

STS PETER & PAUL'S

CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE



Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

14th March 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Living in the Light

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai. In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; **Psalm 89:3**).

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see **Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4**).

God is rich in mercy, as today's Epistle teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations (see **2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9**). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see **Revelation 22:16**). Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see **Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9**). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see **John 12:32**).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves. But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth. Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see **John 19:37**) and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

Scott Hahn

ABOUT OUR PARISH

Parish Priest:

Fr John Spiteri OFM Cap

Parish secretary:

Mon, Tues and Thurs
9:30am–3pm

Emerald Hill Mission (EHM)

CONTACT US:

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MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am,

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Mon - Thu: 8am

Fri: 10am followed by
adoration

Saturday: 10am

Confession Times:

Sat 10:30am, 5:15pm

"¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."

Psalm 145: 18

Sts Peter and Pauls Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults



Lent Reflection Program 2021

Date commence: 23rd February 2021 (every Tuesday)

Time: 8.30 (after morning mass)

Location: Hall

All are Welcome

PROJECT COMPASSION



**PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE**



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Uphold dignity

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0437 118 637

Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet, so he and his family always had to walk into the forest to an open defecation area.

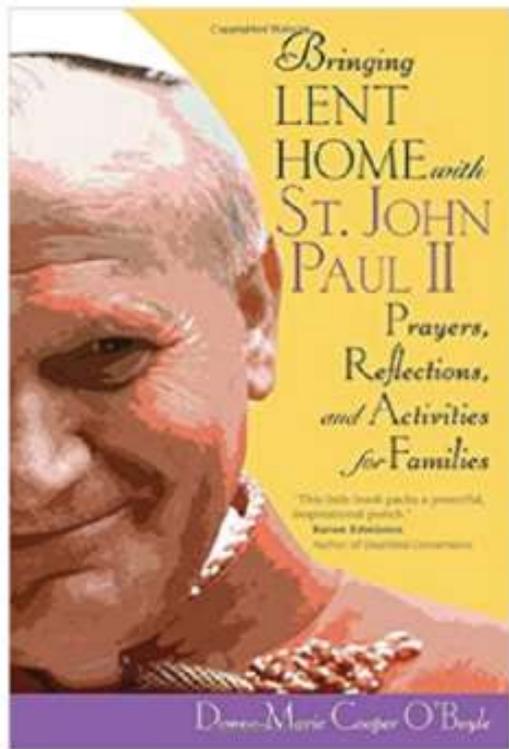
His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save for toilets.

Now Arsad's family is healthier. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.'

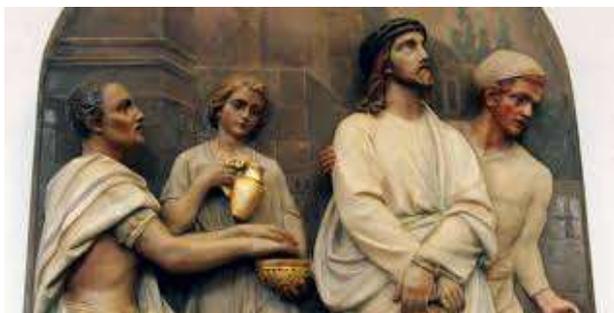
Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



TEN GREAT BOOKS FOR LENT

1. [Lenten Journey with Mother Mary](#) by Edward Looney
2. [Praying with Jesus and Faustina During Lent](#) by Susan Tassone
3. [The Cries of Jesus From the Cross](#) by Fulton Sheen
4. [Making a Holy Lent](#) by Fr William Casey
5. [A Time of Renewal](#) by Mother Mary Francis
6. [Bringing Lent Home With St. John Paul II: Prayers, Reflections, and Activities for Families](#) by Donna Cooper
7. [The Little Way of Lent: Meditations of St. Thérèse of Lisieux](#) by Fr Gary Caster
8. [Lent with Mother Teresa Calcutta](#) by Heidi Hess Saxton
9. [Lent with the Saints](#) by Fr Greg Friedman
10. [Sermons for Lent](#) by St Francis de Sales



Station Of The Cross

Date: Every Friday

Time: 7pm

Location: Sts Peter and Pauls Church

All are Welcome

FEAST OF THE WEEK

Saint Joseph, Husband of Mary 19th March



The Bible pays Joseph the highest compliment: he was a “just” man. The quality meant a lot more than faithfulness in paying debts.

When the Bible speaks of God “justifying” someone, it means that God, the all-holy or “righteous” one, so transforms a person that the individual shares somehow in God’s own holiness, and hence it is really “right” for God to love him or her. In other words, God is not playing games, acting as if we were lovable when we are not.

By saying Joseph was “just,” the Bible means that he was one who was completely open to all that God wanted to do for him. He became holy by opening himself totally to God.

The rest we can easily surmise. Think of the kind of love with which he wooed and won Mary, and the depth of the love they shared during their marriage.

It is no contradiction of Joseph’s manly holiness that he decided to divorce Mary when she was found to be with child. The important words of the Bible are that he planned to do this “quietly” because he was “a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame” (Matthew 1:19).

The just man was simply, joyfully, wholeheartedly obedient to God—in marrying Mary, in naming Jesus, in shepherding the precious pair to Egypt, in bringing them to Nazareth, in the undetermined number of years of quiet faith and courage.

Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:
 Sr Annunciata, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr Joyce Stewart, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxa, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Giovanna Santarossa, James Burnes, James Atkins, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Miles Buntleski, Maria Cimino, Teresa Sheehan, Bob White, Joseph Barbara.



4th Sunday in Lent

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

1st Reading – 2 Chronicles 36, 14-16, 19-23

We hear a rare reading from the book of Chronicles. In a time when the people of Israel had lost sight of the covenant, their kingdom was overrun and the temple was demolished. In a surprising turnaround, the King of Persia promises that he will rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. God's plan can come through secular rulers

Responsorial Psalm

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you.

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'sing to us' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?
 If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither!

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not,
 if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you.

2nd Reading – Ephesians 2:4-10

We hear the powerful words of St. Paul that God loves us with so much love that He saves us, not for something we do, but in the grace given to us by God.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

God so loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son, that all who believe in Him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel – John 3:14-21

Once again we move from Mark to John' Gospel. We hear the dialogue of Jesus and Nicodemus with its promise that God loved the world so much, He gave us His only Son that we may have eternal life.

Next week's readings:	1 st	Jeremiah 31: 31-34
	2 nd	Hebrews 5:7-9
	Gospel	John 12:20-33

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

We pray for the church. May it be a joyful community of light, grace and truth for all to see.

We pray for all those baptised into Christ's Body the Church. May we, who are saved by faith, live as children of light, rich in good works as our way of life in Christ Jesus.

We pray for people who have fled their homelands to escape war and conflict. May they find safety and hope in their new communities.

We pray for all in aged care. May the recommendations of the royal commission ensure they are cared for with dignity and compassion.

We pray for rural communities in Indonesia. May our support for Project Compassion help provide them with sanitation and improved hygiene.

We remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently Joe Pontelandolfo, Gorden Selleck, Budiman Lesmana and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Ann Rzesinieowiecki, Lucy Dow, Elizabeth Heverin, Kath O'Brien, Robert Devlin, Anne Sudan.

Collections : March 6/7, 2021

1st Collection: \$900

2nd Collection: \$485

Online per week (Jan): \$865

1st Collection goes to the Friars, and the 2nd collection for the running costs of the Parish.

EFT Donations:

Account Name: Parish SS Peter & Paul
 BSB: 083 155

	Readers	E.M.E	Hospitality	Floral Arrangement
Sat 13	Michelle H	Doris		Geraldine F & Sue
Sun 14	Mario & Gerry		-	
Sat 20	Geraldine C	Aline		Doris & Hai
Sun 21	Ann T & Gerry			