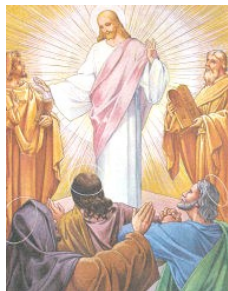


25 February 2024
Second Sunday of Lent
Year B



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 book of
Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

Responsorial Psalm

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

Response:

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

Second Reading from
the first letter of St Paul to
the Romans 8:31-34

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
Mark 9:2-10

Communion Antiphon

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

Third Sunday of Lent
Year B

First: Exodus 20:1-17

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

Second: 1 Corinth 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

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.



Ronita's Story; Philippines

22 year old Ronita lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, in Metro Manila. Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family.

Thankfully, Ronita was given a second chance at completing her studies when she heard about the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines. Through FCJ Alternative Learning System (ALS) program, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies, and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment—even with the arrival of her second child, Egzy Grey.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre which she hopes will allow her to support her family while she continues her studies.

With the support of the FCJ, Ronita has overcome tremendous obstacles to enjoy better employment prospects and a brighter future for her whole family.

*"I have now graduated senior school and am so proud of myself" she said,
"I feel hopeful for the future.....Now it's not impossible for me to achieve
my dream... thank you"*

Reflection

When Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain, they experienced something quite extraordinary. The transfiguration gave them a glimpse of what it meant for Jesus to be the son of God. It is hardly surprising that Peter said, "it is wonderful for us to be here". The Gospel also tells us that Jesus' friends were frightened, and this is also easy too understand. They were overwhelmed. Nevertheless, it's not long before Jesus reminds them that he is destined to die. His friends must come down from the mountain and walk with Jesus through all the ordinary days and weeks that lie ahead.

We can all say "it is wonderful for us to be here" no matter where that happens to be. Life is full of wonder. That doesn't mean it is always easy. We live in the arms of a very deep mystery. God's love enfolds us. Throughout lent, we are called to support Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. This year, Project Compassion celebrates 60 years of partnership with some of the most marginalized communities in the world. With your help, we have walked alongside literally millions of people in dozens of countries.

This week we encounter the story of Ronita who lives in Quezon City, in the Philippines. Becoming a mother at a young age meant that her schooling was cut short. Her husband, Lean, leaves for work at 3am and returns at 9pm, earning less than \$US10 per day in a demanding job in waste disposal.

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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**

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

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

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

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: Rodney Smith, Joseph Baldwin Lopez, Elena Del Rosario Bacani,

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

03 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Myra, Paul & Lori	Chris, Margaret & Bianca	Patricia & Volunteer
Altar Servers	Berna, Ralph & Kenneth	Orly, Claire & Meliame	Stuart & Nathan
Readers	Bevina & Amana	Allan & Laura	Evangeline & Kavya
Refreshments	Beatrix & Volunteer	Steve, Sarah & Volunteer	Geoff & Margaret
CLOTW		Rebecca & Asinate	
Flowers	Lorraine & Effie	Church Vacuuming	Pawan & Effie
Counters	Ruby & Cynthia	Foyer Cleaning	Suzanne & Beatrix

Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

Holy Family Fellowship Prayer Group We gather at, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, on the Saturday 24 February after the Vigil Mass. We have a short time of Praise and Worship followed by a time of fellowship and sharing of a light meal.

Childrens Ministry Gathering will be held on Sunday 25 February from 3—5pm. For children aged 3—12 years.

Fundraising news: 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. There will be a bunnings BBQ on Sunday 3 March at Gregory Hills. Volunteers and donations are gratefully accepted for this day. Each bunnings bbq raises approx \$1400 to help with our fundraising target.



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.

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.

Restore Palliative Care Funding In the last State budget, \$150 million was slashed from palliative care, having a direct effect on how people die in NSW. It flies in the face of guarantees made at the time of the passing of new laws for Euthanasia, ensuring that everyone in NSW would have true choice as to how they died. No one should be pushed into euthanasia because of funding issues. People of faith need to urgently stand up for the sanctity of human life by objecting to these cuts. Please urgently sign this petition and invite friends and family to do the same <https://bit.ly/restorethefunding>

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – Season 4 starts this week The Chosen is a new 'free to view', series, now in its fourth season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and it continues to receive acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via The Chosen app (download) or for your Smart TV. Watch it on your own, or better still with family and friends.

Touched by Abortion. Need Healing? Rachel's Vineyard next retreat 1 – 3 March 2024. Held at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville NSW. Cost is negotiable. Part /full scholarships available. To book or further information, phone 0400 092 555 or 0407 626 079. EMAIL: rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com.

Carmelite Retreat 2 March: "Today I must come to your house" presented by Fr Bernard Hancock. With St Teresa as our guide and taking a journey into the gospels, we will see how God is always inviting us into life with Him. 10am—3pm; for booking contact 87953464. Cost \$30 (BYO lunch)

"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

MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend Discernment Retreat Friday 1st March - Sunday 3rd March, Varroville A time for single women aged 16-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing

to help discern your vocation: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com
All the retreats info is also online at our new website: <https://www.mgl sisters.org/events/#carmel-house-retreats>

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/CNSXX

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 through prayer, worship, liturgy, drama, music & personal sharing 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

Holy Week Retreat: Benedictine Abbey Jamberoo Monday 25 – Wed 27 March; There are 12 rooms reserved at the Abbey for what will be another memorable Milton-Ulladulla Parish, Holy Week Retreat, being run by Fr Michael Dyer. People from other DOW parishes and beyond are welcome! We will enter the gentle and prayerful rhythm of a monastic horarium, particularly the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. Additionally, we explore, through the thematic lens of Amazing Grace, the meaning of the Paschal Mystery which lies at the heart of Christianity. Through storytelling, music, photographs, spiritual reading, lectio divina, and other creative means, retreatants will deepen an appreciation of what it means, like Jesus, to Let go in Faith (Holy Thursday/ Good Friday), to Let be in Hope (Holy Saturday) and to Let Grow in Love (Vigil of Easter Sunday). Please come along to share in what will be an amazing grace filled experience. Come for three days (\$180) or for a day (\$20). On Tuesday evening, retreatants will participate at the Chrism Mass in SFX Cathedral Wollongong. This promises to be a superb liturgical experience. For more information: Contact Lynne Kelly 0407 540 263 lmkelly40@bigpond.com

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

Holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10

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 from 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.

Reflection of Pope Benedict XVI 12 March 2006

Today's Gospel reading (re-proposes) to us the episode of the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor. Awestruck at the sight of the transfigured Lord who was speaking with Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John were suddenly overshadowed by a cloud, out of which came a voice which proclaimed: "This is my beloved Son on whom my favour rests; listen to him" (Mk 9: 7).

When one has the grace to live a strong experience of God, it is as if one is living an experience similar to that of the disciples during the Transfiguration: a momentary foretaste of what will constitute the happiness of Paradise. These are usually brief experiences that are sometimes granted by God, especially prior to difficult trials.

No one, however, is permitted to live "on Tabor" while on earth. Indeed, human existence is a journey of faith and as such, moves ahead more in shadows than in full light, and is no stranger to moments of obscurity and also of complete darkness. While we are on this earth, our relationship with God takes place more by listening than by seeing; and the same contemplation comes about, so to speak, with closed eyes, thanks to the interior light that is kindled in us by the Word of God.

The Virgin Mary herself, among all human creatures the closest to God, still had to walk day after day in a pilgrimage of faith (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, n. 58), constantly guarding and meditating on in her heart the Word that God addressed to her through Holy Scripture and through the events of the life of her Son, in whom she recognized and welcomed the Lord's mysterious voice.

And so, this is the gift and duty for each one of us during the season of Lent: to listen to Christ, like Mary. To listen to him in his Word, contained in Sacred Scripture. To listen to him in the events of our lives, seeking to decipher in them the messages of Providence. Finally, to listen to him in our brothers and sisters, especially in the lowly and the poor, to whom Jesus himself demands our concrete love. To listen to Christ and obey his voice: this is the principle way, the only way, that leads to the fullness of joy and of love

Continued from front page...

On such a small income, Ronita and Lean, along with their two young children, are able to rent a room of about 10 square metres.

Thanks to your support of Project Compassion, Ronita's life can be transfigured. She has been able to continue her education through ALS run by Caritas Australia's partner the FCJ. The FCJ sisters provide a safe space for young people such as Ronita to finish school and find better jobs. Caritas Australia believes that the world can be transfigured to become more like the kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. We can encounter people whom others choose to ignore. When we do so, we discover that here, too, are children of God. We are asked to listen to them.

You can help people like Ronita to find work and create a better future for herself and her loved ones by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by phoning



caritas.org.au/project-compassion



1800 024 413



#projectcompassion