

HOLY WEEK & EASTER LITURGY MEETING:

A meeting to plan and discuss the music and readings for Easter Liturgies will be held on Thursday, 29 February at 5pm in the Presbytery.

BODALLA MASS: Mass at Bodalla will be celebrated this Sunday, 25 February at 3pm. All welcome.

ST MARY'S: Saturday, 24 February, Year 3 First Reconciliation Commitment Mass, Sacred Heart Church 5pm.

COUNTER'S ROSTER: An updated Counter's Roster was emailed last week. There are also copies available in the Church foyer. Thanks again to our wonderful volunteers for your time and continuous support.

LENTEN PROGRAM: Every Tuesday after 5pm Mass. All welcome.

TUROSS LENTEN PROGRAM: On Mondays at 2:30pm, 249 Hector McWilliam Drive. All welcome.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION:

- **Christmas Day**—the Feast of the nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ;
- **the Assumption**—the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary;
- **all Sundays** of the year.

Day of Fast and Abstinence

- **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday.**

PASTORAL CARE COURSE: A one day introductory Pastoral Care Course will take place at St Bernard's, 2 David Avenue, Batehaven on Saturday, 23 March, from 9am – 4pm. BYO Lunch. Cost: free which includes resources. Booking essential by Monday, 18 March. Enquiries: Marie Weatherall [m] 0405 028 057

Lenten Prayer this week
Heavenly Father,
We come before you as a community
Of believers, united in our desire
To grow closer to you.
We humbly ask for the gift of
Attentive hearts and open ears.
Grant us the grace to listen to
Your voice amidst the noise and
Distractions of the world this week.
In the Transfiguration,
You unveiled the glory of your Son
To Peter, James and John.
Through this extraordinary event,
You showed them the true nature of
Jesus and the path to follow.
Father, we ask for the same grace.
Open our eyes to see the radiance of
Your love and the beauty of your
Plan for our lives.
May we recognise that through
Your words and actions,
You reveal the depth of your
Compassion and teach us how to
Live out of our true identity
As your beloved sons and daughters.
May the Transfiguration be a
Constant reminder that you desire
To transfigure our lives, shaping
Us into the image of your Son.
We ask this through Christ
Our Lord. Amen

SACRED HEART PARISH MORUYA



36 Queen Street (PO Box 23) Moruya NSW 2537
Phone: 4474 2024 Email: moruya@cg.org.au
Web: <http://cg.org/au/Moruya>
Priest: Fr George Azhakath
Secretary: Mrs Vickie Moore
Parish Office hours: Wed and Fri 9:00am—2:00pm



Mass Times:
Moruya: Sat: Vigil 5:00pm Sun: 10:00am
Tue: 5:00pm, Wed, Thu & Fri: 9:15am/1st Saturday of the month 9:15am
Tuross: Sun: 8:00am **Bodalla:** 4th Sunday of the month 3:00pm/2nd Thursday of the month 9:00am
Reconciliation: Every Saturday @ Moruya 4:15pm-4:45pm before Vigil Mass
1st Saturday of the month @ Moruya 8:15am-9:00am
Devotions: Daily Rosary and Saturdays 9:30am **Adoration:** All Fridays after Mass
Schools: St Mary's Moruya: 4474 2817 Carroll College Broulee: 4471 5600
Caring Groups: Tuross Head: 0497 315 534 Moruya: 0431 354 993

2nd Sunday of Lent - YEAR B - 24 & 25 February 2024

The Transfiguration of the Lord

“This is my son the beloved; listen to him”

The readings for the 2nd Sunday of Lent highlight Jesus' identity as God's beloved Son (real at his Baptism and Transfiguration), and confront us with the mystery of his death on the cross. Hence, the main purpose of today's readings is to give us an invitation as well as a challenge to put our faith in the loving promises of a merciful God who sent His Son to die for us and to transform our lives by renewing them during Lent. Our transformed lives will enable us to radiate the glory and grace of the transfigured Lord around us by our Spirit-filled lives.



The first reading shows us how God saved the life of Abraham's son Isaac as a reward for Abraham's trusting faith. Because of this faith the Lord renewed his promise to Abraham for the blessings of land and progeny. While Abraham's son Isaac was spared, God's beloved son Jesus underwent a cruel death on the cross. The linking of this story with the Gospel reading emphasises God's infinite love, as seen in the redemptive sacrifice of his own Son for the salvation of the world. If the mystery of the sacrifice of Abraham's beloved son, Isaac, is hard to understand, the mystery of the death of God's beloved Son Jesus, is far more challenging. That is why Paul reminds us in the second reading, that God the Father did not spare his own Son's life. What an irony! and paradox! God spared Abraham's son, but not his own! Why? Because God loves us with an everlasting love. Paul interprets God's willingness to sacrifice his own Son as proof of His great love for human kind and as God's pledge that He will always protect and provide for us. Today's Psalm speaks of God's distress at the death of anyone "too costly in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful".

In the transfiguration story in today's gospel, Jesus is revealed as a glorious figure, superior to Moses and Elijah. He is identified by the heavenly Voice as the Son of God. Thus, the transfiguration narrative is a Christophany, that is, a manifestation or revelation of who Jesus really is. Describing Jesus' transfiguration, the gospel shows us a glimpse of the heavenly glory awaiting those who do God's will by putting their trusting faith in Him.

Prayer after Communion: Lord, we thank you for coming into our hearts in Communion. We believe you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. You are our life and our hope. Draw us more deeply to yourself and transform our hearts through your abiding love. May we come to know Sunday as a special day of faith, the day of our Risen Lord. May our celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday consecrate this day to you.

O Sacrament Most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All Praise and All Thanksgiving be every moment Thine.



Second Sunday of Lent
24 & 25 February



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

P: The Lord be with you

All: And with your spirit

P: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Communion Antiphon: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

THE WORD AND LIFE this week ...

1) **The transubstantiation in the Holy Mass is the source of our strength:** In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar become "transfigured" - "transformed" into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus. Just as Jesus 'transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our holy communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily 'transfiguration' transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good by humble and selfless service to others.

2) **Each time we receive one of the sacraments, we are transformed:** For example, baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and warriors of God. By the sacrament of reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness.

3) **A message of encouragement and hope:** In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, the thought of our transfiguration in heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words "*This is my beloved son*". Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord, that through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may become closer to him in his suffering and may share in the carrying of his cross so that we may finally share the glory of his final "transfiguration," his resurrection.

4) **We need 'mountain-top experiences' in our lives:** We share the mountain-top experience of Peter, James and John when we spend extra time in prayer during Lent. Fasting for one day will help the body to store up spiritual energy. This spiritual energy can help us have thoughts that are far higher and nobler than our usual mundane thinking. The hunger we experience puts us more closely in touch with God and makes us more willing to help the hungry. The crosses of our daily lives also can lead us to the glory of transfiguration and resurrection.

NOTICES FROM THE PARISH

We continue to extend our support to those at Banksia Village, IRT Moruya, the sick members of our Parish and those in need of our prayers: Kathleen Ebbelaar, Gerry Ebbelaar, Dianne Ebbelaar, Kylie Leplaw, Andy McCosker, Bala Stankovich, Clare Broekhuysse, Pat Morris, Barry Morris, Christopher Morris, John Kay, Lee Maat, Kirk Dowling, Rosemary Patyus, Kay Morton, Rod McDonald, Hans Brosch, Father Giles Setter OFM, Annette and John Nader, Robyn Barkley, Mark Wales, Therese Masserot, Jenny Hopkins, Tammy Whiteman, Clair Holmes, Patricia Murphy, Barbara Kirk, Miriam Turnbull, Natasha Morton, Janice Setter, Pauline de Grave, David McWilliams, Paul Ryan and Sue Holmes Murphy.

CAR FOR SALE: Nissan Maxima 350Ti, 2010 Model. 3.5 engine, V6. Top of the range luxury sedan, silver, BOSE 6CD, Dolby 5.1 surround sound system, DVD player. Keyless entry, push button start, sunroof, leather seats, power front seats with memory and more. 187,000km. Pleasant interior and in perfect running condition. One owner. No accidents or repairs. Best for long trips with good engine power and mileage 10km/litre If you are interested, please call Fr George **0431 603 666**.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The Way of the Cross is a devotion to the Sacred Passion, in which we accompany, in spirit, our Blessed Lord in His sorrowful journey from the house of Pilate to Calvary, and recall to mind, with sorrow and love, all that took place from the time when He was condemned to death to His being laid in the tomb. There are fourteen Stations, or places, in the Way of the Cross, at which something took place. Please join us this Lent for the Stations of the Cross every Wednesday after Mass.

