



SUNDAY 23RD MARCH, 2025. 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT. YEAR C

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL (LUKE (13:1-9))

Today's Gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about a non-productive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God".

The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point.

With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people.

Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong. So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "as they did"?

The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. In other words, Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the Gospel while you are alive and well".

The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. It can have the sense of expanding one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own little world. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community.

The parable of the non-productive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years.

From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree?

The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is like the womb-compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent.

At this mid-point in our Lenten journey in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of the planet.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Doris Carrabott** who died recently; and for **Mafalda Starc, Marija Jelincic and Carmelina Acquaro** whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

BAPTISMS

We pray for **Arthur Matthews, Charles Banschikov, Theodor and Katarina Taylor and Gus Crabtree** who we welcome this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism. May their parents and Godparents be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 24:15-16

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.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v. 8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. 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. **(R.)**
2. 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. **(R.)**
3. 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. **(R.)**
4. 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. **(R.)**

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

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord.

(R.) Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:17

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(R.) Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

SEASON OF LENT

LIGHT IN THE DESERT: Lenten program

We encourage you to be part of a weekly group
**reflection this Thursday 27th March at 7pm in the
Presbytery at St. Augustine's.**

Each week includes –

- an excerpt from the next Sunday's Gospel,
 - a short reflection
 - questions to prompt deeper thought.
- The program is designed to bring people together in
prayer and conversation.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross

- at **St. Augustine's** on Tuesday evenings
after the 6pm Mass.
- at **Corpus Christi** on Friday evenings at 6pm
in Vietnamese.

JOSEPH'S CORNER

Next weekend, **29th and 30th March**, Joseph's Corner will
have a stall, **after the 5pm and 9.30 am Masses at St.
Augustine's.** There will be a collection of hand-made
knitwear, quilts, throws and soft toys crafted by
volunteers, on display for sale. All proceeds support free
counselling sessions for those in need.

STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your support to the church and the clergy.

In line with recommendations of the Priests Retirement
Foundation and Guidelines of the Archdiocese of
Melbourne, the Parish Finance Committee has decided
to revert to 2 distinct collections during Sunday Masses.

FIRST COLLECTION - PRESBYTERY

- goes to the support of the priest
- support for sick and retired priests
- support for priests on special duty
- support for the Archbishop

SECOND COLLECTION – ENVELOPES

Support of local Parish, Administration,

Daily running of the Parish and Pastoral outreach.

Our new envelopes will be starting on 5th May 2025.
This is an opportunity for people to register as
parishioners and sign up to commit to regular giving.

They are single envelopes. The contents are for the
support of the Parish.

With the cost of printing, we are encouraging people to
set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE PARISH

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083 347 Account No. 638052213

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery Account:

BSB 083 347 Account No. 638051413

CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE & ANNUNCIATION PARISH

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account

BSB 083 347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account: BSB 083 347 Account No. 638051413

We suggest **monthly** to be the most efficient way to
contribute. This can be done separately for Church and
Presbytery accounts.

Below are **QR Codes** for one off donations.



This QR code is unique to the **Parish
of St. Augustine's** and gives you access
to giving a donation via **Credit card** to
us. Scan this QR code and follow the
prompts. You can request a receipt if
required.



This QR code is unique to the **Parish of
Corpus Christi Kingsville** and gives you
access to giving a donation via **Credit
card** to us. Scan this QR code and
follow the prompts. You can request a
receipt if required.

Tap and Go technology will be
available in the near future.

Thank you for your support to our Parish.

It is appreciated. Fr. Werner

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Werner Utri

Mobile No. 0401 158 113

Parish Website:

www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Pat Mc Laughlin

patmac766@gmail.com

PARISH CHURCHES

ST AUGUSTINE'S

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

(03) 9314 7710

yarraville@cam.org.au

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

(03) 9314 5613

kingsville@cam.org.au

LITURGY TIMES

TUESDAY MASS

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation....8.00 am

St Augustine's...9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:

SATURDAYS after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

Thursday April 3rd at

11am at St. Augustine's

PARISH NEWSLETTER

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code below and fill in your details.



PROJECT COMPASSION

You can support Project Compassion through the **boxes or envelopes** or **by calling: 1800 024 413 or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion** or by scanning the QR code on the envelope.

CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL –

JOHANN VEXO

Friday 4 April 2025 from 6pm- 7.15pm at **St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Cathedral Place East Melbourne.** Johann Vexo (former organist at Notre-Dame Cathedral, Paris) is joined by accomplished musician, Damien Rivière.

JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

Monday 21 July 2025 – Tuesday 5 August 2025. This pilgrimage is open to Catholics aged between 18 and 30 years. The journey will take in the towns and cities of Italy, culminating in Rome to participate in the Jubilee celebrations. Registrations will close on Friday 11 April 2025.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL

VULNERABLE PEOPLE

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office. www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTERS FOR THIS WEEK

(22nd & 23rd March)

3rd Sunday of Lent Time C

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Agnes Hopmans

Anna Messina

Counting..... Krystina Biront

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Joe Fusca

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Maree Ryan

9.30am..... Anthony Vassallo

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Val Taylor

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK

(29th & 30th March)

4th Sunday of Lent C

READERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm Nic Fusca

9.30am Andrea Wilberger

Sam Polzella

Counting..... Les Vella

READERS: Corpus Christi

11.00am Imelda Gibson

Natasha Fernandes

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm..... Frank Galea

9.30am..... Pat McLaughlin

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am..... Hong Nguyen

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Baskets are left in the churches for regular donations of non-perishable food for St. Vincent de Paul throughout the year.

Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta sauce, washing powder/liquid, baked beans, spaghetti, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and tooth brushes are always needed.

Many thanks for your generous support.