

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Second Sunday of Lent Year C

First Reading I *Gen 15:5-12, 17-18*

A reading from the book of Genesis
God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

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, the 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

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. 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?

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.'

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help.

4. 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!

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading *Phil 3:17-4:1*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

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

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation *Mt 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 *Lk 9:28-36*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

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

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Transfigured Bodysouls

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person? What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief. Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' *body* was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' *body* was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory. That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, *bodysoul*. That is our *ultimate* destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR C

Angelus Address of Pope Benedict XVI on Second Sunday of Lent

This Sunday, the Second Sunday of Lent, is known as the Transfiguration of Christ. Indeed in the Lenten itinerary, having invited us to follow Jesus into the wilderness to face and overcome the temptations with him, the Liturgy now proposes that we climb the "mountain" of prayer with him to contemplate God's glorious radiance on his human face. The episode of the Transfiguration of Christ is unanimously attested by the Evangelists Matthew, Mark and Luke. There are two essential elements: first of all, Jesus leads the disciples Peter, James and John up a high mountain and there "he was transfigured before them" (Mk 9:2) and his face and his garments shone with dazzling light while Moses and Elijah appeared beside him; the second, a cloud overshadowed the mountain peak and from it came a voice saying: "This is my beloved Son; listen to him" (Mk 9:7). Thus, light and the voice: the divine radiance on Jesus' face, and the voice of the heavenly Father that witnesses to him and commands that he be listened to.



The mystery of the Transfiguration must not be separated from the context of the path Jesus is following. He is now decisively oriented to fulfilling his mission, knowing all too well that to arrive at the Resurrection he must pass through the Passion and death on the Cross. He had spoken openly of this to his disciples; but they did not understand, on the contrary they rejected this prospect because they were not reasoning in accordance with God, but in accordance with men (cf. Mt 16:23).

It is for this reason that Jesus takes three of them with him up the mountain and reveals his divine glory, the splendour of Truth and of Love. Jesus wants this light to illuminate their hearts when they pass through the thick darkness of his Passion and death, when the folly of the Cross becomes unbearable to them. God is light, and Jesus wishes to give his closest friends the experience of this light which dwells within him.

After this event, therefore, he will be an inner light within them that can protect them from any assault of darkness. Even on the darkest of nights, Jesus is the lamp that never goes out. St Augustine sums up this mystery in beautiful words, he says: "what this sun is to the eyes of the flesh, that is [Christ] to the eyes of the heart" (*Sermones* 78, 2: *PL* 38, 490).

Dear brothers and sisters, we all need inner light to overcome the trials of life. This light comes from God and it is Christ who gives it to us, the One in whom the fullness of deity dwells (cf. Col 2:9). Let us climb with Jesus the mountain of prayer and, contemplating his face full of love and truth, let us allow ourselves to be filled with his light. Let us ask the Virgin Mary, our guide on the journey of faith, to help us to live out this experience in the season of Lent, finding every day a few moments for silent prayer and for listening to the Word of God.

-Pope Benedict XVI, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Church
Cenacle Prayer Tues
@ 4.45**

**Lenten Group
Wednesday 16th
After 9am Mass**

**Craft Group
Thursdays 10am
Meeting Room**

**Adoration & Stations
of the Cross Friday @
5.30pm
6.30pm Soup Dinner**

**COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after
Mass
Venue: Corrigans
Cove
All Welcome
COFFEE N CHAT**

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

MARCH A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Tues 15th: 5.30pm Mass
Wed 16th: 9:00am Mass
Thurs 17th: 9:00 am Mass
Fri 18th: 9:15am Mass
5.30pm Adoration
Sat 19th: 9:00am Mass
9:30am Reconciliation
6:00pm Mass
Sunday 20th: 9:00am Mass
5:00pm Family & Youth Mass

ROSTERS

12/13 MARCH
Cleaning
14-18 Mar B Coffey/M Paine
6.00PM MASS
Welcomer D Robinson
Commentator Sr Marie
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers Y Oerder
Computer Screen K Conway
9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer: C Connell
Commentator M Lowe
Reader: A Brown
Eucharistic Ministers C Lowe,
L Stevens
Computer Screen T Priest
5.00PM MASS:
Welomer: M deSmet
Commentator M Devine
Reader: J O'Sullivan
Eucharistic Ministers A Horsfal
Computer Screen M O'Neill
MORNING TEA M & S Beashel

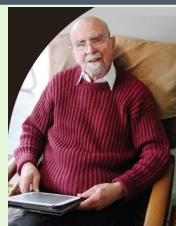
19/20 MARCH

Cleaning
21-25 Mar R & K Ison
6.00PM MASS
Welcome Volunteer
Commentator J Quigley
Reader: P O'Kelly
Eucharistic Ministers M Weatherall,
Computer Screen K Conway
9.00 AM MASS:
Welcome T van den Broek
Commentator: N Beatty
Reader: B Basevi..
Eucharistic Ministers A Skinner A Scicluna
Computer Screen D May.
5.00PM MASS:
Welcome Volunteer
Commentator D Robinson
Reader: M Devine
Eucharistic Ministers M O'Neill
Computer Screen J O'Sullivan
MORNING TEA A Brown & J McCarthy

PARISH NEWS

GATHERING:

"Growing Resilience as a local community and as an individual in challenging times"
We have two guest speakers:
Myf Thomson OAM: Curator Batemans Bay Museum and Rodney Hayes - Artist.
Tuesday 15th March
9am registration for 9.15 start - 12.45pm.
BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL by Monday March 7th to Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057
BYO shared morning tea



MEMORIAL MASS FOR FR HENRY BYRNE

will be held on
Tuesday 22nd March
at 5.30pm.at
St Bernards Church.
All are welcome to attend

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Will be held on
Wednesday 23rd
March at 6.00pm
All welcome to attend



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.

Remembering the Sick: Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Lois White, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Daniel Coffey, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odium, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, and those in our local Nursing Homes and Hospital

Lenten Programme for 2022:
'REMEMBER' will continue every Wednesday after 9am Mass.
We will gather through to Wed April 6
Facilitators: Sr Marie and Marie Weatherall. We look forward to preparing with you as we journey through Lent to Easter.



MUSICIANS & NEW CHOIR MEMBERS WELCOME

If you enjoy singing or playing a musical instrument you are very welcome to join the Music Ministry of our Parish. We have begun practising again at 1pm on Mondays in the Church .
We are getting ready for Holy Week & Easter and would love new members. You just need to enjoy singing!
Ring or text Phil on 0428593191 or just turn up.
Thanks everyone.

Pastoral Care Introductory Course Invitation.

Date: Sat March 26 from 9am – 4pm beginning in the Parish Office.
If you are interested in Pastoral Care Ministry, are new to Pastoral Care or wish to refresh your skills please come. Morn/Afternoon Tea provided. BYO lunch. **Cost:** Free. All resources supplied
Booking Essential by Monday March 22nd - Marie Weatherall [m] 0405 028

CARITAS AUSTRALIA- CARITAS UKRAINE

Our partner organisation, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground helping people with emergency food, water, shelter and hygiene support. Donate now to help the people of Ukraine during this humanitarian emergency.

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/>

Death Anniversaries: William Holmes, Ruth Ryan, Margaret Toy, Ivan Hropic, Angeline Davis, Robert Loftus, Michael Doyle, Marie London
We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community:

Fr Henry Byrne, Christopher Hinton, Fr Laurie Blake, Pat De Lucey, John Hann, Lorina Lirio, Dermott, Margaret Harris, Wayne O'Toole, George Fitzgerald, Savannah Leane, Bill Guist

LIVING FAITH IN THE EVERYDAY



'Come back to Me with all your heart' (Joel 2:12)

THE LENTEN JOURNEY CONTINUES...

As we continue our Lenten Journey amidst the current turmoil in our world on so many fronts, we can feel distracted or even, for myself not able to let go and Let God. At times it can seem bleak and the frailty of our humanity can dominate. I have found the following insight helpful – *'Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight.'* (Chittister)

As I reflect more deeply, I know that many days are possible only by the Grace of God – made tangible in various ways – through others, through prayer, contemplation, nourishment of the Sacraments...a reflection that I have found helpful is:

Grace is not something we merit. After the rich young man in the Gospels turns down Jesus' invitation to leave everything and follow him, Peter, who watched this encounter and who, unlike the rich young man, hasn't turned down Jesus' invitation and has given up everything to follow him, asks Jesus what those who do give up everything are going to get in return.

In response, Jesus tells him the parable of the generous landowner and the vineyard workers who all arrive at different times, wherein some work for many hours and some for virtually no time at all, and yet they all receive the same reward, leaving those who worked the full day and bore the heat of the sun bitter with sense of unfairness. But the vineyard owner (God) points out that there's no unfairness here since everyone has in fact received an over-generous return.

Grace and mercy are never given out cheaply since love is never merited (Rolheiser OMI, 2019)

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Our journeys through life take us through many experiences. Some are warm and fulfilling, others are cold and demanding. We dare to believe you walk with us all the time. May our faith in your presence steady us in times of trial, and enable us to say thanks in times of happiness. Amen.

(Elligate, M. (2021) Restoring Freshness in the time of Lent, Garratt Publishing)



PROJECT COMPASSION 2022

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.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.

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 lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.



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