



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

6 APRIL 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 43: 16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

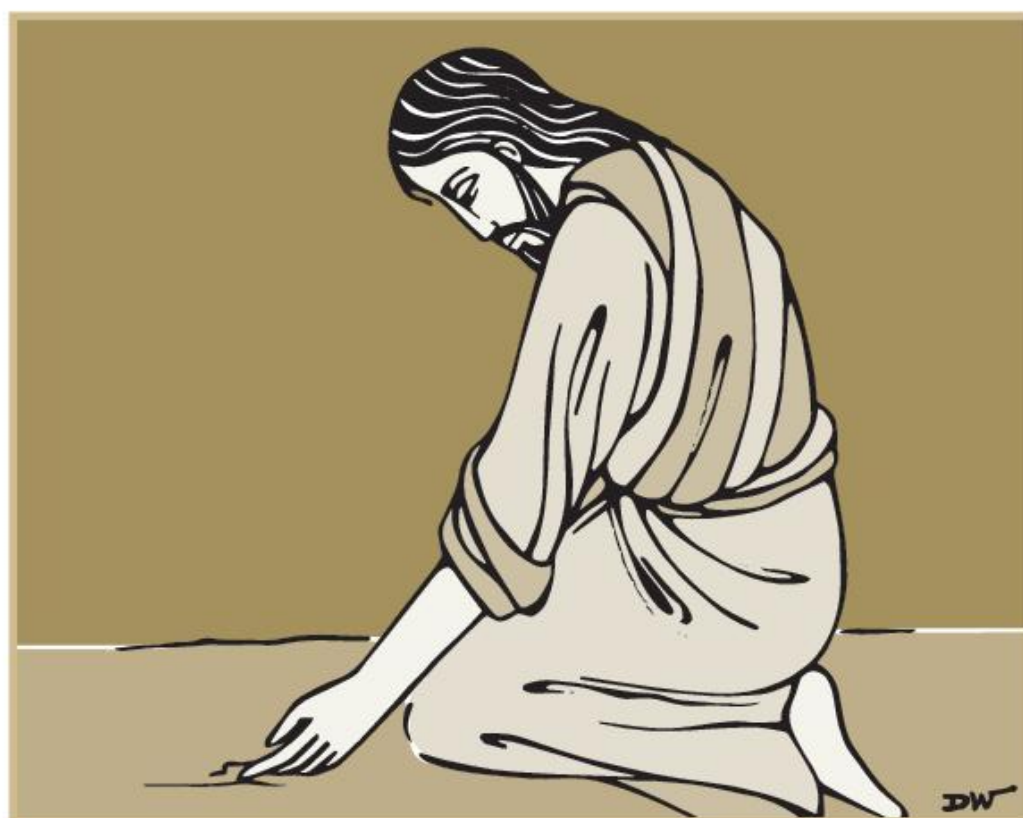
R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 3: 8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

Permanent Deacon: Rev John Lam

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Facebook



Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$698.50 Presbytery: \$708.50

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: La Bonne family

Counters: B Leong & E Ambrose

Thanksgiving



HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections

Church: \$346.00 Presbytery: \$361.00

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: S McMillan

Thanksgiving



ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 13 Apr: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Weekday Masses at Holy Cross

The church repairs at St Anthony's are nearing completion. As such, the daily morning Masses will resume as normal back at St Anthony's Church from Monday, 7th April. Thanks to Holy Cross Parish for hosting the daily Masses for the last six weeks.

Please note, weekday Mass at Holy Cross Church will revert to the original schedule of 10:00am every Thursday.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 42:1-2)

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Jn 8:10-11)

Has no one condemned you, woman? No one Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina**

** Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.*

Recently Deceased: **Matilda Bongiorno, Richard Grant**

Death Anniversary: **Pauline Morrissey**

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Holy Cross: Thursdays after 10:00am Mass

St Joseph's: Fridays after 10:00am Mass

St Anthony's: Fridays after 7:00pm Mass

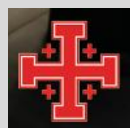
Lenten Scripture Reflection - 5 Faces of Mercy

Starting on Monday 3rd March and every Monday thereafter during Lent from 7pm - 8pm at The Crying Room in St Anthony's. All welcome!

Washing of the Feet

We are looking for 12 volunteers, men and women (18 years and over) for 'Washing of the Feet' on Holy Thursday 17th April at 7:00pm Mass.

Please call/email the Parish Office or leave your name with Fr Leenus or Fr Pat.



Good Friday Collection for Holy Land

Envelopes available in the church.

Thank you!

Give for the Kids @ St Anthony's Church

Participate in the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal on Sunday 6th April. There will be cake stalls, trash & treasure and nice coffee available after both morning Masses.

Good Friday, April 18th, will include a collection at the intersection outside St Anthony's Church and door knocking in the local area. Pick up your tin from the front of the church.

Use the link below or the tin situated at the stall to donate:
<https://fundraise.goodfridayappeal.com.au/fundraisers/StAnthonysYouthGroup>

Anyone can help. Give that they may grow.

Easter Raffle Tickets on Sale

Tickets are \$5 each or \$10 for three tickets. There will be a total of 4 prizes. Proceeds go to St Anthony's Church. Please email glenhuntly@cam.org.au to organise tickets.

Project Compassion Boxes

Please return your Project Compassion Boxes by Sunday, 20th April 2025. You may do so during the thanksgiving collection at weekend Masses.

Parish Amalgamation Update

We have received the Decree for the Amalgamation of the Parishes of Elsternwick and Caulfield South from Archbishop Comensoli. The Decree is posted on all notice boards and will be read out at all Masses on the weekend of April 26-27.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

Our RCIA candidates, Taylor Mackenzie and Lizeth Alvarado will be received into the Catholic Church this Sunday, 6th April at the 11am Mass at St Anthony's Church.

At the Easter Vigil Mass, they will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

Please keep them in your prayers.

2025 Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY 12-13 April

St Joseph's - Sat 6:30pm & Sun 10:30am
(Reconciliation Sat 5:30pm)

Holy Cross - Sun 9:00am

(Reconciliation Sun 6:30pm)

HOLY THURSDAY 17 April

Holy Cross - 7:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY 18 April

St Joseph's - Stations of the Cross - 10:00am

St Joseph's - The Passion of Our Lord - 3:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY 19 April

Holy Cross - Easter Vigil Mass - 7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY 20 April

Holy Cross - 9:00am & 7:00pm (Divine Mercy)

St Joseph's - 10:30am



5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Saved by the Grace of God.

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,

The Gospel of today reminds me of Fr Molloy, one of my Seminary professors. He was a saintly priest whose favourite quote was "Where sin abounds, there Grace super-abounds." It's a mind-blowing verse from Romans 5:20. Probably neither Fr. Molloy nor anyone else could understand the full meaning of those words. Yet it's very true in every one of our lives. That's why we love to sing "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me."

Was it not also true for the woman caught in adultery? It was nothing short of God's Grace that saved her from being stoned to death that day. What about those Pharisees?



Even though their reason to go to Jesus was to trap him, yet the Grace of God super-abounded in them too. Or else, that day they would have become murderers. Jesus had challenged them to look into themselves before they dared to throw a stone at her.

Jesus was not taking a risk when he said that any sinless person could throw the first stone at her. Jesus had already put into the hearts of the Pharisees the true sorrow for their sins. His grace of repentance was already at work in them all. That day even the Pharisees took the words of Jesus seriously. They did not pretend to be sinless.

The Pharisees had planned much harm to Jesus and to the woman, but Jesus turned the occasion into one of great blessing for them all. Was that not too good of Jesus? "Even on crooked paths God can make us walk straight."

That day the amazing grace of God changed their lives for good. Let us also come to the presence of Jesus and know how his Grace super-abounds in our lives too.

In Jn. 1:16 we read, "From his fullness we have all received, Grace upon Grace."

Fr Leenus.

Interviewer: How do you explain this 4 year gap on your resume?

Me: That was when I went to "Yale"

Interviewer: That's impressive, you are hired.

Me: Thank you, I really needed this job.



Divine Mercy Novena & Feast



NOVENA

Nine Nights: Good Friday, 18th April to Saturday 26th April at 7:00pm

FEAST OF MERCY

Sunday, 27th April

1.00pm Confessions

1.30pm Adoration, Prayers, Hour of Mercy, Holy Mass.

Venue: Holy Cross Church, Caulfield South



The Combined Societies of Mary.
www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com
Enquiries: Joy Hunt 9509 2207

Permanent Diaconate Information Session

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service.

The information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. Wives most welcome.

Details of the session below:

Date: Saturday 3 May 2025 (10am–11.30am)

Venue: Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne

Register: Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2: 12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 8: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

JESUS' LIBERATING GAZE

Today's Gospel from John might seem out of place in a year where the liturgical focus is on Luke. However, some scholars suggest that the story of a woman caught in an adulterous act belongs more in Luke's Gospel and became misplaced in time. Whatever of the story's history, it is the teaching that unfolds that is so important as we come to our final week in our Lenten journey.

In the story, the woman becomes a pawn in a dispute over Torah teaching and as an object to trap Jesus in his apparent moral liberality and rejection of Mosaic teaching. Never addressed is the way the knowledge of the woman's adulterous act is derived. How would her accusers know of her conduct if they had not set themselves in a position to spy upon her? They, too, are incriminated by their very witness. Jesus does not buy into their legal dispute nor their accusation of the woman.

As her accusers depart from the scene without condemning the woman, Jesus gazes upon her without judgement. His gaze frees her. The story leaves contemporary listeners with at least two insights. It affirms Jesus' forgiveness and his desire for our spiritual release. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the way women are treated today in many contexts as objects of sexual desire, domestic violence, male abuse and pornographic depiction.

Fr Michael Trainor