

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Administrator: Fr Ed Moloney Assistant Priests: Fr Jim McKay & Fr Francis Kureeckal

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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

Special Parish Events (Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals) Phone: Bernadette Franc 0427678830

beaufort@ballarat.catholic.org.au

March 23rd 2025 3rd Sunday of Lent

YEAR OF HOPE

The 3rd Sunday of Lent Year B invites reflection on **God's commandments, Jesus' authority, and the call to true worship**. It challenges believers to examine their faith and priorities. Obedience to God's Commandments: God gives the Ten Commandments as a guide for living rightly.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Celia Lourey, Rupert Murphy, Margaret Cuthbertson, Nancy Wright, Heather Cuthbertson, Sr Shiela Belleville, Dick Smithson, John Bending, Dulcie Lyons Rod Read & Sarah Moloy.

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dennis Davies (Genevieve's brother), Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Mia Hanrahan, Colleen Hains, Michelle Smith, Danny Doyle, and all those in need of prayer

ROSTER:

Introduction & Reading

Today: Genevieve Johnston
March 30th: Bernadette Franc

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: Maureen Schirmer
March 30th John Jess

Assembly Leaders

March 30th Angela Gerrard & Carita Clancy

Special Minister

March 30th Therese Jess

Music

Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

March 16th & 23rd: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic
March 30th & April 6th Genevieve Johnston

Church Grounds

March 16th & 23rd: Tom Franc
March 30th & April 6th Clarrie Johnston

Newsletter

March: Carmel Milenkovic – 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES

March 30th LLA 10.00 am 4th Sunday in Lent

DIOCESAN NEWS

For the Diocesan E-News see the link below:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/news-events/e-news/>

UPCOMING DATES:

Mass of the oils: Monday April 14th

REPORT FROM CATHEDRAL PARISH MEETING;

Our leadership team attended meetings in Ballarat on Thursday evening. Work will continue as we transition. A sub-committee meeting is being held on April 1st. We will know more then.

Prayer for Rain

O God, the earth is thirsty for rain and we wait for you to refresh the land and all its creatures, the rivers and lakes, the crops and gardens. Send abundant rain, we pray, and teach us to be better stewards of all the blessings you provide, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

United in Prayer for Pope Francis

Almighty ever-living God, eternal health of believers, hear our prayers for your servant, Pope Francis, who is sick:

Grant him, we implore you, your merciful help, so that, with his health restored, He may give you thanks in the midst of your Church. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Prayer from the Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office

Pope Francis message for Lent



“Let Us Journey Together in Hope” is Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2025. He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must always accompany others, and that we must always do everything with the hope that never disappoints. To read the message scan or click the QR code.

Project Compassion 2025 Week 3: Unite against poverty this Lent

In the third week of Lent, our next Project Compassion story features Lam from Vietnam.. Lam, a young man from rural Vietnam with a passion for graphic design, faced limited career prospects due to his disability. With support from the I-SHINE program, he pursued IT training and now runs a successful freelance graphic design business. “When I got the chance to be a part of this program, I was over the moon – just bursting with excitement and joy,” Lam said.

- Watch Lam’s story here: <https://vimeo.com/1051024253>
- Support Project Compassion today: www.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*

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

Lk 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.

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Breaking Open the Word

A CHANGE OF HEART

Last week our Lenten focus was on prayer. This Sunday is about conversion and a change of heart. In the first part of today's reading, Jesus reminds his audience that suffering or persecution is not the result of guilt or sin. Terrible events remind us to have a spirit of repentance. "Repentance" is more of an openness of heart and mind to God, the essential and primary quality of a disciple, and less the codified legalistic need to address one's infringement of ethical or moral standards.

The second part of today's Gospel moves in an ecological direction. Repentance implies ecological conversion. The parable of the fig tree and its owner highlights the attitude of its owner to what is grown on his property. He sees the tree as unproductive and therefore unable to provide a cash return. The owner is greedy. Earth's gift, the tree, is seen as a commodity whose lack of fruitfulness means for the landowner that it is to be "cut down" because it is "taking up the ground" (literally in the Greek, "using up Earth").

What appears as ecological sensitivity is rather an economic or materialistic agenda. But the one who cares for the Earth and the tree, its gardener, offers a more viable and environmental friendlier solution. Leave the tree, offer it fertiliser, and it may bear fruit in the future. He pleads for patience for Earth's fruitfulness. This is instructive for contemporary disciples: tender horticultural practice that cares for Earth is preferred to pragmatic, utilitarian destruction.



Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / C

23 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Ex 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.

RESP 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. **R.**
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. **R.**
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, / gives judgement for all who are oppressed. / He made known his ways to Moses / and his deeds to Israel's sons. **R.**
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.**

SECOND READING

1 Cor 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, brothers, 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.