/18
Holy Trinity	Mabumba	Fr. Bulandi P.	27/05/18
10 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Namwandwe	Fr. Lyoba B.	10/06/18
11 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	K.Musuma	Fr. Chifumbe F.	17/06/18
Birthday of John the Baptist	Kabunda	Fr. Sylvester K.	24/06/18
13 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Kabunda	Fr. Kainga P.	01/07/18
14 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Kawambwa	Fr. Chisanga J.	08/07/18
15 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Kawambwa	Fr. Mwelwa I.	15/07/18
16 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	St. Andrew	Fr. Lwanga D.	22/07/18
17 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	St. Joseph	Fr. Kalasa R.	29/07/18
18 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Chibote	Fr. Mwansa M.	05/08/18
19 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Nsakaluba	Fr. Chibale F.	12/08/18
20 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Nsakaluba	Fr. Mutiti E.	19/08/18
21 <sup>st</sup> Wk in OT	Twingi	Fr. Basil M.	26/08/18
22 <sup>nd</sup> Wk in OT	Twingi	Fr. Kalaba W.	02/09/18
23 <sup>rd</sup> Wk in OT	Kasaba	Fr. Kanja V.	09/09/18
24 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Kasaba	Fr. Mafumbi A.	16/09/18
25 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	St. Monica	Fr. Katwai M.	23/09/18
26 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	St. John's	Fr. Ponde S.	30/09/18
27 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	St. John's	Fr. Musonda F.	07/10/18
28 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Chimese	Fr. Antonio B.	14/10/18
29 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Chemebe	Fr. Rogers C.	21/10/18
30 <sup>th</sup> Wk in OT	Kashikishi	Fr. Mukobekwa	28/10/18
31 <sup>st</sup> Wk in OT	St. Paul's	Fr. Nkwale J.	04/11/18
32 <sup>nd</sup> Wk in OT	St. Peter's	Fr. Mpsa F.	11/11/18
33 <sup>rd</sup> Wk in OT	St. Paul's	Fr. Chama C.	18/11/18
1 Advent	Rosario	Fr. Max K. M.	02/12/18
2 Advent	Rosario	Fr. Kabinda B.	09/12/18
3 Advent	Kasamba	Fr. Patrice	16/12/18
4 advent	Kasamba	Fr. Benjamin	23/12/18
Holy Family	Chitamba	Fr. Ndelela L.	30/12/18

## CONGRATULATIONS

The clergy, men and women in consecrated life, as well as all the Catholic lay faithful of Mansa Diocese wish to congratulate Most Rev. Dr. Alick Banda, as new Archbishop of Lusaka. May God bless him abundantly in his new role as a shepherd of Archdiocese of Lusaka and directing the affairs of the Church in Zambia.



Archbishop Alick Banda

## CATHOLIC BISHOPS ELECT

### RT. REV. PATRICK CHISANGA AS ALTERNATE MEMBER OF ZCCB EXECUTIVE BOARD



Bishop Cosmas Zumaile Lungu

The Catholic Bishops, in Zambia, have elected Rt. Rev. George Cosmas Zumaile Lungu, Bishop of Chipata Diocese, as the new President of Zambia Conference of Catholic Bishops (ZCCB). This follows the decision by Archbishop Emeritus of Lusaka, Most Rev. Telesphore Mpundu, the immediate past president of ZCCB, to opt for early retirement. Rt. Rev. Patrick Chisanga, Bishop of Mansa Diocese, is the new alternate member of the ZCCB Executive Board.

Most Rev. Ignatius Chama, Archbishop of Kasama, is the new ZCCB Vice President. Other Bishops elected to the ZCCB Executive Board are: Most Rev. Alick Banda, of Lusaka Archdiocese, Rt. Rev. Evans Chinyama Chinyemba, OMI, of Mongu Diocese and Rt. Rev. Charles Kasonde of Solwezi Diocese. The elections were held on Friday April 13, 2018 at Kapingila House in Lusaka.

Source: ZCCB Communications Director

## Let Peace flow like a river in Africa

An interdenominational prayer session for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and the



entire continent of Africa was held on Sunday afternoon March 4, 2018. Christians from different denominations convened at the Cathedral of the Assumption in Mansa.

Mansa Roundup Thanks for the inspiring preaching of

Bishop Roy Sinkala (UCZ), the orientation given by Bishop Robert Mumbi (Anglican) and context of refugees and final blessing by Bishop Patrick Chisanga.

In attendance was also: His Excellence the Mayor of Mansa Mr. Chungu Emmanuel, the District Administrative Officer (DAO) and other government officials.



Fr. Kangwa Mutale Lct. M.TH

### **“Saint” In Front of Someone’s Name: The Story of St. Mark, The Evangelist**

When we see “Saint” in front of someone’s name, we might think they got that way on their own. St. Mark tells a different story. He might have faded into history if someone else hadn’t believed in him.

Mark was the son of Mary, a widow in whose house the early Christians gathered (Acts 12:12). Although not one of the twelve apostles, Mark may well have been one of Jesus’ followers. He also accompanied his cousin Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey, but for some reason, he left them prematurely (13:13). When it was time for the next trip, Paul didn’t want to take Mark along. In his eyes, Mark had deserted the cause and couldn’t be trusted (15:38).

As luck would have it, Barnabas didn’t give up on him. While Paul went on to Syria with Silas, Barnabas took Mark to Cyprus (Acts 15:39-41). This second chance was all he needed. Tradition tells us that Mark went on to Rome, became Peter’s interpreter, and later wrote the first Gospel. Even Paul forgave Mark eventually. Later in life he commended Mark for his service and called his companionship a “comfort” (Colossians 4:11).

Now, what if Barnabas had rejected Mark as well? The young man might never have become Peter’s “son” in the faith (1 Peter 5:13). Worse still, he might never have written his Gospel—which means that Matthew and Luke might not have written their Gospels in the manner they have done it either! Barnabas had shown Mark a little compassion.

*The story of Mark’s life urges us not to give up on each other. Looking with the eyes of mercy and patience. Barnabas saw Mark’s potential and stuck with him. He saw something in Mark that Paul couldn’t see. Everyone has the potential to become a saint. All they need is someone to show them patience and encouragement.*

*“Father give us a signal! Help us to emphasize the gifts in people instead of their shortcomings. Show us how to love, encourage, and inspire them.”*

**Mansa Diocese Website under construction**  
**WWW.domansa.org**

**19th Amecea Plenary Assembly will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from July 13-25, 2018.**



**Fr. Kanakwenda Sylvester** was inaugurated as new Parish Priest of St. Stephen-Kabunda on April 5, 2018.

**St. Mary’s Parish, Kawambwa:** More than 400 candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation were commissioned during the Episcopal Pastoral Visitation from 19-23 April, 2018.

**Michael The Archangel Parish, Namwandwe:** On Friday 6 April more than K40 000 was raised during the fund raising comedy show that featured Bob Nkossa. The parish intends to raise K500 000 to build a wall fence, hall, water closets and retreat house.



**Welcome back to Mansa Diocese:** Fr. Kunda Pintu Tresphored attended a four day Seminar in Israel, shortly after the Holy Week. He says more than 200 bishops and 100 priests attended the seminar.

**Mansa Roundup**



Fr. Lyoba Bernard Ma. CRPS

### **The thin line between Talks, Negotiations, Mediation & Reconciliation**

I wish to share with you the technical understanding of the terms: **Talks, Negotiations, Mediation and Reconciliation** which fall under one umbrella, dialogue. Our communities are laden with latent disputes, in many instances, the end product of mistrust, lack of conciliation and unresolved misunderstandings. It is my hope that this article sheds more light on the thin line between these terms:

**1 CONFLICT:** when two or more entities fail to agree, upon the solution to a problem, a **dispute** is declared. The conflict may arise due to incompatible divergent views, cultural diversity, lack of capacity to comprehend the issue at hand and/or exposure.

**2 TALKS:** if interventions are made and the hostile parties agree for **Round Table Talks**, we say we have **brokered Peace Talks**. Peace talks are a process of identifying the **main issue** to the problem. Disputing Parties table their arguments showing possible approaches to the solution **centred on their interests**. If the parties reach an agreement, rules of engagement are set to facilitate **Reconciliation**.

**3 NEGOTIATIONS:** The process is professional and the stance of each entity is known. Conflicting Parties are part of the negotiations though **real Negotiators** may require patience, good emotional intelligence, and collection of interpersonal communication skills to bring desired results. Effective negotiators should have the skills to analyse and determine the interest of each conflicting party for the purpose of attaining a settlement. Hence, parties are allowed to **hire professional skilled negotiators** because tactics of bargaining used are often manipulative as well as deceptive to fulfil one party's goals and objectives - often to the detriment of others. The aim is to achieve the best possible outcome for the party's interest through give and take. If no agreement is reached, each party states her position and goes back to the drawing board for consultation or decide to go for Mediation (not Arbitration) to help them find a lasting solution.

**4 MEDIATION:** The Mediator must be accepted by all. S/he is expected to be neutral and at no time should s/he persuade nor represent either party's interests. S/he may meet both parties jointly or individually. The role of the mediator is to help hostile parties, in a disagreement to hear one another and defuse disagreements and minimise the harm that can come from disagreement (e.g. demonising of the other parties). If Successful, Reconciliation takes place.

**5 RECONCILIATION:** if atrocities were committed during the conflict, Stakeholders decide what type of justice to apply (Distributive/Commutative/Restorative/Reparative/Retributive) on victims and/or perpetrators in order for forgiveness and reconciliation to take place.

i. **JUSTICE:** “True forgiveness happens once the victim is content and pleased with justice applied on the perpetrator.” There is always the dilemma of what kind of justice to apply on perpetrators.

ii. **FORGIVENESS:** Should forgiveness be coerced on the victim like in **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission**, in South Africa: “Tell us the truth and you shall be forgiven” or Conferencing like in Rwanda or *Should forgiveness be relative to the extent of opening other Alternative Dispute Resolutions (ADRs) such as conciliation and arbitration.*

iii. **RECONCILIATION:** Depending on the nature of atrocities and hostilities committed; duration and history of the conflict, justice is normally waved and forgiveness is persuaded on the victim, while perpetrators go scot free in order to achieve the higher value of the **wellness of the nation** and living in **peace**.

**By Fr. Lyoba Bernard (Ma. CRPS. UKZN)**