

Catholic Parish of Blackiriars



Under the care of the Dominican Fathers



Issue 17
13th March 2022
Year C

VERITAS



HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Parish Priest

Fr Mannes Tellis OP
(To contact Please Text)
0414 396 532

Assistant Priest

Fr Rafael Cabezon OP

Dominican in residence
Br Francis McKinnon OP

Holy Rosary Church
Cnr Phillip Avenue &
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Office Hours -
Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday
9am to 12.30pm

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www.facebook.com/Holy-Rosary-Parish-Watson

Mass Times

Monday - NO Mass

Tuesday & Thursday
8.00am

Wednesday & Friday
5:30pm

Saturday - 9:00am

Vigil - 5:pm

Sunday - 8:00am, 10:00am,
5:00pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 12pm—12.30pm
and 4pm—4.30pm

Adoration - Holy Hour

Tuesday 12 Noon - 1:00pm

Pray the Rosary

Before 10am Mass on Sundays

Second Sunday of Lent



If you are in Urgent need of a Priest
out of office hours call - 6248 8253

PARISH BULLETIN - DEADLINE for notices is **NOON TUESDAY** Please contact Jacque in the
office Ph. 6248 5925 or Email: watson@cg.org.au



Transfiguration of our Lord

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 26: 8-9

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

FIRST READING

First Reading - Genesis 15:5-12,17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside, the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can.' 'Such will be your descendants,' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 26(27):1,7-9,13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink?

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord!

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

SECOND READING

Second Reading - Philippians 3:17-4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation - 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

Gospel - Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Communion Antiphon - Matthew 17: 5

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

LENTEN PROGRAM

The Parish will run a Lenten Program on the Tuesdays of Lent, at 7pm in the Parish Centre. The Program will follow the Archdiocese of Sydney this year.

The program will also run online on the Wednesdays of Lent, starting on 2nd March at 7pm. Contact the Parish Office by phone or email to register.

LENTEN BOOKLETS

Parishioners who would like to use the Wollongong Lenten Program books at home, the booklets are available from the Parish office.

LENTEN ADORATION

One of our usual Lenten observances is to engage in some meaningful prayer time during this penitential and reflective season of the Church's year. In order to facilitate this aspect of our penitential schedule we shall be having a period of quiet adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6pm-7pm on the Friday's of Lent. Please come and join us, you need not stay for the whole time but this opportunity gives us all a moment of the week to offer praise, thanksgiving, sorrow and petition to Our Lord in a quiet reflective environment. Jesus invites all of us to "Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while." (Mark 6:31)

WE ARE NOT ALONE

The response to this Sunday's Psalm is 'The Lord is my light and salvation'. The first verse, begins 'The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom shall I shrink?'

As we face the devastation of natural disasters at home and abroad, the violence perpetrated against Ukraine and threat of widening conflict let us remember the psalm as we go about our daily tasks. Indeed, all the readings from Sunday remind us we are not alone when we pray.

COVENANTS



We often hear in our religious language this term "covenant". This term conveys something more than an agreement or a contract. A covenant is a sacred contract, more solemn and binding than any earthly pact. The sacred character of the covenant is made all the more evocative because its partners include on one side Almighty God who never defaults his promises and can never turn back on what he has sworn to do. On the other hand, is humanity, weak, fickle, prone to selfishness and often totally unreliable. If this were a business deal one would think God to be a fool, but then that is the intriguing element of this specific agreement.

Our Old Testament text we have today from the book of Genesis reflects the first covenant God makes with the father of the Hebrew people, Abraham. The nature of the covenant is manifested in a symbolism we find strange but it fits with the way covenants were enacted in the Ancient near East.

Abraham is ordered to sacrifice a number of animals cutting them in half, then we notice "a smoking furnace was seen, a torch of fire that passed between the pieces of flesh." This imagery depicts God passing

Cont...between the two halves of the bisected animal. This particular form of an ancient sacral covenant, of a kind known from other ancient Near Eastern sources, reflects how covenants were made in the ancient world. The ritual of covenant making saw the parties cut their offering in half and by passing in between the two cut pieces this symbolized that the parties would observe faithfully the agreement until the two halves come together again, (which meant never.)

It is God who passes through the sacrificial offerings for it is he who is making the covenant, an agreement on which Abraham cannot impose any conditions, for how could he put conditions on God? The remarkable thing is that God goes through with it all knowing that his human partner can never fulfill the bargain. On God's side the bestowing of this covenant is totally gratuitous, God is not forced to do this, he does it out of love and esteem for his human creature. On the side of the human creature all he can do is trust God that the promises made will be fulfilled.

It is this trust then that is at the heart of the covenant and it is the lack of trust in God that saw the covenant betrayed each time. As the Fourth Eucharistic Prayer prays:

Time and again you offered them covenants and through the prophets taught them to look forward to salvation.

A final reminder of the covenant is manifested in Jesus' transfiguration on Mt Tabor. This reminder is made all the more evocative because of the appearances of Moses and Elijah. As we know Moses symbolizes the Law, for it was to him the Ten Commandments were entrusted at Mt Sinai. The Law was, as it were, the fine print of the covenant, the do's and don'ts. In observing the Law the faithful Jew could establish that he indeed was loyal to the covenant and to the God of Israel. The formula was simple: keep the law and fidelity to God's word was manifest. The other figure at the Tabor epiphany is Elijah who is the dean of the prophetic college. He represents God's messengers whose main job was to guide Israel to fidelity. Both of these Old Testament figures point to Jesus who is the new and everlasting covenant; the last covenant and the most supreme of all. In Jesus God keeps faithful to that covenant he made with Abraham even to the point of shedding blood. Just as those animals were slaughtered and cut in half so the Divine Son is slaughtered so as to emphasize for the last time how faithful God is to his word:

**THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

It is in Jesus' own blood that we see God's final agreement with humanity and it is in listening to him that we remain faithful to the covenant. Just as the faithful Jew kept the law, the faithful Christian listens to Jesus who comes to fulfil both the law and its prophetic witness. Today as we journey through Lent let us be mindful of the loving vow God makes to us and let us realise that in receiving the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus in Holy Communion this covenant is renewed and remembered. The promise God made to Abraham is still alive in the body and blood of Christ which we share.

Cont...The bottom line is that God keeps us true to that covenant by his Son, for it is this loving vow made flesh in Christ that God wishes to see fulfilled at the eternal wedding banquet of heaven.

God love you all. You're all in my prayers. Fr Mannes OP

EXPECTANT GLORY

What we expect to hear in Lent are lessons on fasting, prayer, alms-giving and perhaps the corporal works of mercy. This Sunday however, as many have noted before, we are surprised to hear the account of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The leap from the lessons we heard last week - about the fasting of Christ, his hunger and resisting temptations of the devil - to the glory of Christ's divine face briefly revealed to the apostles on the mountain, seems initially a rather rushed if not an odd development.

Yet when we listen attentively to the story of Abraham who is led out of his home land and given a promise of a great inheritance, and when we consider how persistently St Paul urges us not to trust in earthly things but rather put our heart in our 'heavenly commonwealth', it becomes clear that the readings are focused on expectation itself.

What do we expect of our Christian lives and religious practices? What do we expect of the Lord?

Many of us simply seek peace of heart and mind in the life of faith. Many value the character building qualities of the Catholic discipline and want to raise their families in that spirit. Some want to strengthen their life of virtue. Some seek consolation because they are in pain and want to join their suffering to the suffering of Christ. Other still find here a treasure trove of energy and inspiration to make our world a better and more just place. We could surely continue here with a long list of possible answers. All of them are noble and good in themselves.

But today, only the second Sunday of Lent, another expectation is pointed at, prompted by the passage from St Luke's Gospel: it is the hopeful expectation to be raised to experience with Christ the glory of the Resurrection; the glory of his radiant face. *Excerpt Fr Benedict Jonak OP*

PROJECT COMPASSION



Biru 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business. Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family – and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way

For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



LITURGY VOLUNTEERS

The new Liturgy Roster for the next 6 months will be prepared shortly. As volunteer numbers have decreased over the last year we are urgently in need of volunteers for the new roster. Please add your name to the sign up sheet in the foyer if you can volunteer.

PRAYERS

In Your Prayers please remember those in our community who are ill: Greg O'Neill, Ruth Burke, Frank Zobec, Mary Martin, Edith Jensen, Anne Corver, Barbara Wilson, Veronica & Paul Cornelly, Mimma Gia, Rosa Maria Santos, Ursula Ramsay, Philip Bailey, Fr Ellis Clifford, Bob Hackett, Joe Schimizzi, Awny El-Ghitany, Mary Lou Pentony, Elizabeth Webster, Peter Catlin, Terry Stephens, Pamela Sandy, Maureen Blood, Beth Delos Santos, Bernard Druett, Denis Lawrence, Patricia Zorzi, June Pollard, Gwen Gleeson, Sue King, Anthony Parsonage, Neville Caulfield, Maggie McKeon, Fr Kieran Adams OP, Joan Waldren

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our recently Deceased: May they find peace and comfort in the embrace of the Lord.
Ken Evans, Carol Hallam, Anna Di Prinzio,
Ken O'Brien, Brian Leader, Billy Gibson

IN LOVING MEMORY

Domenica Cortese, Ken Rolls,
Chimere Mercieca, Carmelo Merieca

HOLY ROUNDABOUT YOUTH GROUP Sundays 3.30 - 5.00pm weekly Sunday afternoon youth group for 11-17 years at Holy Cross Church Hackett.

PRAY THE ROSARY Sunday Mornings prior to 10.00am Mass the Rosary will be recited. You are welcome to join in.

HOLY MARY MOTHER OF GOD PRAYER GROUP meets 2.00pm 1st, 2nd & 4th Thursdays in the Parish Centre. Contact the Office for information.

CRAFT GROUP meets noon - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays.

DOMINICAN LIBRARY will open **Saturday** mornings, 9.30am - 12.00 noon in the Parish Centre. All welcome.


BLACKFRIARS MEDITATION GROUP meets on Thursday evenings in the 7.30pm Parish Centre. Enquiries John Jarvis 6296 2001 or Michael Flynn 6257 1038 - www.wccm.org

WEEKLY READER FORMATION - Formation sessions are on Wednesday evenings. These sessions provide reflection on the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. All parishioners are invited. – Meet in the church Office

ROSTER 19 / 20 March 2022

Saturday 5.00pm - Acolyte - M. Tran
Reader - P. Farrelly
Sunday 8.00am - Acolyte - K. Linard
Reader - M. Falk, T. Klekner
Sunday 10.00am - Acolyte - T. Johnson
Reader - J. Cooke, C. Bergin
Sunday 5.00pm - Acolyte - S. Sedgwick
Reader - J. Schwinghamer

MONTHLY MORNING TEA

Celebrate Saint Patrick's day on the third Thursday of the month 17th March by joining fellow parishioners for morning tea at 'Gang Gang' Frencham Place, Downer from 10-30am. Everyone is welcome. 

BIBLE STUDY

Verbum: Bible study for Young Adults (18-35)
Monday nights at 6pm in the Parish Centre a group of young adults from around North Canberra come to study the scriptures and pray. Currently the group is looking at St Paul's Letter to the Philippians.