



**3RD SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR C**

20 March 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*Father,
you have taught us to overcome our sins
by prayer, fasting and works of mercy.
When we are discouraged by our weakness,
give us confidence in your love.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,

gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

SECOND READING: A reading from the First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

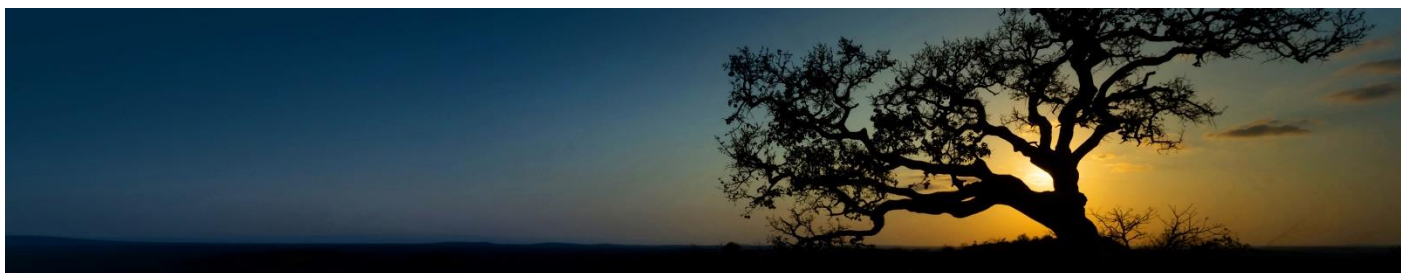
Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."



REFLECTION on the Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deduced from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity.

Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance. Richard Leonard sj

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for the people of Ukraine, that the bloodshed, destruction and misery being inflicted on them will end and negotiations for a just peace begun. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the citizens of every nation affected by the war on Ukraine, especially those close by, that the hardships they are enduring will unite and not divide them. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our fragile planet, that policy-makers in every nation will take the urgent steps necessary to save it from the peril of global warming. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who dwell in the land promised of old to Moses, that by the grace of God a new era of justice and peace will dawn upon them. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all families and communities devastated by the floods in the eastern states, that they will receive the support and find the resilience they need to cope with their losses. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the indigenous communities of this land, that our support for Project Compassion will help promote their traditional arts and provide employment opportunities. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Ross Lawless, Bob Haigh, Richie Simpson, Paul Fa'Oa, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Tony Riley, Rupert Ermet and Val Biggers and all who need our prayers; that they will be comforted by loving family, friends and community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased, especially Bob Fletcher, John Shiels, Annmarie Rosengren (Minogue) Rod Diacono, Kevin Thorne, Father Henry Byrne, Joy Vanzimen. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be led safely to eternal life by Christ the good shepherd. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Lord,
in sharing your gifts may we receive your forgiveness
and be brought together in unity and peace.
Amen.*

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Next weekend Mass time: 6pm in the church.

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10am in the Church..

Meditation: Thursdays at 10.30am in the Presbytery.

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 5 April 2022 at 10.30am, at the Presbytery

World Day of Prayer: cancelled due to continued wet weather

Weddings for March: Tuesdays 22nd and Wednesday 30th.

Dear Parishioners,

The church is now open each day. Masks are no longer mandatory at Mass but please continue to use them for as long as you wish.

What are we doing special during Lent to prepare us for Easter? The MenAlive weekend will be held on the Saturday 2nd April and Sunday 3rd April on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, in Bungendore. Whilst it is a great opportunity for all men in our region to be challenged by our faith and support each other in this journey, already six men from outside have applied to attend. Please contact Brian 0408 687 915 or Bungendore 6238 1247 if you would like to attend.

For the women of our region there will be a day retreat held on Saturday 9th April, to be led by Phil Billington and the theme will be the Eucharist. Phil has conducted retreats and seminars in many parts of Australia and I'm truly delighted she has accepted my invitation. Eileen Glass will also join the women of our region towards the end of the year for a day retreat. Contact Bungendore 6238 1247

CHRISM MASS – Join the Archbishop and the Clergy of the Archdiocese on Monday 11 April at 5.00pm in St Christopher's Cathedral, Forrest for this most important Holy Week ceremony. It is this Mass that the **Holy Oils** used in the various Sacramental Rites of the Church are blessed and consecrated. Everyone is most welcome.

Project Compassion boxes are available in the church at Mass time.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY: VIGIL 6.00PM – St Bede's, Braidwood

MONDAY CHRISM Mass 5.00PM – St Christopher's Cathedral, Manuka

TUESDAY: 10.00AM – St Bede's, Braidwood

HOLY THURSDAY: 7.00PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper, St Bede's, Braidwood

GOOD FRIDAY: 10.00AM – Stations of the Cross, St Bede's Braidwood

3.00PM – Celebration of the Passion; St Bede's Braidwood

SATURDAY: VIGIL 5.30PM – St Bede's, Braidwood

Readings for next week: 4th Sunday of Lent Year C

1st: Joshua 5:9-12. 2nd: 2 Cor. 5:17-21. Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11-32.

Ministries: Now that we have returned to the church, and all restrictions have been lifted, it would be great to get back to our usual ministries. The church will need cleaning every second week; the altar decorators will resume with Easter and it would be lovely to restart the Procession of Gifts. If anyone is interested in these Ministries, please speak with either Brian or Helen Hart. We are also

in need of a few more Acolytes to spread the load. If you have an interest here, please speak with Mick. Women are now eligible to be Acolytes.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer		Readers	Music/PP
19 Mar	James	Geraldine		Rod/Bobbie	Helen H
26 Mar	Felix	Helen P		Wendy H/Germaine	Helen H
2 Apl	James	Cathy F		Wendy M-B/Brian	Helen H
Holy Week:					
9 Apl	Felix	Geraldine	1&2	Rod/Bobbie	Helen H
			N.	Cathy F	
			S.	Brian	
14 Apl	James	Helen P		Wendy H/Germaine	Helen H
15 Apl	Felix	Cathy F	N.	Wendy M-B	Helen H
			S.	Michael	
			J.	Brian	
16 Apl	James	Geraldine	1.	Mandy O'Brien	Helen H
			3.	Wendy H	
			5.	Bobbie	
			NT.	Germaine	

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care,
Helen Hart