



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Yr C

6th April, 2025

Parish Priest Fr Vincent Nguyen
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Ph: 5428 2591

Parish Secretary Tammie Dalglish
P O Box 467, Gisborne Vic 3437
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CHILD PROTECTION - is everyone's responsibility

Check the Parish Website for:

Child Safety & Code of Conduct Policy
Parish Privacy Act / Professional Standards

A parent must accompany any child leaving the church during Mass.

Parish Email gisborne@cam.org.au

Parish Website melbcatholic.org/s/gisborne

Secretary Hours Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

CONTINUING PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for those who are in ill health:

**Eileen S, Corine V, Anthony S,
Fran S, Helen K, Shane R, George T,
Jacqueline D, Sebastian M,
Diane M, Eddie G, Marg P, Zoe F,
Ellen K & Pat P.**

We pray for the recently deceased and for those who have
an anniversary at this time, especially **Brendan Spanton,
Brian Dullard & Betty Doolan.**

May they rest in peace

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

05/04/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
06/04/25 Normal Sunday Masses
08/04/25 **NO Weekday Mass**
08/04/25 The Oaks Mass
09/04/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
10/04/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
11/04/25 **NO 9:15 Mass today**
11/04/25 10am – Healing Mass – Gisborne
12/04/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
13/04/25 Normal Sunday Masses
15/04/25 5pm – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
15/04/25 6pm – Finance Committee Meeting

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

*Congratulations and special blessings to all those
celebrating birthdays and anniversaries during the month
of April. May your journey through life be filled with daily
treasures, and may you always be open, willing and ready
to share your blessings with others.*

**REFLECTION by Fr. Michael Tate**

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in full view of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of eyes filled with blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour. Up till now, no-one has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future.

We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'lock eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences? 'The eyes have it.'

mtate@bigpond.com**Holy Week Mass Times 2025***All services at St. Brigid's Gisborne unless specified*

Fri 11 April 10am – Healing Mass
Wed 16 April 6:15pm – Tenebrae
Wed 16 April 7pm – Communal Service of Forgiveness
Thur 17 April 7pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri 18 April 10am – Stations of the Cross
Fri 18 April **PLEASE NOTE NO 9:15am MASS TODAY**
Fri 18 April 3:00pm - Passion of the Lord
Sat 19 April 7:00pm - Holy Easter Vigil
Sun 20 April 8:00am – Easter Sunday Mass **R/Creek**
Sun 20 April 9:30am – Easter Sunday Mass **Macedon**
Sun 20 April 11am – Easter Sunday Mass Gisborne

GISBORNE COMMUNITY CARE – FOODBANK Inc.

Turn your compassion into action Become the Volunteer Manager of Operations at Gisborne Community Care Foodbank. The Volunteer Manager of Operations is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Gisborne Foodbank. This is a hands-on, voluntary, role that requires commitment and availability to be in Gisborne every week for approximately 16 hours. In return you will be, literally, feeding hope in the Gisborne and Macedon Ranges communities.

WWW.GISBORNEFOODBANK.ORG.AU

Contact us for more information Wally on 0401 031 767 or Lynne on 0492 850 520



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

Palm Sunday – Year C

12th & 13th April, 2025

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's Reader: L. Scott Eucharist: N. Spiers	8:00am Mass St. Ambrose's Welcomer: J. White Reader: A-M. Drummond	Flowers: K. Page & L. DeBono 
9:30am Mass St. Patrick's Reader: M. Redman Eucharist: R. Fisher	11:00am Mass St. Brigid's Reader: D. Egan Eucharist: V. Firman	

2024 CARITAS PROJECT COMPASSION

Envelopes and mite boxes are now available in church for the Special Collection throughout Lent for Project Compassion.

Please give what you can.

Parish Healing Mass - Friday April 11th – 10am

There will be no 9:15am Mass on this day.

An open invitation is extended to all parishioners, family members and friends to attend the service.

'PARISH, PRIESTS AND PIONEERS, A HISTORY OF ST. BRIGID'S PARISH, GISBORNE'

The cost for the book is \$10 (A5 - small) or \$20 (A4 - large).

Books can be purchased directly from the Parish Office or at weekend Masses.

THANKSGIVING BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Thanksgiving Program, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Church Account NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6742 95773

Please use your surname and TG number as the reference.

PRIEST & PRESBYTERY BY DIRECT DEBIT

If you would like to contribute to the Priest & Presbytery expenses, you may do so by direct debit to the acct below:

St. Brigid's Presbytery Account NAB

BSB: 083 347

Acct: 6672 72303

Please use your surname as the reference.

THE ANNUAL MELBOURNE PASSION PLAY

The Annual Melbourne Passion Play takes place on Palm Sunday (April 13th, 2025) and Good Friday (April 18th, 2025).

This play follows the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as part of the community's Holy Week celebrations.

For 25 years, this free of charge play has drawn a large audience from all walks of life, and for the first time will be brought to the West of Melbourne, at Catholic Regional College Sydenham.

We will again have members of St. Patrick's Choir performing in this event. Please support this event that brings to life the gospel message.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT
COMPASSION

Fifth Sunday of Lent

5th and 6th of April 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities.



UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY

this Lent

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Please donate today.

KARATE CLASSES FOR ALL AGES

Thursday evenings 6pm - 1st TWO lessons
free then \$7 per class

No term commitment required;
pay as you come.

Enquiries: Kathryn Aprile—0404 340 892

WEEKLY SOCIAL CARDS NIGHT

St. Brigid's Hall – Tuesday 7:30pm start -
Entry \$10 per player

Light supper served on completion of play
EVERYONE WELCOME

OPEN HOUSE

Meet after 11am Sunday Mass at the
Kaffeine Bar for a coffee and chat.

Everyone Welcome!

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday – 10am

For all enquiries please contact
Bernie 0414 890 377

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Should you have a loved one gravely ill and in need of anointing or the services of a priest, please call the Parish Landline on 5428 2591.

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Giving

Collections last week: Presbytery \$534
Thanksgiving \$1110

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

Introduction: As we come closer to our Easter Celebrations our thoughts are drawn to the Easter Sacrament of Baptism. Through the waters of baptism we are dead to sin and rise to new life in Christ's grace.

1st Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

We hear one of the many images of water used by Isaiah as a sign of salvation through God's faithfulness to the covenant.

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

This is St. Paul's famous image of being ready to run the race to the end. He reminds us that perfection does not come through the law, but through faith in Christ and the power of His resurrection.

Gospel: John 8:1-11

We hear from John's Gospel which links the Good News with Luke's parable of the prodigal son as witnesses to Christ's message of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Prayer of Intercession: We have been encouraged by the words of Jesus that he does not condemn and so we can turn to him in trust with all the needs of our families and community.

1. For our priests and bishops, that in imitation of Jesus, they might be living signs of your compassionate love and forgiveness.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

2. That these final weeks of Lent will invite many people to trust in God's forgiveness and confess their sins to make a new beginning in following Christ.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

3. That the personal, family and parish sacrifices for Project Compassion may continue to remind us of sharing with others.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

4. We pray for those suffering throughout the world from hunger, war, conflict, epidemics, drought and other natural disasters. May they be strengthened and sustained by our prayers and the love of God.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

5. We pray for ourselves and the special needs of all in our parish community. We pray for those who are sick – especially and those on our parish prayer list – the frail, and for all who care for them. For the faithful departed: for those who have died recently and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially **Brendan Spanton, Brian Dullard & Betty Doolan**. Give strength and peace to their souls.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

Please join in the parish Prayer.

Celebrant: Creator God and source of all life, you have baptised us in water and the Holy Spirit and given us the joy of life in Christ's resurrection. May we continue to run for your eternal prize that we may take our place in the resurrection of the dead, where you are our God forever and ever.

Next week's readings: Luke 19:28-40, Isaiah 50:-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Luke 22:14-23:56

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

ST. BRIGID'S GISBORNE PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, we thank you for all the blessings we enjoy in our parish family of St. Brigid's Gisborne.
Many have laboured to build our parish. May we all work together and hand in hand stand together.
May our parish be filled with holiness and prayer, faith and love.
May all who come here find a welcoming home, comfort in their needs and strength for their journey.
St. Brigid, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose and St. Colmcille watch over us always we pray, that with faith we grow and learn.
We make our prayer in Jesus name.
Amen.

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, (*all bow*)
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

The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading

Isaiah 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

Psalm 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

Philippians 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.

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

John 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.'



Light in the Desert

A LENTEN RESOURCE

Fifth Sunday in Lent, Year C

Revised New Jerusalem Bible © 2019 by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already ... Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died, but even now I know that God will grant whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her: 'I am the resurrection and life. Anyone who believes in me, even though that person dies, will live, and no one who lives and believes in me will ever die. Do you believe this?'

She said, 'Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into this world.' ... So they took the stone away. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I myself knew that you hear me always, but I speak for the sake of all the crowd standing around me, so that they may believe that you sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with strips of material, and his face wrapped in cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' (*John 11:17, 21-27, 41-44*).

Did you know?

Points of interest and Catholic lore

Catholic theology speaks of 'the beatific vision': the full vision of God, with his people united in Christ.

'Those who are united with Christ will form the community of the redeemed, "the holy city" of God, "the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." She will not be wounded any longer by sin, stains, self-love, that destroy or wound the earthly community. The



The Raising of Lazarus, by Guercino (1619).

beatific vision, in which God opens himself in an inexhaustible way to the elect, will be the ever-flowing well-spring of happiness, peace, and mutual communion' (CCC §1045).

Exploring the faith

'Unbind him, and let him go.' These words of Jesus are full of spiritual significance. Ultimately, they point us to what the Church calls 'the eschaton,' or 'the end times'. Christ comes into this world, wounded by sin and death, and sets it free. The raising of Lazarus, in this sense, was merely a foreshadowing—a foretaste—of his own resurrection and all that would mean for creation.

While there is no shortage of apocalyptic visions of the future in our culture, many of them dark and dystopian, *Lumen gentium* makes something abundantly clear: the end times have already begun. We have been living in them since the resurrection and Pentecost.

This is why reflecting on 'the last things' (death, judgement, heaven, and hell) is a basic feature of the Catholic spiritual tradition. The pilgrim Church is 'eschatological' by nature: we are journeying towards that eternal life we have already been given. And this affects many of our other practices, including seeking the intercession of the saints and praying for the dead, because all of us through Baptism are connected in Christ, 'the resurrection and the life.'

Reading from *Lumen gentium*

48. Already the final age of the world has come upon us and the renovation of the world is irrevocably decreed and is already anticipated in some kind of a real way; for the Church already on this earth is signed with a sanctity which is real although imperfect. However, until there shall be new heavens and a new earth in which justice dwells, the pilgrim Church in her sacraments and institutions, which pertain to this present time, has the appearance of this world which is passing and she herself dwells among creatures who groan and travail in pain until now and await the revelation of the sons of God ...

50. Fully conscious of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the pilgrim Church from the very first ages of the Christian religion has cultivated with great piety the memory of the dead, and 'because it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins', also offers suffrages for them. The Church has always believed that the apostles and Christ's martyrs who had given the supreme witness of faith and charity by the shedding of their blood, are closely joined with us in Christ, and she has always venerated them with special devotion, together with the Blessed Virgin Mary and the holy angels. The Church has piously implored the aid of their intercession. To these were soon added also those who had more closely imitated Christ's virginity and poverty, and finally others whom the outstanding practice of the Christian virtues and the divine charisms recommended to the pious devotion and imitation of the faithful. When we look at the lives of those who have faithfully followed Christ, we are inspired with a new reason for seeking the City that is to come and at the same time we are shown a most safe path by which among the vicissitudes of this world, in keeping with the state in life and condition proper to each of us, we will be able to arrive at perfect union with Christ, that is, perfect holiness ...

51. Let them therefore teach the faithful that the authentic cult of the saints consists not so much in the multiplying of external acts, but rather in the greater intensity of

our love, whereby, for our own greater good and that of the whole Church, we seek from the saints 'example in their way of life, fellowship in their communion, and aid by their intercession.'

Questions

- » 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Have you ever felt 'bound' in your spiritual life? How?
- » What stands out to you most from these passages in *Lumen gentium*? Why?
- » How might a love for the saints, and devotion to them, help our pilgrimage towards the beatific vision? Do you already have a devotion to a particular saint? How have they helped you?

Notes
