

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.

Sunday 16 Mar 2025
Second Sunday of Lent Year C

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 15:5-12. 17-18

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1.
7-9. 13-14. R. v.1
(R.) The Lord is my light and
my salvation.

Second Reading from the
letter to Philipians 3:17 –
4:1

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
Luke 9:28-36

Communion Antiphon

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

16th March 2025
Second Sunday of Lent
Year C

First: Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Resp Ps: Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11.
R. v.8

Second: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,
10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Second Sunday in Lent
In Year C

Listen to him by Mary Coloe PBVM

There may be several reasons why Moses and Elijah are present in this highly theological scene. Moses was the giver of Israel's Law, and Elijah was one of the earliest prophets in Israel and was also a miracle worker. These two figures may therefore represent the Scriptures of Israel – the Law and the Prophets.

More significant is that both Moses and Elijah were 'mountain' men, who had a personal encounter with God on Mount Sinai. Following the Exodus, when it is time for the people to leave Mount Sinai, Moses asks God, 'Show me your glory.' But, while Moses was considered a friend of God, God replied, 'You cannot see my face, for not one shall see me and live. But see, here is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and when my glory passes by, I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed, then I shall take away my hand, and you shall see my back.' (Exodus 33:17-23)

Similarly, Elijah, while fleeing from the anger of King Ahab arrives at Sinai, deeply afraid and discouraged. God tells Elijah, 'Go and stand on the mountain, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Elijah then hears a mighty wind, then an earthquake and then a fire – but God was not there. Finally there was 'the sound of sheer silence,' and Elijah went out to meet God. (1 Kings 19:11-13) At times of struggle and change in the lives of Moses and Elijah, they encountered God on Mount Sinai and were encouraged to resume their leadership task. Here there is a similarity with Jesus' ministry.

Today we are made conscious of the polarities within which all of us live, and which Jesus also experienced. There are moments of transcendence in our lives; moments when we are conscious of being drawn into God's mystery, even though these moments may be fleeting. In such moments, we can be taken out of ourselves and our senses can be finely tuned into the awesome silence and beauty of nature. Like the disciples, we want to hold on to these moments, to prolong the experience, to 'build tents' and stay. The reality of our humanity demands that we move from such moments of transcendence back into the dailiness of life. We cannot stay on the mountain of light forever.

Jesus too knew such moments of transcendence and moments when the starkness of his life was very present. On the mountain, like Moses and Elijah, he has an encounter with God, symbolised in the light, the cloud, and the voice from heaven. But the reality of his death in Jerusalem is present even in this moment of glory, for the great prophets of Israel speak to Jesus of his exodus, which he was to complete in Jerusalem. Jesus' passing over to the Father cannot happen on this mountain in Galilee but must happen on the hill of Golgotha. Living out the truth of his identity as Son demands that Jesus go down the mountain, leave behind the consoling presence of God, and take the road to Jerusalem.

May the journey of Lent lead us into a deeper knowing of the polarities in our lives and may we find the courage to live them in truth.

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: 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12



Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
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Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnappalam, Peter Presdee, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart, Allan Marquinez.

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

For our recently dearly departed: Christophur Pereira, Effin D’Cruz, Mabel Artuz.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Ivan Astolosh, Mrs. Rodriguez, Lio Feiloakitohi, Baldwin Lopez, Franciso Carmona.

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



Our Community: Rosters

23 March 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Suzanne B, Russell B & Berna P	Chris P, Margaret P & Irene R	Geoff A, Margaret A & Danni M
Altar Servers	Andrew F, Diane F, Sebastian F & Eliana D	Orly S	Stuart L & Nathan S
Readers	Bevina P & Amana P	Martin H & Tina S	Gloria D & Evangeline F
Refreshments			
Altar Linen	Berna P	CLOTW:	
Flowers		Church Vacuuming	Susan R
Counters	Vilma M, Jeanette B & Irene R	Foyer	

Meetings and Gatherings

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Children’s Mass is on the 5th Sunday of the month, 30 March at 9.30am

Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Wrap with Love Knitting group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

Children’s Choir will meet on 3rd Friday at 6pm.

Children’s Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Young Adults Group will meet at 6pm every Sunday after 5pm Mass

Parish & Community Notices

Restoration of Church Benches: We are looking for more volunteers to help with the restoration of the Benches in the Church. Steve Locke and his team are doing a great job but really need your help. If you have a couple hours after the Weekday Masses please come along.

Lenten Books: Lenten books are still available at \$5 each from the Church door or Parish Office.

Lenten Groups: Are you still interested in joining a Lenten Group this year. If you are please contact the Parish Office or Parish Mobile for further information.

OLMC Companions: Is the new name for the Called & Gifted Group and they are inviting everyone to meet in the Hall 22 Mar 25 between 10am to 1pm. We will start with morning tea, prayer and 2 reflection sessions. We hope we can help appreciate our own gifts and the gifts of those with whom we work. Over this year we will consider pastoral care and ways we can work together. Please indicate you will be able to attend be contacting the Parish Office.

Bingo Night: Everyone is invited to Bingo Night on 22 March 25 in the Church Hall. A Parish Fundraising Event. It all kicks off @ 7pm after 6pm Mass. Join us for an exciting night of Bingo with family and friends. Fantastic prizes, laughter and a whole lot of fun awaiting you. Grab your luck charms and reserve your spot now. Entry Fee \$20 per person (sausage sizzle, drink, cake and tea/coffee included) (game cards sold on the night)

Project Compassion: This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. **Please donate today.** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes at the Church door., **Or online at:** caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Carmelite Lent Offering: Do you like the sound of gathering with other people online during Lent to read together in sacred silence? You might be interested in the Carmelite Spirit Online Silent Lent Book Club. To find out more and to register, visit www.carmelite.com/retreats

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 23-25 May 2025 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment 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 nswbookings@wwme.org.au

The Journey, – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – Season 4 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.thechosen.tv to watch on your own, or better still with family and friends or as a parish!

Medjugorje Pilgrimage: commences Monday 1 September 2025—Accompanied by Fr Patrick Vaughan Queen of Peace – Medjugorje Pilgrimage A tiny Croatian village, six children and the faith of millions from all over the world have shed new light on what it means to be a true pilgrim on life's journey. In this hallowed place of Medjugorje, this valley of miracles, the Mother of God beckons us forward. For full details, itinerary and bookings, Visit: harvestjourneys.com/medjugorje

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weekly bulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 9: 28-36

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Commentary by Greg Sunter

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're half asleep and we're told Peter doesn't know what he's saying when he starts talking about building tents. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is. What a great reading for the season of Lent!

