

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

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!

GOSPEL

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Mark.

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 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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

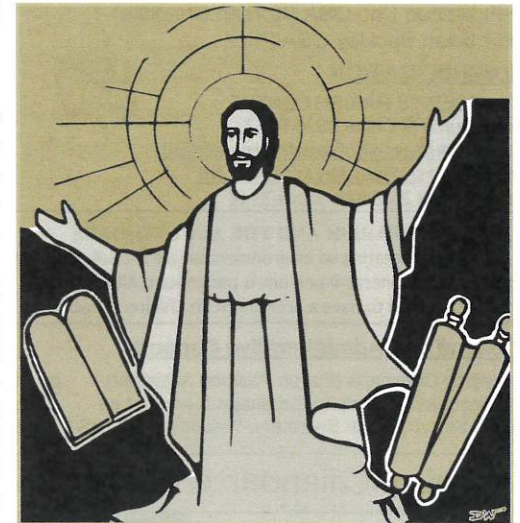
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

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

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

1. I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely
afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord /
is the death of his faithful. **R.**



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; /
you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving
sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's
name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all
his people, / in the courts of the house of the
Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us?
Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave
him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after
such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he
can give. Could anyone accuse those that God
has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone
condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only
died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at
God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

■ The word of the Lord.



Est. 1887

2nd Sunday in Lent (25th Feb 2024)
St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street
St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street

In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Marydas Arackal OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

ADMINISTRATION

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677
secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au
www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
 Postal: Box 21 South Yarra 3141



OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

Pastoral and Administrative Support

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa & I-Lynn Lee
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)
- ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Tues - Fri)
- ▶ Bernadette Dennis (St Joseph's Outreach Services)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

St. Joseph's • 10.30am Mass
 Fourth Sunday of the month
 (except school holidays and long weekends)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's • Sat: 5.15pm – 5.45pm, by appointment or before/after Weekday Mass

ANOINTING / HEALING MASS

(Sacrament of the Sick) First Tuesday of the month 10am at St Joseph's Church

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

Anyone ill or housebound may contact us to request a visit for communion at home.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS

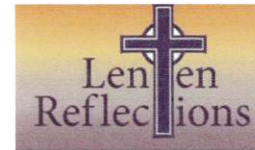
- ▶ Stations of the Cross: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ RCIA Meeting Thursday 29th February 7pm.
- ▶ Lenten Reflections – Tues 27th Feb 7pm
- ▶ Parish AGM – Sunday March 24th (Palm Sunday)

AUGUSTINE 'COME DOWN, PETER'



"You were eager to go on resting on the mountain; come down, preach the word, press on in season, out of season. Peter was eager to live with Christ on the mountain. But Jesus says, "Go down to labour on earth, to serve on earth, to be despised, crucified on earth." Life came down, to be killed; bread came down, to go hungry; the way came down, to grow weary on a journey; the fountain came down, to experience thirst; and are you refusing to endure toil? Don't seek your own profit. Have charity and love, preach the truth; then you will arrive at eternity, where you will find security." (Sermon 79)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS in St Joseph's church 10.30am on Fridays during Lent.



This Tuesday 27th February and each Tuesday during Lent 7pm in the Parish Centre. The reflections will focus

on the Lenten Sunday Gospel readings. All welcome.

PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The Parish AGM is to be held Sunday 24th March at 11.45am at St Joseph's. All parishioners are invited.

The Annual Report will be presented and nominations for council membership presented.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Nomination forms for new Council members are available at the church doors and must be received at the parish office by Friday 15th March.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased

✦ Edibia Elena Ruiz Caballero



Anniversaries

- ✦ Eileen Powell
- ✦ Doreen Brady
- ✦ Consolacion Garcia
- ✦ Betty McKenzie
- ✦ Margaret McManus
- ✦ Ellen Beams
- ✦ Edward Lavery-Bellman
- ✦ Joseph Marciniak



LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT:

RISEN (Joseph Fiennes)

This Sat 24 Feb 7pm (After Mass) in The Gables, upstairs in St Joseph's Parish Centre. Dinner provided.

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Parents who would like to enrol their children to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) please contact the parish office. 9826 9677.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE is available in churches this weekend.

MASS COLLECTIONS 18/02/2024

Clergy (Augustinian Community)	
1 st Collection, CDF & bank deposits.	\$ 876.80
Church (Parish Ministries)	
2 nd Collection	\$ 481.75
Envelopes.....	\$ 180.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards	\$ 60.00
Tap Point Terminals.....	\$ 653.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Brian Young, Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Margaret Lochtenberg, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gloudemans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Inge Halim, Paul Chong, Larissa Popowski, Mary Ireland, Caroline O'Neil, Isabella Chong, Tony Duarte, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Judith Duncan, Stephen Soh, Margaret Quealy.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 25th February 2024

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 24th February 2024	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday in Lent	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 26th February 2nd Week in Lent		
Tuesday 27th February 2nd Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Wednesday 28th February 2nd Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Thursday 29th February 2nd Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Friday 1st March Autumn Ember Day	10.00am Mass Stations of the Cross	12.45am Mass
Saturday 2nd March 2nd Week in Lent	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	



You can help better the lives of people in some of the most vulnerable communities on earth by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes available at the church doors, visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by phoning 1800 024 413