

5 March 2023
Second Sunday in Lent
Year A



Entrance Antiphon

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 from the
book of Genesis 12: 1-4

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

Response: Lord, let your
mercy be on us, as we
place our trust in you.

Second Reading from the
second letter of St Paul
to Timothy 1: 8-10

Gospel Acclamation
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!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 17: 1-9

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

NEXT WEEK
Third Sunday of Lent
First: Ex 17:3-7
Second: Rom 5:1-2. 5-8
Gospel: Jn 4:5-42

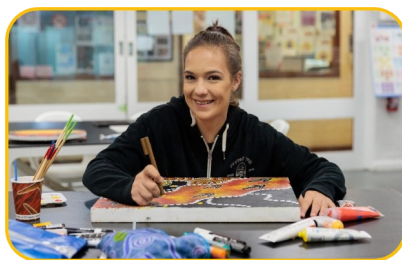
We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.



WEEKLY REFLECTIONS
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Think for a moment about some of the things you have on your walls at home. They don't have to be fancy or expensive. They might be photos of your family or perhaps of deceased grandparents. They might be prints of famous paintings or posters with sayings that mean a lot to you. It is very common that Christians have special things: crucifixes or images of saints. All of these things inspire us in one way or another. If ever you have had to pack up to move house and looked at your bare walls as you leave, they will seem empty and colourless.

Art is one of the things that transfigures our world and makes it more beautiful. Other things do this as well: laughter, tears, cooking, music, hugs and sharing stories. They all transfigure our houses and allow us to see them as homes. They unlock the true potential of an otherwise ordinary space.



This week Project Compassion, organised by Caritas Australia, presents us with the story of Tereesa, a 27-year-old indigenous woman from Western Sydney, the area with the largest urban indigenous population in the country. Tereesa became pregnant at the age of 16.

With your help, Project Compassion has been able to support the Mums and Bubs program run by Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation. This allowed Tereesa to find accommodation, gain skills and continue her education. She was also able to connect with her culture. Her glorious artwork was featured on the Wulugul Walk during Sydney's Vivid Light festival last year. Her use of light and colour transfigured the environment where it was displayed. In so many places, Project Compassion helps people to achieve their vision.

Of course, the transfiguration of Jesus is unique. We hear in today's Gospel that Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain. His face shone like the sun and his face became 'as white as the light.' A voice from heaven said 'this is my beloved son; listen to him.' Peter said how wonderful it was to be there. The transfiguration may have only lasted a few minutes but it was clear that Jesus' friends never forgot it. Like a work of art on a wall, the memory made the world seem very different. During Lent, we are also called to transfigure the world, to make a difference. *Written by Michael McGirr*

Bishop Brian Mascord welcomes the Jones family...

In the Cathedral at Wollongong at 2pm last Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent, Bishop Brian Mascord enrolled the names of Grant Jones and his two sons, Jack and Adam, in the official Book of the Elect, to state that the Church in this Diocese consents to their receiving the Sacraments of Initiation this coming Easter. Part of the Rite involved asking questions of their godparent and sponsors about their readiness for this important step. The Bishop's warm welcome stated that it is a privilege to have new members join our parishes each year... they are people who have responded to the call of the Holy Spirit to grow in faith alongside us. This Lent we include Grant, Jack and Adam in our Prayers of the Faithful and I ask all parishioners to keep them in your personal daily prayers as we join in the journey to renew our own baptismal promises at Easter. *Diane Redmayne RCIA Coordinator*

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoa Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church.
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am

Contact us

Office Hours: **Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**

Phone: **9603 7373 / 0434 705 176**

Email: **varroville@dow.org.au**

Website: **varroville.dow.org.au**

Parish Priest: **Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD**

Assistant Priest: **Fr “Sam” Ransom Rapirap OCD**

Parish Associate: **Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM**

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Emmanuel Vella, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Hugh Madden, June Wrightman, Sandra Bastoli, Marites Sitjar, Ron Allen.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

12 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Gabriel & Ofa, Tess	Terry & Maree
Altar Servers	Andrew, Sebastian, Eliarna	Orly, Clare, Meliame	Robert
Readers	Suzanne & Russell	Allan & Laura	Evangeline & Kavya
Refreshments	Josephine & Glenda	Tina & Volunteer	
CLOTW		Rebecca & Emma	
Flowers	Tracey & Richard	Church Vacuuming	Lorraine & Jackie
Counters	Richard & Michael	Foyer Cleaning	Mafi Family

Our Community

Parish Vision: LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER: Opportunities:

Develop a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter— A study group to satisfy your thirst! This group meets in the Parish Meeting Room on Thursdays at 10am till 12:30pm— newcomers are welcome each week. The topics to be covered this coming week are

The Great Vigil of Easter, Part 11 and Easter Sunday

The sessions are facilitated by Colleen Haughey and are based on video presentations by Fr John Baldovin. All are welcome.

Lenten Reflection Groups Groups available are advertised on the parish website and church foyer or contact parish office or organisers Diane Redmayne 0403322098 or Donna Ransom 0413 429 557. The meetings go for 90 minutes and run for 6 weeks beginning 19th Feb. The booklets are available for sale at the piety stall or from the parish office at a cost of \$5 each.



Bulletin Notices

Preparation for Good Friday Stations of the Cross will be held every Sunday at 1.30pm in the parish hall.

Friendship Group: Tuesday 7 March at 9.30am.

Fundraising Meeting via zoom: Wed 9 March at 7.30pm.

Pastoral Care Meeting: Thursday 9 March at midday.

Mount Carmel Catholic College open day for Year 7 for 2024 will be held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 commencing at 6.30pm. Enrolment applications will be available for families on this evening.

Supporting Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse: The Diocese has scheduled a one day workshop for survivors of sexual abuse, their families and supporters on Saturday 18 March 2023 9:30am-3.00pm Visit dow.sh/samsn

Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat, 25-26 March 2023: An opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. Registrations: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Marriage Enrichment Weekend Learn to live your best life in love! Join us on 14-16 April 2023 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at

www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine

& Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or

Email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au



Appin Massacre Memorial Ceremony Sunday 16 April 2023 Cataract Dam Picnic Area 11am – 3.30pm. Hosted by: Winga Myamly Reconciliation Group. The event will take place regardless of weather conditions. Please see flyer for contacts and additional details.

The Journey, 5 March 2023 – Your Diocese of Wollongong Weekly Podcast: On The Journey This Week: In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista says this gospel calls us to recognise all the signs God gives us for our trials ahead. Mother Hilda says it's what we think about that we see, so this week think gracious thoughts. Plus, the Triumph Lenten series with Sr Anastasia Reeves and Br Lewis Harwood. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

CIAN Webinar Holy Week and Mystagogy: Monday 13 March 2023 7pm – 8:15pm: Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN) presents the third in a series of webinars about running the RCIA process in your parish. Simon Yeak and Br Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud OFM will present on taking your Elect through Holy Week and the Easter Initiation Rites and Mystagogy. Register tinyurl.com/CIAN-Mar2023-webinar

Welcome to Sisterhood (Conference 17-19 March – Stanwell Tops) Sisterhood is a National Catholic Women's movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. It emerged from a growing group of Catholic women seeking more from their relationships with one another, their family and God. The vision of Sisterhood is to see women supported in their Catholic faith and encourages the valuable gift of female friendships, meaningful connection and community.

Many women have expressed interest in joining the women's Sisterhood small groups operating across Australia and to gather through regional events and retreats, sisterhood mornings and the national conference next month. Sound like something you would enjoy? To find out more go to www.sisterhood.org.au

Go Deeper in your Faith with popular & FREE Catholic Podcasts • Bible in a Year: Last year, Ascension Press ran the Catholic Bible in a Year Podcast featuring Fr Mike Schmitz and Jeff Cavins. It was the world's number 1 Religious Podcast with over 250 million downloads. It will run again throughout 2023 – and while a new podcast is released daily, you can do it at your own pace signing up at www.ascensionpress.com/biy and it's not too late to catch up or simply work through at your own pace.

♦ **Catechism in a Year:** This year, Ascension Press have commenced the Catechism in a Year podcast which will slowly and prayerfully read through and break open the Catechism over 365 days. It's not too late to catch up, and the daily podcasts can be listened to at your own pace. It is available at www.ascensionpress.com/ciy.

St Michael's Parish Thirroul Centenary Monday 30 October 2023: Special events will be held on 28 October. Details will be announced in the coming months. Anyone with a connection with the parish is invited to join us. Organisers are also interested in any stories and photos of the parish to include in a centenary publication. Inquiries to Judy Bull, judy.bull@bigpond.com.

Mystery & Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration 28 – 30 September 2023, Brisbane. The Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council are delighted to announce a combined Liturgy and Music Conference. Early Bird Registrations are now Open: For all enquiries contact liturgy@liturgybrisbane.net.au

Eastern Europe Pilgrimage of Mercy commences 13 June 2023 A rare combination of Eastern Europe's most intriguing cities of Budapest, Krakow and Prague. Be blessed by the powerful graces of the great Shrines of Divine Mercy and the Black Madonna of Czestochowa. Relish a 3-night stay in spectacular Krakow as we retrace the places and graces of Pope St John Paul II. Departing on 13 June 2023 with Fr Richard Healey. More info: <https://www.harvestjourneys.com/tour/pilgrimage-of-mercy/>

Palms Australia Mission: Change their lives...and yours. Palms Australia is offering Australian Catholics the opportunity to enter Global Mission and they are inviting parishioners to join their overseas placements program. **Mission: Change their lives ... and yours.** Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 5333 or 0422472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au

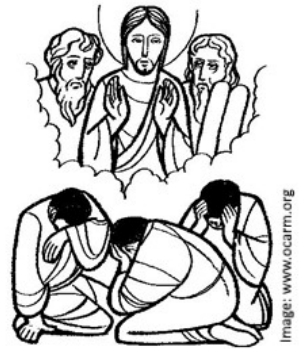
Palms Australia: Opening our hands to the World



Holy Gospel according to Matthew 17: 1-9

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.



As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection by Pope Francis

Today the Gospel presents the Transfiguration. It is the second stage of the Lenten journey. The mountain in the Bible represents a place close to God and an intimate encounter with Him, a place of prayer where one stands in the presence of the Lord. There up on the mount, Jesus is revealed to the three disciples as transfigured, luminescent and most beautiful. Suddenly from on high the voice of the Father resounds proclaiming Jesus to be his most beloved Son, saying "listen to him". This word is important! Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: "listen to Jesus, because he is my beloved Son". This week let us keep this word in our minds and in our hearts: "listen to Jesus!".

This invitation from the Father is very important. We, the disciples of Jesus, are called to be people who listen to his voice and take his words seriously. To listen to Jesus, we must be close to him, to follow him, like the crowd in the Gospel who chase him through the streets of Palestine. Jesus did not have a teaching post or a fixed pulpit, he was an itinerant teacher, who proposed his teachings, teachings given to him by the Father, along the streets, covering distances that were not always predictable or easy. Follow Jesus in order to listen to him. But also let us listen to Jesus in his written Word, in the Gospel. I pose a question to you: do you read a passage of the Gospel every day? Yes, no! It is important! It is so good; it is a good thing to have a small book of the Gospel, a little one, and to carry in our pocket or in our purse and read a little passage in whatever moment presents itself during the day. In any given moment of the day I take the Gospel from my pocket and I read something, a short passage. Jesus is there and he speaks to us in the Gospel! Ponder this.

From the event of the Transfiguration I would like to take two significant elements that can be summed up in two words: ascent and descent. We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer. But we cannot stay there! Encounter with God in prayer inspires us anew to "descend the mountain" and return to the plain where we meet many brothers weighed down by fatigue, sickness, injustice, ignorance, poverty both material and spiritual. To these brothers in difficulty, we are called to bear the fruit of that experience with God, by sharing the grace we have received. And this is curious. When we hear the Word of Jesus, when we listen to the Word of Jesus and carry it in our heart, this Word grows. Do you know how it grows? By giving it to the other! The Word of Christ grows in us when we proclaim it, when we give it to others! And this is what Christian life is. It is a mission for the whole Church, for all the baptized, for us all: listen to Jesus and offer him to others. Do not forget: this week listen to Jesus! And think about the matter of the Gospel: will you? Will you do this? Then next Sunday you tell me if you have done this: that you have a little book of the Gospel in your pocket or in your purse to read in little stages throughout the day

