



**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY LENT YEAR B**  
**28 February 2021**

**Liturgy and Bulletin**

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



### **OPENING PRAYER**

*God our Father,  
help us to hear your Son.  
Enlighten us with your word,  
that we may find the way to your glory.  
Amen.*

**FIRST READING:** 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.'

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**Response: 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:** 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.

**Gospel Acclamation**

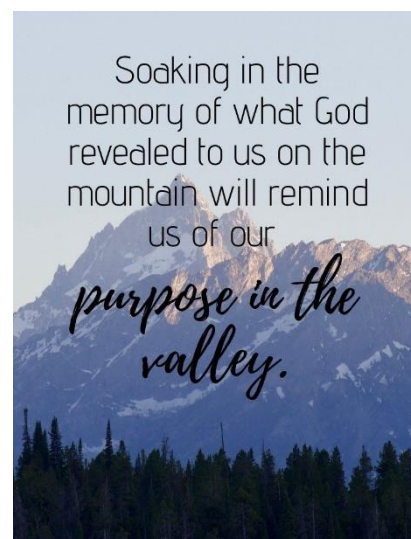
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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.

**REFLECTION by Flor McCarthy SDB**

Jesus often went into the hills to pray.  
He preached his most famous sermon from a hilltop.  
He was transfigured on Mount Tabor,  
died on Mount Calvary,  
and ascended to heaven from Mount Olivet.  
It seems he loved hills and mountains.  
Why was this?  
Was it because he grew up among the hills of Galilee?  
Or was it because heights enlarge our vision  
and cause our spirit to soar?  
Lift us up, strong Son of God, that we may see further.  
Strengthen our faith that we may see beyond the horizon.  
And when the valley closes us in,  
help us to remember the view from the hilltop.



## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Reader: In this year of Saint Joseph, that the church will remain faithful in times of doubt and uncertainty. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: that leaders of nations will resist the temptations of greed and power, especially when it comes to the equal distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That parents experiencing anxiety will gain wisdom and perseverance. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who feel lost or abandoned will know that God will never desert them. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the members of this community will be drawn to a sacred place for prayer in these weeks of Lent. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That Christ will radiate his healing light to those who are sick, including Tony Riley, Rupert Ermert, Ann McDougall, Val Biggers and Celia Roach. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the dead will walk in the presence of God for all eternity, including our own deceased relatives and friends. (pause) In your mercy:

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Father, you increase our faith and hope  
and deepen our love. Help us to live by your words  
and to seek Christ who is Lord for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

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Hello St Bede's Parishioners,

Mass last Saturday evening was attended by 50 parishioners, a very good rollup. Social distancing, hygiene requirements and recording attendance procedures are still being observed. **Please try to arrive in good time** as all these regulations and requirements will take time. The protocols are being slowly relaxed, singing is now allowed and distancing is now 2 square metres inside the church.

**Weekday Masses: No weekday Masses until further notice.**

**Meditation:** Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

**Adoration:** has been suspended until Father Mick is in the parish and times can be discussed.

**Araluen Stations of the Cross:** 3.00pm First Friday of every month. All welcome.

**Wedding: 27 February at 4.00pm.**

**Social Justice Meeting:** Sunday 7 March in the church at 10.30am.

## Lenten Renewals

18 February – 25 March 7.30pm to 9.00pm "Walk in the Spirit, Lenten Renewal Experience  
Led by Archbishop Prowse via livestreaming every Thursday during Lent, *Walk in the Spirit* is open to all desiring a new Lenten renewal experience. Talks, prayer, sharing and Encounter Nights. Register and find our more at <https://cgatholic.org.au/walk-in-the-spirit> "Look to Jesus" is the name of the Lenten and Easter Reflection booklets that we have purchased for use this year. Anyone who would like one can collect after Mass or see Brian during the week.

**World Day of Prayer** Braidwood Uniting Church, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am.

This is no longer just a women's day of prayer but open to all. So men, please come along if you can. All churches participate in the liturgy through readings, prayers and reflections.

**Planned Giving Envelopes:** due to the number of parishioners now giving online, we are re-evaluating the number of boxes we order. They will now cost us \$20 per box, which is such a waste if not used. If you would like to continue receiving envelopes, please contact Helen Hart at the office or on 0430 169 849

A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: Did you know that each year the Catholic charity, *Aid to the Church in Need*, supports the training of 12,000 seminarians and provides ongoing formation for 8,000 priests. Could you help support a priest or seminarian? Visit [www.aidtochurch.org/formation](http://www.aidtochurch.org/formation)



Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. The school faced water shortages for about half the year. Staff and students would walk for up to half an hour to collect water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables. Then in April 2020, Tropical Cyclone Harold struck, damaging school buildings and its vegetable garden as the threat of COVID-19 loomed. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed eight large water tanks and provided cycloneproof materials to repair the damage. It also helped the school implement COVID-19 prevention measures, and provided fabric for students to make face masks. Margret's school now has enough safe water to supply the school's population of 150 and the capacity to cater for more students. It plans to boost food security by increasing its agricultural production, which will improve nutrition, boost the school's income, and build resilience to future disasters. Margret hopes that the school can aspire to 'Be More'. "I am proud that our school community works together with Caritas Australia as our partner in ensuring that we live in a healthier environment," Margret says. **Project Compassion boxes** can be collected from the back of the church before or after Mass.

**Cleaners:**

**5 March:** Bobbie and Pauline; **19 March:** Margaret and Barbara; **1 April:** Wendy M-B and Judith.

**Please note** the ceremonies happening in the church when cleaning will be required beforehand will be advised at the beginning of the newsletter.

**Readings for next week:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Ex. 20:1-7. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Cor. 1:22-25 Gospel: Mark 2:13-25.

**COVID-19 Links** for information: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

**Mass Online Link:** <https://catholicvoice.org.au/mass-online>

**Masks are not yet mandatory** but recommended. Please feel free to wear one to Mass if you wish.

Take care and keep safe  
Helen Hart