

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God 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

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD’S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Laetare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is “rejoice”) we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times “grace” is repeated: “by grace you have been saved,” “the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” and “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that “we are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

John’s Gospel reminds us “God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that “those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

How will we respond to God’s love, gift and grace?

FIRST READING

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 136. R. v. 6

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

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**



2. 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.’ **R.**

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

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

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

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

■ The word of the Lord.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



4th Sunday in Lent (10th March 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
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www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au
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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)
- ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Tues - Fri)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa & I-Lynn Lee
- ▶ Bernadette Dennis (St Joseph's Outreach Services)
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)

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.

Liturgical Calendar for the week commencing 10th March 2024

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 9th March 2024	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 10th March 4 th unday in Lent	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 11th March 4 th Week in Lent		
Tuesday 12th March 4 th Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Wednesday 13th March 4 th Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Thursday 14th March 4 th Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Friday 15th March 4 th Week in Lent	10.00am Mass Stations of the Cross	12.45am Mass
Saturday 16th March 4 th Week in Lent	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	

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.



EVENTS AND MEETINGS

- ▶ Stations of the Cross: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ Parish Council: Wed 13th March 7pm
- ▶ RCIA Meeting Thursday 14th March 7pm.
- ▶ Lenten Reflections – Tues 12th March 7pm
- ▶ Parish AGM – Sunday March 24th (Palm Sunday)

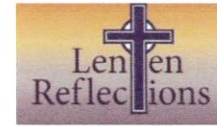
AUGUSTINE 'GOD IS YOUR LIFE'



“God has willed to be the Son of man; and willed men to be children of God. He came down for our sakes; let us ascend for His sake. For He alone descended

and ascended, For He came down and died, and by that death delivered us from death: being slain by death, He slew death. He endured death, then; but death He hanged on the cross, and mortal men are delivered from death.” (*Tractate oh John 12*)

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



Sunday Gospel readings. All welcome.

This Tuesday 12th March and each Tuesday during Lent 7pm in the Parish Centre. The reflections will focus on the Lenten



Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available at the church doors, or donate by visiting Caritas Project Compassion or phone 1800 024 413

SAVE WITH CDF COMMUNITY FUND

CDF offer competitive financial returns and your savings will help build community and social service facilities. It's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, scan the QR code or google Catholic Development Fund



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gludemans, 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, Stephen Soh, Anne Morton.



IN LOVING MEMORY

Recently Deceased

- ✦ Margaret Lochtenberg
- ✦ Margaret Quealy



Anniversaries

- ✦ Robert Chong
- ✦ Diana Goller
- ✦ Marie Connell
- ✦ Cecilia Wong
- ✦ Sr Kathleen Eveston sgs
- ✦ Geraldine Augustus
- ✦ Br Vin Monagle
- ✦ Plasio Raytomas
- ✦ Gerald Lewin

FRIENDS OF ST AUGUSTINE.

Friends of St. Augustine begin their 2024 Program on Thursday, March 14, at 7.00pm in the Archive Room. All welcome, please Please contact Judith on 0417 309 747 or Mary on 0419 134 075



COFFEE AFTER ST THOMAS' 9.00AM MASS

Our next coffee morning will be held from 10.15am on 17th March at Jardin Tan in the Botanical Gardens

Visitor Centre Café, opposite the Shrine of Remembrance.

CHILDREN'S FIRST RECONCILIATION

Preparation classes for children making their First Reconciliation will begin in May. If you wish to enrol your child or know someone who might be interested, please contact Stephy at the parish office for more information.



MARGARET LOCHTENBERG & MARGARET QUEALY – REST IN PEACE

The funeral arrangements are as follow: Margaret Quealy Tuesday 12th March 10.30am and Margaret Lochtenberg's funeral is Wednesday 13th March 11am, both at St Thomas Aquinas Church.

MASS COLLECTIONS 3/03/2024

Clergy (Augustinian Community)	
1 st Collection, CDF & bank deposits.	\$ 812.20
Church (Parish Ministries)	
2 nd Collection	\$ 449.55
Envelopes.....	\$ 150.00
Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards	\$ 800.00
Tap Point Terminals.....	\$ 463.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	