

STS PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC PARISH SOUTH MELBOURNE

Under the Pastoral care of the Capuchin Friars

24 March, 2019



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C

Each Lent and Advent, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa gives a series of homilies before the Pope and the Pontifical Household. This is an extract from the first Lenten homily given on the 15th March this year by the preacher of the:

Jesus persistently recommends this practice: "Pray in secret, fast in secret, give alms in secret, and your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you" (see Mt 6:4-18). These are subtle acts before God that invigorate the soul. However, it is not a question of making this a rigid rule because Jesus also says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Mt 5:16). The issue is discerning when it is good for others to see and when it is better that they do not.

The worst thing one can do after hearing or reading a description of hypocrisy is to use it to judge others and to denounce the hypocrisy around us. It is precisely these people to whom Jesus applies the name of hypocrites: "You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye" (Mt 7:5). This is truly a case for saying, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone" (Jn 8:7). Who can say that they are completely immune from this form of hypocrisy? Of being not a bit like a whitewashed tomb, different on the inside from what appears on the outside? Possibly only Jesus and our Blessed Mother are exempt, in a permanent and absolute way, from every form of hypocrisy. The comforting fact is that as soon as one says, "I have been a hypocrite," one's hypocrisy is overcome.

The word of God does not limit itself to condemning the vice of hypocrisy: it also urges people to cultivate the opposite virtue, which is simplicity. "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light" (see Mt 6:22). The word "simplicity" can have—and still has today—a negative meaning of gullibility, naiveté, superficiality, and foolishness. Jesus was careful to exclude this meaning: when he recommends that his disciples be "simple or innocent as doves," he also adds the call to be "wise as serpents" (see Mt 10:16).

WHAT'S ON

Holy Hour
Every Wednesday
6:30pm

Stations of the Cross
(plus Fish & Chips)
Every Friday in Lent
7pm

Lenten Reflections
Every Friday in Lent
9:15am

Craft Group
Mon 27th & Wed
29th March
12pm

Palm Sunday Concert
Sun 14th April
5pm

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10am, Saturday 6pm (Vigil)
Mon - Fri: 8am . Saturday: 10am
Confession Times: Sat 10:30am, 5:30pm

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Dean Mathieson OFM Cap

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Secretary Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9:30am - 3pm



GOSPEL REFLECTION

Fruits of the Fig

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54–55, 72–73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today's Epistle that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning"—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish—not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners"—but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to "repentance"—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm—blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

Scott Hahn

CATECHISM CORNER

THE HEART OF THE INCARNATE WORD

Jesus knew and loved us each and all during his life, his agony and his Passion, and gave himself up for each one of us: "The Son of God. . . loved me and gave himself for me." He has loved us all with a human heart. For this reason, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced by our sins and for our salvation, "is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that. . . love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings" without exception (n. 478).

PALM SUNDAY CONCERT

The Astra Choir and soloists, conducted by John McCaughey, will be performing 'Polyphony from the USA, Spain and Brazil'

**Sts Peter and Paul's
Sunday 14th of April, 5pm.**

Entry: Full \$35,
Concession \$20.

SUNDAY EVENING MASS

As part of the preparation for the Sacrament of First Reconciliation, there will be a

6pm Sunday Mass

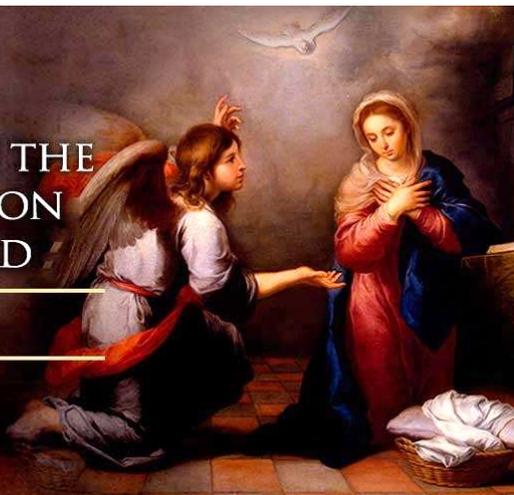
on (17th) 24th, 31st March

for the class and their families.

But all parishioners are welcome to attend.

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

March 25th



This Monday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son. The feast of the Annunciation began to be celebrated on this day during the fourth and fifth centuries, soon after the date for celebrating Christmas was universalised throughout the Church. This feast celebrates the Incarnation of the Second Person of the Trinity and the salvation of all mankind.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

PLUS FISH & CHIP FRIDAYS

FRIDAYS IN LENT, 7PM

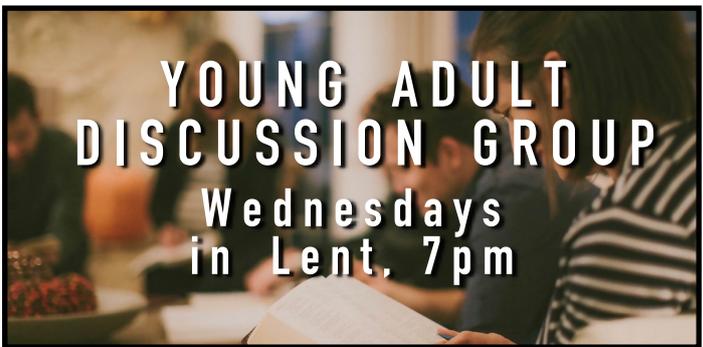
STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CHURCH FOLLOWED BY FISH AND CHIPS AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE

LENTEN MORNING TEAS
 Every Friday in Lent, 9:15am in the hall

The morning will include a Lenten Scripture reading and reflection



YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP
 Wednesdays in Lent, 7pm



PARISH HOLY HOUR
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday 6:30 - 7:30pm



DAILY MASS
 8am Mon - Fri



PROJECT COMPASSION

Please remember to collect a donation box from the back of the church and return at the end of Lent



PARISHIONER PROFILE
Peter and Fay Greenacre

We have been a part of the parish for about 18 months. Before moving to Melbourne we lived in the Blue Mountains for 15 years. We moved here to be closer to our children and grandchildren who had moved to Victoria. When we came to the parish we found it very welcoming and friendly. In the last year we have become involved in various ministries around the parish, especially helping with the Open House dinners.

Fay enjoys sewing, and is part of the parish craft group. She also has participated in making charity quilts. Peter is involved at the local Men's Shed (and has helped make a few things that have been very useful for the parish). After retiring from a lifetime in I.T., Peter is currently studying a degree in theology.



Please remember in your prayers and Masses the following people who are ill:
 Sr. Annunciata Fcj, Valda Hogan, Flo O'Hara, Sr. Joyce Stewart, Celestine Ressia, Peter Wood, Vandersman Family, Joanne Kilmer, Liliana Bobadilla, Ruby Roxas, Eunice Costa, Richard Fennessy, Eunice Costa, Giovanna Santarossa, James, Burnes, James Watkins, Bonnie Breen, Jeff Martin, Naomi McSweeney, Mary Quirke, Ilse Miranda, Neil Baker, Helen Keighery, Alison Fraser, Tony Bailey, Steven Wallace., Elaine Wallace.

3rd Sunday of Lent

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.

1st. Reading – Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Once again the Hebrew Scriptures emphasise how God's promise of His covenant with the chosen people is affirmed through the medium of the leaders of the people and, particularly, Moses.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My Soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless His holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all His blessings.

It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses and His deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is His love for those who fear Him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

2nd Reading – I Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

St. Paul draws attention to the way Moses became the medium of God's revelations, as strong now as God's presence with us in the Eucharist.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel - Luke 13:1-9

Our passage from Luke raises the perennial question of how evil can exist in the world created by God. The response of Jesus is still a challenge for us now to produce the fruits that He asks, as part of our Lenten journey.

Next week's reading: 1 Joshua 5:9-12
 2 I Corinthians 5:17-21
 Gospel Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray together:

Lord, we pray for Pope, his bishops, clergy and religious that as Moses led the people from the land of slavery to a land flowing with milk and honey, they too may lead the people to the celebration of the Pascal events.

Lord, we pray for Christians that the season of Lent may be a time to recommit themselves to the faith that they have received at baptism and live it more earnestly.

Lord, we pray for friendship, trust and peace among the people and nations of the world.

Lord, we pray in this Lenten season for a deep sense of repentance and reconciliation. May our sacrifices for Project Compassion be an outreach for the good of others.

Lord, we remember with compassion our family and friends who have gone before us. Hold them in your keeping, especially those who have died recently **Maurita Carlisle** and those whose anniversaries occur about this time **Len Decker, Wade Solomons, Sr Presentation Marnell, Helen Vaughan, Jim Stynes.**

Collections: March 16/17, 2019

1st Collection: \$1453

2nd Collection: \$1087

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

	READERS	E.M.E	HOSPITALITY	FLOWERS
Sat 23	Geraldine C			Hanh & Vinolia
Sun 24	Megan/Osborne	Rick & Geraldine F	Denis & Olwen	
Sat 30	Ashley D'Monte			Geraldine F & Sue
Sun 31	Michele & Mario	Rick & Doris	Frank & Mavis	