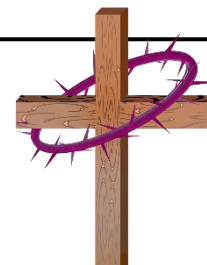




4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT  
YEAR B

10 March 2024

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 toward Easter with the eagerness of faith and love. Amen.*

#### FIRST READING: A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!**

1. By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung our harps. (R.)

2. For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said,  
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)

3. O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?  
If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither! (R.)

4. O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys! (R.)

**Second Reading:** A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.  
No one who believes in him will be condemned;  
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,  
because he has refused to believe  
in the name of God's only Son.  
On these grounds is sentence pronounced:  
that though the light has come into the world  
men have shown they prefer  
darkness to the light  
because their deeds were evil.  
And indeed, everybody who does wrong  
hates the light and avoids it,  
for fear his actions should be exposed;  
but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



### **Reflection on the Gospel by Dianne Bergant CSA**

Each reading provides us with an example of divine mercy. God's use of Cyrus to deliver the Israelites, even though he was not a believer, shows that every circumstance and any person can demonstrate the scope of God's love. In fact, it is often the situation or the individual that we least expect that has been chosen to manifest God's mercy to us. This same mercy is seen as God brings us to life with Christ even when we were dead in sin.

Mercy means that strict justice is set aside in favour of compassion. Dispossessed people are raised out of defeat and given another chance. Sinners condemned to severe punishment are raised out of despair and offered a reprieve. The whole world is raised up out of darkness when God's own Son is sent into that world as saviour rather than as judge. God's mercy raises us out of loss and hopelessness, out of darkness and sin, so that we might enjoy the blessings of life.

We too have been raised up so that we might live in truth and might become the visible sign of God's mercy in the world. We have been made a new people, free from the restraints of the past. Joined with Christ we become God's handiwork, creations that bear the seal of the great creator. We are the very sacrament of God's mercy. The forgiveness that we have experienced and the new life within us shine forth as witness to the mercy of God.

### **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

We pray for Pope Francis, that the health challenges he faces may strengthen his determination to proclaim the joy of the gospel to the ends of the earth. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who profess their faith in Jesus Christ, that through this season of Lent they might delight ever more in being God's work of art. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the countless people who live in exile with no hope of return, that they may have the freedom, courage and support they need to settle in new lands. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for children orphaned, wounded and traumatised in places of pitiless warfare, that the loving care of their communities will heal their sadness and pain. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Caritas Australia's local partners in Malawi, that our giving to Project Compassion will help them maintain their training programs for rural young women. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the scientists and guardians of the world's oceans, that they might persuade us to save this irreplaceable source of life from the peril of global warming. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Patrick Thomas, Kerry Prothero, Tony Riley, those on our prayer list and all who need our prayers. May they not suffer alone but be assured of the love and care of the whole community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased, Val Goodsell (nee Hart), Craig Morgan, Ellie Alderink, Oliver Koch and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they be raised up to eternal life with Christ. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Father, you enlighten all who have come into the world.  
Fill our hearts with the light of your gospel that our thoughts may please you,  
and our love be sincere. Amen.*

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**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413**

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

**Mass: Saturdays at 5.00pm.**

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

**Social Justice Group: 2 April at 3pm in the Presbytery**

**Scripture: Tuesdays at 4pm in the Presbytery.**

**Vinnies meeting: Friday 8 March, commencing at 1.30pm**

**Mass this Thursday at 11am.**

**Telstra upgrading Interruptions:** The first phase of disruptions will occur daily between 8am and 4pm on Monday 4 March and Tuesday 5 March 2024. The mobile base station at Monga will also be disrupted during this period as work on the transmission is undertaken. The second phase of disruptions will occur from 8am on Monday 11 March to 5pm on Wednesday 13 March 2024. The site is expected to be off the air for this entire period. Minor disruptions will be experienced during the day on Thursday 14 March and Friday 15 March as we test and integrate the mobile network. If all goes according to plan and weather permitting, residents should be noticing an improvement in Telstra mobile services by 15 March 2024. Telstra mobile customers will receive text messages advising of the upcoming work. Landline services, NBN internet services and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted. Any calls to Triple Zero from a Telstra mobile when the site is off air will automatically be diverted to any working mobile network for connection to emergency services. Check out the Bugle article for tips on how to improve connectivity during this time at <https://braidwoodbugle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/193-20240212-Braidwood-Bugle-min.pdf>

**First Thursday luncheon** March 7 at the Club. Commences at 11.30am.

**Live music at the Club** with Jamie Agius (country, rock, pub rock) Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm.


**Elegant Associates at The Royal Mail** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm. Tickets \$20

**Family fun & market day at Nerriga Hotel** Sunday 17 March, 10.30am – 3.30pm

**Readings for Mass:** 1<sup>st</sup>: 2 Chron. 36:14-16,19-23. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Eph. 2:4-10. Gospel: John 3:14-21.

**Next week's reading:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Jeremiah 31:31-34. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Hebrews 5:7-9. Gospel: John 12:20-33.

**Radio Church:** Sundays at 6pm

**PROJECT COMPASSION**  As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first

female carpenter in her village. 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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>9 Mar</b>	<b>16 Mar</b>	<b>23 Mar (Palm Sun)</b>	<b>Holy Week yet to be confirmed</b>
Welcomer:	Helen P	Cathy F	Geraldine	
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)			
Reader 1:	Germaine	Ann T	Cathy F	
Reader 2:	Wendy M-B	Wendy H	Michael	Passion: N: Germaine S: Tommy

May this Lent be a time of renewal for us all,

Helen Hart