

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – February 25th SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT- B

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan Wereszczuk, Doreen Cameron, Maureen Kirsanovs, Allan Torney, Margaret Mason, Pauline Gartian, Mary George, Joe Elwood, Essie Buncl, Dick Liddle, Ted Sullivan, Jack Cullinan, Lindsay Hains, Nell Stevens, John Powell & Les Broadbent.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins, and Jim Mahony and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER

Introduction & Reading

Today: Sue Mahony

March 3rd: John Jess,

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Bernadette Franc

March 3rd: Charlie Franc

Assembly Leaders

March 17th: Genevieve & Clarrie Johnston

Special Minister

March 17th: Gail Hall

Music: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

March 3rd & 10th: Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

March 3rd & 10th: Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter

March; Bernadette Franc 0427678830

MASS TIMES

March 3rd: LLA 10.00 am

UPCOMING DATES for 2024

World Day of Prayer is on

March 1st for Beaufort Faith Communities

To be held in Uniting Church – more info to follow

Monday March 25th;

Mass of the Oils & 150th acknowledgement.

St Patrick's Cathedral at 11.30 am

BAPTISM

Today we celebrate the Baptism of Laura (Briody) and Chris Langan's son Albie Hugo. Congratulation and may God's grace and Blessings that you receive on your Baptism guide you throughout your life.

Pope's intention for February: – For the terminally ill: Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

♥Loving thy neighbour ♥

“When Jesus said "love your neighbour," He knew your neighbour would act, look, believe and love differently than you.

It's kind of the whole point.

While abstaining from meat on Fridays is a well-known practice, Lenten fasting encompasses a broader spectrum of sacrifices aimed at personal growth and spiritual discipline. This can include giving up daily indulgences such as your favourite coffee, refraining from gossip, or even choosing silence over music during car rides to allow for prayer and contemplation.

Fasting during Lent is not just about personal sacrifice; it's a journey towards a closer relationship with God and a way to practice self-control and empathy. Meanwhile, almsgiving extends the Lenten spirit of sacrifice outward, reminding us of Jesus's call to serve others. It fosters a sense of solidarity with those in need, encouraging acts of kindness and generosity. Through these practices, Lent offers a meaningful path to reflect on our lives, deepen our faith, and connect with the broader community in a spirit of compassion and service.



Heavenly Father, melt my walls, break down my pride,

*Open my eyes to see the neighbours at my side.
Let kindness bloom where differences divide,
And fill my heart with love, like an overflowing tide.
Amen*



Project Compassion 2024 – Second Sunday of Lent: Meet Ronita

- After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. 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 <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts,
as we consider the needs of your family. Israelis and
Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved
by You and called to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of
property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering.

We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.

Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye,
and embrace each other as sisters and brothers,
as they find Your image in every face

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser
and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

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

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark.

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said '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 to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

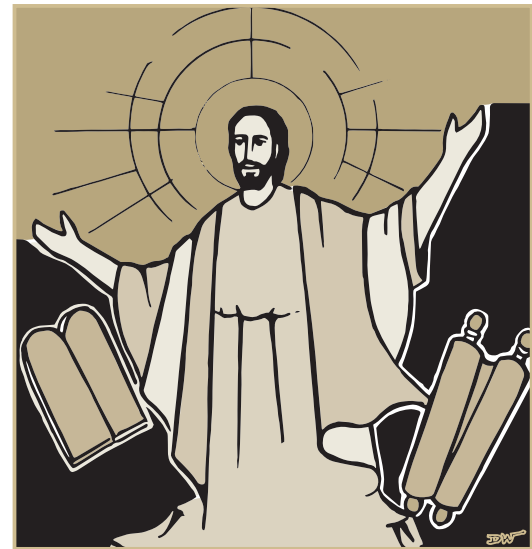
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.**

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

■ The word of the Lord.