

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 23 Mar 2025

Third Sunday of Lent Year C

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

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.'

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v.8

(R.) 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.

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.

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are op-

pressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.

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.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

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.

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

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 Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

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."

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

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REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

In today's Gospel reading, Pope Francis explains, we see that 'Jesus rejects and strongly contests the idea of blaming God' for the world's misfortunes.

God does not send disasters to punish people. God is not vindictive, but ever merciful. And we are all called to respond to God's mercy, the Pope says, 'especially during this time of Lent.'

This includes learning how to stop blaming God. We should try to turn our attention to those times when, as the Pope puts it, it is 'our selfishness that tears apart relationships; ... our wrong and violent choices that unleash evil.' We are called to become the kind of people who can acknowledge our own faults.

'But Jesus knows that conversion is not easy,' the Pope adds, 'and he wants to help us here.' This is why Jesus 'encourages us with a parable that tells of the patience of God.'

The fig tree is an obvious symbol for each one of us. 'More time is given to it,' the Pope says, 'another possibility. I like to think', he adds, 'that a nice name for God could be "the God of another possibility": God always gives us another opportunity.'

Such a chance is here, now. It is up to us to seize it.

© Nick Brodie



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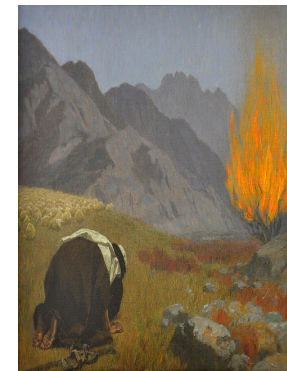
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Carroll College, Broulee

R.E.C.: Anna Smart

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Year C



CHURCH EVENTS

Choir Practice
1PM Every second and fourth Monday

Cenacle Prayer 9.30 am
Fridays after Mass

Wrap with Love
Wednesday 26th March 1-3pm CMR

Lenten Program
Wednesdays after Mass
5 March—9 April

Parish Sacramental Program
First Reconciliation 2025
Yr 3 Sacramental Retreat
Day Wednesday 26th March
9.30—2.00pm Carroll College
Family Catch-up afternoon with pizza Thursday 27th March @ 5pm Church Meeting Room

Cuppa with Mary MacKillop
Tuesday April 8th 10-11am @ Nola & Bernie Beatty's home
Ph: 0410 629 416

Craft Group 10am
Thursdays Church Meeting Room

ADORATION TUESDAYS
@ 4pm

COFFEE CLUB Thursdays
after 9am Mass
Venue: Corrigans Cove

THE LORD IS KIND AND MERCIFUL Psalm 102

The 3rd Sunday of Lent leads us to the realisation that we are half way through the season. A timely reminder for us to reflect- What does Lent mean to me? Have I revisited my understanding of Lent being "a season of prayer, fasting and alms giving" as presented to us in an earlier Bulletin?

Also mentioned in an earlier reflection we read of "The Game Plan!" Having such a plan for Lent could be a useful tool - a reminder of the rules Jesus continually reminds/gives us, remembering, however, that it is not always easy to take them on board.

Again, on an earlier Sunday and the gospel of Luke 6:39-45 we were reminded of the role of a teacher or guide in our lives. In that gospel we are challenged to look at ourselves, grow in love and kindness and show others the ways of Jesus.

So here we are halfway to Jerusalem and Holy Week! How is our Game Plan progressing? Does it need adjustment? Today's gospel offers us some suggestions.

In the gospel today Jesus uses the word "repent" when speaking to the crowd. He was inferring that suffering isn't directly linked to personal sinfulness or a punishment from God.

Brendan Byrne (The Hospitality of God) suggests that Jesus is using the word "repent" to encourage the people to think about how they may be judged if they suffer like the Galileans at that particular time or the people when the tower of Siloam fell. In his book Brendan writes "Why not settle affairs with God' emissary (Jesus) while still on the way to Jerusalem? Soon it will be too late!" Page 134. Lent, for us is an opportunity to "repent," that is to think about how we are living, choices we are making and how we are reconciling with each other. In a word re engaging with God's emissary Jesus!

Luke then has Jesus telling the parable of the fig tree. We must all have had a non flourishing or unproductive plant or area in our garden causing us annoyance. Have we dug it up or have we been like the gardener in the parable, patient and caring?

Lent is our time to let Christ the gardener, cultivate our hearts and help us have fruitful lives. We are reminded of God's patience. Like the fig tree He looks to us to bear fruit- the fruits of love, peace, compassion, justice and non violence.

Lent is the time for us to review our growth, emerge from the wilderness and reflect/repent. Are the choices we make showing our faith in action? God is patient but are we using our time wisely? Jerusalem is getting closer.

How is the Game Plan playing out?

Are we using Jesus as our guide and teacher as we move through the wilderness?

Ken and Carolyn Evenden

MASSES THIS WEEK

Monday 24th:—Sunday 30th March

Monday 24th : NO MASS

Tuesday 25th: Mass 5pm

Wednesday 26th: Mass 9am

Thursday 27th: Mass 9am

Friday 28th: Mass 9am

Saturday 29th: Mass 5pm

Reconciliation 3.30-4.30

Sunday 30th: Mass 9am

* Mass at The Manor Thursday

March 27th 2pm

ROSTERS

22/23 MARCH

Cleaning

24//28 D & L May

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer K
Conway
Commentator: S
Ebejer
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers
N Buick
Computer Screen
D May

9.00 AM MASS:

Welcomer M Britt
Commentator B
Basevi
Reader: LPage
Eucharistic
Ministers ,
N Page, D Herring
Computer Screen T
Priest

MORNING TEA:

N Beatty/M deSmet

COUNTERS:

B Basevi/C Meade

29/30 MARCH

Cleaning

31/3-4/4 M DeSmet

J Maher

5.00PM MASS

Welcomer B Order
Commentator: B
Maynard
Readers: P O’Kelly
Eucharistic Ministers
J McCarthy
Computer Screen
M O’Neill

9AM MASS

Welcomer T van den
Broek
Commentator N
Beatty
Reader:J
O’Sullivan . ..
Eucharistic
Ministers ,
S Beashel, A
Scicluna
Computer Screen T
Jones

MORNING TEA

M & S Beashel

COUNTERS:

D & L May

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

A/C Name: St Bernard’s
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Ref: Family Name

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Parishioners are invited to attend the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent.

A soup dinner is served after the short service.
The Stations of the Cross are held at 5.30pm each Friday.

LENTEN GROUP

Will be held after Mass on Wednesdays beginning March 5 Ash Wednesday—April 9
Enquiries: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

EASTER MUSIC CHOIR PRACTICE

We continue our Easter Music preparation every Monday at 1.00pm from now until Easter: Monday 24th March, Monday 31 March, Monday 7 April and Monday 14 April
All welcome!

FUNERALS IN THE PARISH

Mrs Jean McSmith
Friday 21st March 11am
St Bernard’s Church

TRANSPORT REQUIRED

There is a lady in Batehaven who is unable to get to Mass on a Sunday due to limited mobility on hills. Is there anyone who could pick her up for Mass on Sunday. Please let the Parish Office know if you are available Wednesday-Friday 4472 4153
batemansbay@cg.org.au

VOLUNTEER FOR ROSTERS FOR HOLY WEEK

Rosters are in the foyer to be filled in for Holy Week. The times of the ceremonies are on each day.
Could you please fill in your name and a contact number and put YES under day you will be available.

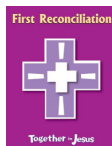
If you have emailed a response, please check it is right and add your contact number.
Thank you for your assistance.

**Parish Sacramental Program
First Reconciliation 2025**

A reminder to families for key dates:
Yr 3 Sacramental Retreat Day will be held on Wednesday 26th March at Carroll College 9.30-2.00pm

Catch-up afternoon with Pizza Thursday 27th March @ 5pm in the Church Meeting Room

BOOKLETS TO BE RETURNED



Lam Is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Growing up, Lam often felt isolated due to limited job opportunities and difficulty moving around his community. While his friends started jobs after high school, Lam stayed home with his parents, unsure if he could ever achieve his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Everything changed when Lam joined the I-SHINE PROGRAM, SUPPORTED BY Caritas Australia. Through this initiative Lam completed a six-month course developing his skills. And along the way, a new sense of connection.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business, serving clients worldwide and earns a steady income. Lam hopes his story will encourage other young people with disabilities to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams. Lam’s journey shows how your support of Project Compassion empowers individuals to break barriers and transform their lives. Will you walk alongside people like Lam this Lent.?

Envelopes available for donations or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our
brother, and the flame
of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your
Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of
the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos, in
the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth, when,
with the powers of Evil
vanquished, your glory will shine
eternally.

May the grace of the
Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of
Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of
heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our
Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

Remembering the Sick:

Jeanette Clarke, Margaret Priest, Chris Bowditch, Sheree Jackson, Brendan Blyton, Wendy & Pat Roberts, Mark O’Neill, Karen Nixon, Kevin Totterell, Dawn Robinson, Maria de Rocco, Myrna Glenn, Norma Dean, Ann Marie McLoughlin, Antionette Doyle, Christine Norman, Anne Gatehouse, Tony Vogel, Suzanne Hughes, Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O’Neill, Fr John Walter, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Vince Burns, Patrick Burns, Carolyn Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Allan Odum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Jean McSmith, David Wick, Joe Quigley, Margaret Silversides, Patricia Totterdell, David Cowley, Joanne Rogers, Gerald Lewis, Josephine Beckhaus, Cyril Noyeaux, Frank Simic, Sr Paulinus Croker, Marion O’Grady, Patricia Suhl, Neil Leonard, Letitia Baz, Trent Fisk, Kevin Carew, Margaret Kelly, Arthur Hurrell, Vicki Lukasik, Paul Skinner, Suzanne Melton, James Quirk, Giovanni Menon, Tony Puconja, Hazel Nolan, Elsie McGahey, Richard Smart, Patrick Dunn, Laurence Foran, Lynton Ryan, Jacki Harding, Keith Cooke, Sarah Good, Robert Mitchell, Joyce Hurrell, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Ruth O’Malley, Julie Morgan, Suzanne Houssard, Nancy Sykes, Lillian Burkinshaw, Lynette Arundel, Patricia McKeough, Ivan Trojkovic, Brian O’Connor, Annie Scicluna, Francis Bezzina, Pam Wilson, Drago Bandur, Vin Taylor

Pope Francis Monthly Prayer Intentions

MARCH

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences

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