



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR C

27 March 2022

LITURGY AND BULLETIN

OPENING PRAYER

*Father of peace,
we are joyful in your Word,
your Son Jesus Christ,
who reconciles us to you.
Let us hasten towards Easter
with the eagerness of faith and love.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. (R.)

3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. (R.)

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:

Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-3,11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

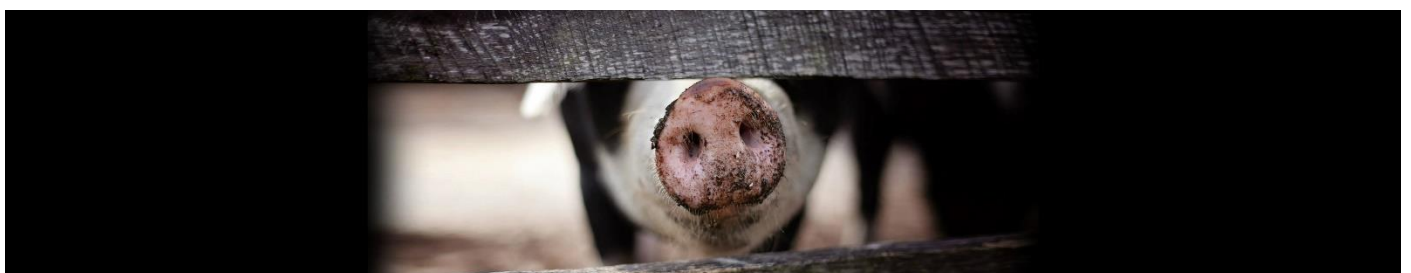
'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."



REFLECTION on the Gospel

What is so shocking about Jesus' parable of the prodigal son is, that as the story goes, everything about the Jewish culture of first century Palestine set the boy up for a fall: he was greedy for his

father's inheritance; we can assume he left the chosen land for the far country where he squandered his inheritance recklessly; he ended up eating with the unclean pigs; and then he had the temerity to return and ask for forgiveness.

This was the least likeable kid in town. He did not deserve to be treated better than a slave. That's what makes the boy's father so magnificent in love. He was derided by his faithful older son for this folly of the heart and he would have been considered a fool by his neighbours. And this is the model of compassion Jesus gives us to emulate.

The context for this story, however, matters. The author of Luke 15 has Jesus responding to charges about the company he was keeping and especially those with whom he dined. In Jesus' day, one only ate with intimates and Jesus shared his table with losers. Three parables are given as an explanation for this practice: the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. In each case the shepherd, the woman and the father go to ridiculous lengths to save that which is lost.

Who was admitted to the table of Luke's community was a huge issue. It seems some things never change. The action and words of Jesus, however, lead us to conclude the table is here for those of us who know the frailty of our lives enough to recognise our hunger and thirst for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. This Gospel is not just about each of us being welcomed into the arms of our compassionate God, it is also a challenge for us to defend the right of the outcasts, the public sinners and the losers who seek to turn their life around to be welcomed here as well.

This is not just about the table of the Eucharist, either. To the degree that we help our country be more hospitable to the most defenceless, the poor and the displaced then we live out the power of this parable. Richard Leonard sj

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all ambassadors of peace, that they remain tireless in their efforts to negotiate an end to death and destruction in Ukraine and all theatres of war. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the world's humanitarian agencies, that they will be able to provide the shelter, food and safety desperately needed by all who have fled their homeland. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all the peoples of the earth, that in the face of current upheavals and the climate crisis they will respond with collaboration, not competition. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who have suffered heartbreaking losses in the floods of eastern Australia, that they will receive the short- and long-term support they need to find a new future. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for ex-combatants in the Democratic Republic of Congo, that our support for Project Compassion will enable them to overcome the trauma and hardships of the past. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the Indigenous communities of Australia, that on-going reform will give them the confidence of receiving fair and just treatment in the administration of the law. (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, Bob Fletcher, John Shiels, Annmarie Rosengren (Minogue) . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, that they will be raised from death into the goodness of God. (prayer) Lord, hear us

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father,

You enlighten all who come into the world.

Fill our hearts with the light of the gospel,

that our thoughts may please you,

and our love be sincere.

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: 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.

There are a couple of pews that ended up in the wrong positions. Would some strong men be able to move them for us, so that the church is ready for Easter and the return of the holy water stoops? Please see Helen Hart to arrange a time for the move.

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.

From Father Mick

MENALIVE: 2nd & 3rd April. This is a wonderful opportunity for the men of our region to take time out with other men, and be renewed in your faith and encourage them to become an active force of renewal in the Church. There is a great team from MenAlive who will lead us on this journey. MenAlive is a National Catholic Ministry to Men which was founded out of a response to a great need in the hearts and lives of men, and a great need in the life of the Catholic Church.

REGISTRATIONS need to be returned as soon as possible.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: 9th April. If you intend attending, please advise Julie-Ann.

RECONCILIATION TIMES will be announced next week.

ANNUAL LEAVE: I will take a break from the 18th April to 13th May and during this time will celebrate a wedding in Queensland and hopefully visit Timor Leste. Fr. Dermid will supply at Braidwood and Bungendore.

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.

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: 5th Sunday of Lent Year C

1st: Isaiah 43:16-21. 2nd: Phil. 3:8-14. Gospel: John 8:1-11.

Take care,
Helen Hart