

03 March 2024
Third Sunday of Lent Year B



Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the
Lord, for he rescues my feet
from the snare. Turn to me
and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

First Reading from the book
of Exodus 20:1-17

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68

Response:

I will Lord, you have the
words of everlasting life.

Second Reading from
first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless glory!
God loved the world so
much, he gave us his only
Son, that all who believe in
him might have eternal life.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless glory!

Holy Gospel according to
John 2:13-25

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it,
says the Lord, the water I
shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal
life.

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Year B

First: 2 Chron 36:14-16. 19-23

Resp Ps: 136. R. v.6

Second: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:16

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.



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother, and sister in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to clean water for their daily lives has caused Leaia a lot of worry. Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they used to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, she had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street.

With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at their home. She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions.

"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

REFLECTION

If the world is one great classroom, then God is a fantastic teacher. We have all had experience of this: the firm and gentle way that God opens our minds and helps us to understand.

Today's readings show three different ways that God tries to get through to us. In the first reading, God sets some clear expectations for behaviour. They are all based around respect, both for the teacher and for those with whom we share the class! At the same time, God reminds us 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the house of slavery.' In other words, these are not random rules. They are designed to protect our deepest freedom. Disregarding them sends us back into captivity.

In the Gospel, Jesus is annoyed by people who think they know everything but who have not properly understood the basic lesson about justice and reverence. 'Stop turning my father's house into a market.'

Finally, St Paul speaks about wisdom. 'God's weakness is human strength.' This is another style again: inviting us into a mystery, almost using riddles to get us to think outside the box. It is no surprise that the Catholic community has always valued education and done a great deal to make it accessible for people around the world. Just as God teaches us, so too do we try to share the wonderful gift of learning with others.

This week, Project Compassion brings us the story of Leaia, who lives in Samoa. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed in Leaia's home to harvest rainwater. This means that her family can now have access to clean water to drink and bathe. The time that was previously spent walking to collect water in buckets from a neighbour down the street can now be used for other essential tasks and, most importantly her children don't have to miss out on school. School is a doorway that opens onto a better world.

The Gospel today says that Jesus knew what a person had in them. We should try to be the same: to see the potential, not just the surface.

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 and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Stations of the Cross; Friday 7pm during Lent
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

Contact us

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

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Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Una Champion, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and 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 and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Lola Moors, Rosario David, Rodney Smith, Joseph Baldwin Lopez,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: MA Pereira, Anne & Jerry Migus, Francis Haldar,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

10 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne, Russell & Berna	Nelia & Volunteers x 2	Geoff & Margaret
Altar Servers	Maria, Cassandra & Abigail	Orly, Meliame & Fisiilose	Vu & Nathan
Readers	Mark & Carlos	Gabriel & Volunteer	Tim & Volunteer
Refreshments	Estela & Margaret	Karen, Katalina & Tess	Leah & Patricia
CLOTW		Sarah & Janny	
Flowers	Patricia & Asinate	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Vilma & Jeanette	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi Family

Our Community Notices: Upcoming meetings

Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight on the 2nd & 4th Friday of every month, at 6:30 pm.

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm via zoom.

Fiesta Committee Meeting Save the date for our first planning meeting for 2024 on Tuesday 9 April at 7.30pm in the parish meeting room.

Friendship Group will meet on Tuesday 5 March at 9.30am. Wear something green for St Patricks Day. **Bring a friend along.**

Discipleship & Evangelisation Team meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 March at 7.30pm



Bulletin Notices

Altar Server Training will be held on 4 Saturdays commencing 2 March at 4pm. For anyone wishing to become an Altar Server and for those already serving, it is a refresher, especially in preparation for the Easter liturgies. For more info call the parish office.

Holy Family Fellowship Prayer Group is calling you

Why: to kick start our evangelization drive, and invite/inform other parishioners about what we do.

Where: OLMC Parish Hall on 23rd March 2024.

Please join us for the 9.00 am parish mass followed by a 2 hour session (morning tea provided).

Fundraising news: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 6 March at 7.30pm via zoom.

The parish fundraising team will be collecting "return and earn" bottles and cans this year. Please bring your bottles and cans that are recyclable for 10c to the parish and leave them in the signposted area for collection.

The Easter Raffle will be sold after all masses throughout March. There is 4 hampers to be won.

There will be a bunnings BBQ on Sunday 3 March at Gregory Hills. Come out and say hello.

RCIA helpers needed: Appeal for parishioners willing to assist in supporting adults and children new to the Catholic faith in our parish. There are many small ways that you can make a difference. To have a conversation about this contact Diane Redmayne RCIA coordinator via the parish office or leave your contact details with Sr Jill.

Mount Carmel Catholic College is accepting Enrolments for Year 7 2025; The College Information Night will be held on Wednesday 6 March 2024 commencing at 6.15pm in the Champagnat Centre followed by a presentation at 7.00pm. Expressions of interest to attend the evening can be made via online portal using this [link](#). We encourage parents to attend the evening prior to completing an enrolment application.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation; The dates for these Sacraments are available on our parish website and registrations are being accepted via the Parish office

"Peace in difficult times" (Retreat in the style of Taizé): 22-24 March; Our world seems to move at an ever-accelerating pace with increased suffering and challenges and amidst this, we may feel pain, overwhelm, and fear for ourselves and others. Join us for a weekend of prayer, connection and community, as we enter more fully into the embrace of God, who alone gives our hearts rest and peace. bookings@mtcarmel.com.au. Please complete the enquiry form on our website; mtcarmel.com.au

Emmaus Silent Retreat Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April, Varroville: Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus. Be renewed in spending time alone with the Lord, and watch as He slowly sets your heart ablaze. This retreat is run by the MGL Sisters and is a retreat for both men and women: trybooking.com/CNSXK

Light to the Nations - 2024 Easter Youth Pilgrimage You're invited to an Easter experience like no other. Camp under the open skies, joining in the celebration of Easter with 1000 people under a massive marquee. Held from 28-31 March, LTTN will be held on the grounds of Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville NSW. It is a transformative experience designed to bring families, especially youth and young adults, to an encounter with the person of Jesus in the context of the Easter Triduum through prayer, worship, drama, music, and personal sharing. Register at dow.sh/LTTN24

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours – with PALMS; Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives. Learn more: Join our Mission Webinar 5 March 6:00 - 6:30 pm

Palms Australia | 63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Learn Even More: Join our two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together. Contact: 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au

Compass: Catholic Family Camping Weekends | Fri 15 – Sun 17 March, Guntawang-Wooglemai Catholic Camping Facility, Oakdale. The weekend is designed to unite families of every age, including couples with or without children, single parents with their children, and grandparents, all to celebrate the incredible gift of family life. Cost: \$30 per adult or \$70 per family (regardless of size). RSVP Date: Mon 8 March; Enquiries: Jude Hennessy: jude.hennessy@dow.org.au
Camping & Bunk Room Options: You may like to pitch a tent, stay in a caravan, camper or swag. There are also male and female dormitory rooms with bunk beds. These will be allocated during registration on a first-come-first-served basis and will require strict supervision of children by parents / guardians. For more information: Info – CCFCWeekend. To Register: March2024CCFCWeekend

The Journey Weekly Podcast this Week: Sr Katherine Stone MGL says that sometimes burdensome details can seem to overtake the relationship we have with God. Mother Hilda says not all obstacles in life are bad, some are God saving us from ourselves. Plus, Fr Tony Percy on the 10 commandments, and Fr's Sean Cullen and Chris Sarkis. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

A vocation view Third Sunday of Lent; "We proclaim Christ, Crucified!" (1 Cor 1:23) In the Crucifixion, we find strength. In the Cross is our triumph. Rest in His mercy that you might proclaim Him in all that you say and do. If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

CathFAMILY brings you a selection of activities, prayer rituals, crafts, and recipes from their website to assist parents and grandparents in being the first educators in faith for their kids. Don't miss CathKids <https://cathfamily.org/cathkids-faith-unlimited/>

Holy Gospel according to John 2:13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.



During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection of Pope Benedict XVI 11 March 2012

On this Third Sunday of Lent the Gospel — in St John's version — refers to the famous episode of Jesus who drives the animal dealers and the moneychangers out of the Temple of Jerusalem (cf. Jn 2:13-25). The event, recorded by all the Evangelists, happened in the Passover Feast and made a deep impression on both the crowd and the disciples. How should we interpret Jesus' action?

First of all it should be noted that it did not provoke any repression from the keepers of public order because it was seen as a typical prophetic action: indeed, in God's name prophets often reported abuse and sometimes did so with symbolic gestures. The problem, if there was one, concerned their authority. For this reason the Jews asked Jesus: "What sign have you to show us for doing this?" (Jn 2:18), show us that you are truly acting in God's name.

The expulsion of the dealers from the Temple has also been interpreted in a political and revolutionary sense, placing Jesus on a par with the zealots' movement. The zealots were, precisely, "zealous" for God's law and prepared to use violence to enforce respect for it. In Jesus' day they were awaiting a Messiah who would free Israel from Roman domination. But Jesus did not fulfil this expectation, so much so that some disciples abandoned him and Judas Escariot even betrayed him.

In fact it is impossible to interpret Jesus as violent: violence is contrary to the Kingdom of God, it is a tool of the antichrist. Violence is never useful to humanity but dehumanizes it.

Let us, therefore, listen to the words that Jesus spoke while he was carrying out this action. "Take these things away; you shall not make my Father's house a house of trade". And the disciples then remembered that in a Psalm is written: "zeal for your house has consumed me" (69[68]:10).

This Psalm is a call for help in a situation of extreme danger, because of the hatred of enemies: the plight that Jesus was to live through in his Passion. Zeal for the Father and for his house was to bring him to the cross: his was the zeal of love that pays in person, not the zeal that would like to serve God through violence.

In fact the "sign" that Jesus was to give as proof of his authority would be his very death and Resurrection. "Destroy this temple", he said, "and in three days I will raise it up". And St John recorded: "he spoke of the temple of his body" (Jn 2:20-21). With the Pasch of Jesus a new form of worship begins, the cult of love, and a new temple which is he himself, the Risen Christ, through whom every believer can worship God "in spirit and truth" (Jn 4:23).

Dear friends, the Holy Spirit began to build this new temple in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Let us pray through his intercession that every Christian may become a living stone of this spiritual building.



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