

THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / C

16 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Gen 15: 5-12, 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off.

Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms:

'To your descendants I give this land,
from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

■ The word of the Lord.

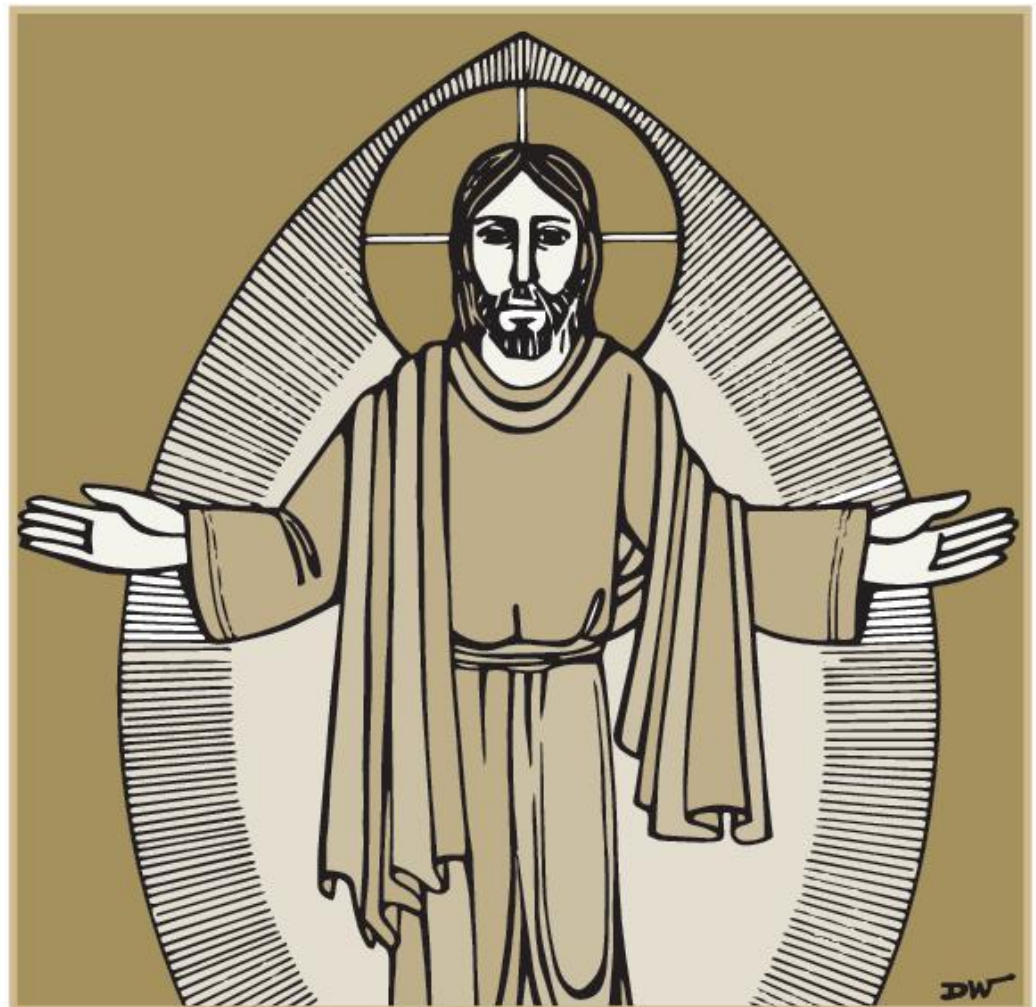
RESP PSALM

Ps 26: 1, 7-9, 13-14. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; / whom shall I fear? / The Lord is the stronghold of my life; / before whom shall I shrink? **R.**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; / have mercy and answer. / Of you my heart has spoken: / 'Seek his face.' **R.**



3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; / hide not your face. / Dismiss not your servant in anger; / you have been my help. **R.**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness / in the land of the living. / Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. / Hope in the Lord! **R.**

SECOND READING

Phil 3: 20-4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe.

So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, Phil 3:17-4:1.

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

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

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

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: S Bettoni

Lector - Sunday: P Donohue

Counters: No Counting

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 - 2 weeks

Church: \$TBA Presbytery: \$TBA

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: A Powell

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

Mon 17 Mar: St Patrick

Wed 19 Mar: St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 23 Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent

The Feast of St Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Mary

10am Mass on Wednesday, 19th March, at St Joseph's Church. Since it is Lent, we will defer the 'celebrations' to 1st May when we celebrate The Feast of St Joseph - The Worker.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 24:6, 2, 22)

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 17:5)

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Pope Francis**

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

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

Extra Weekday Masses at Holy Cross

Repair works at St Anthony's Church is still ongoing. There will be no 9:15am weekday morning Masses at St Anthony's Church. Instead, weekday Masses will be as follows **until Friday, 28th March 2025.**

Holy Cross - Mon to Fri: 9:15am (no Thu 10:00am Mass)

St Joseph's - Fri: 10:00am

No changes to time and place of Saturday and Sunday Masses at all parishes.

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Holy Cross: Thursdays after 9:15am* Mass

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

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

** Until further notice due to repairs at St Anthony's Church*

Young Adults Hosting Mass: Saturday 22 March



The young people from our 3 parishes come together on the 4th Saturday of each month to host the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick, followed by fellowship for the young people to socialise and meet new people ☺

The program for next Saturday is as follows:

~ Mass ~ Light supper ~ Brainstorming of new/upcoming events & programs ~ Games ~ Fellowship ~

Please encourage the young people of our 3 parishes to come along. For more info, contact the Parish Office.

Pallottine Cenacle Prayer

This month's Cenacle Prayer gathering will take place as part of the 6:30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick on Saturday, 22nd March, followed by light supper.

The Patrick Oration 2025

Join us on the feast day of St Patrick, the patron saint of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the annual Patrick Oration to be delivered by the Most Rev. Peter A. Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne.

Live broadcast on Monday 17 March 7:30pm - 8.30pm:

- On TV via C31 (digital channel 44)
- Archdiocesan YouTube (www.youtube.com/archmelb)



Facebook

St Joseph's Parish now has a Facebook page. Thanks @TuNinh. Scan the QR code or search

www.facebook.com/stjosephcatholicchurchelsternwick/

Walk With Mary 2025

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will lead us in Holy Mass and a street procession in honour of Our Lady. Please come and be part of Her Victory. It will be a beautiful opportunity to witness to your love of our Heavenly Mother, and we can be confident of receiving so many blessings. 2pm, Sunday 23rd March St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne.



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



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!

Please Save the Dates

- ♦ The Annual Pilgrimage Walk - Sunday 30th March
- ♦ The Good Friday Appeal Fundraiser - Sunday 6th April

Petition to Defend the Honour of Our Lady

Please consider signing this petition which is asking for a name change to the "Ave Maria Family Planning Clinic" in Seaford - a sacrilegious contraception clinic in Victoria fli.org.au/a-sacrilegious-contraception-clinic-in-melbourne/



Project Compassion Boxes

Project Compassion Boxes are now available in the Church Foyer for collection. Please take one home for your family or friends. Your kind donations will be much appreciated.

Australia Catholic Youth Festival 2025

- * Who: Year 9 - 25 years plus Leaders
- * When: Commencing on Sunday 30 November (afternoon) and finishing on Tuesday 2 December (late evening)
- * Where: Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). MCEC is located in the south-west edge of the Melbourne CBD, on the banks of the Yarra River.
- * How: Registration for the Festival will officially open in early May 2025. We are able to advise that pricing will range from \$390-410 per person for the entire Festival with access to all areas and experiences. Groups will be responsible for all travel to/from the Festival as well as organising any accommodation needs. Meals from vendors at the venue will be available at additional cost.

Many dioceses, schools and communities are well into planning their pilgrimage to the Festival, in anticipation of gathering with 10,000 other young Catholics from across the country.

For the young people of our parishes who may be discerning attending the Festival, please contact the Parish Office so we can coordinate a 'contingent' from our 3 parishes.

ACYF.ORG.AU
@/ACYF2



2nd Sunday of Lent

Dear friends

Peter, James and John had an amazing vision of the Transfiguration of Jesus on top of a mountain. But soon after, they had to come down to the valley. The majesty of God needed to be experienced down in the valley, as well; in our daily life situations; we need to experience the presence of God in a tangible way.

But then, if the reality of ministry is waiting down in the valley, why climb the mountain at all? Why did Jesus and his disciples take this time away from their busy schedule and go up the hill? And why do we take valuable time away from our busy lives and go to church? Why don't we understand that work is worship? Jesus knew that the disciples needed to see for themselves that there was more to Jesus than meets the eye. This vision of the Transfiguration was meant to strengthen the disciples' faith, and to prepare them for the difficult days ahead. Jesus himself needed the confirmation by his heavenly Father, about his ministry ahead. In a short time Jesus was to climb another mountain carrying the Cross. Prior to that, Jesus needed to be empowered, encouraged and supported by his heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit.

We too need times set apart to be with God in prayer, because we too have our daily crosses to carry. There are times we feel so frustrated and discouraged; feel so low. Our hard times are not meant to keep us away from God-experience, rather to bring us closer to Him, to feel his presence even when we are at our lowest.

Though we can feel the closeness of God anywhere and anytime; yet, meeting him in the Eucharist is something special. Many of us spend our daily lives in the valley of toil and hardship. Even when we are at our worst, let us not feel abandoned by God. The mountain experience of the disciples was also meant to give us strength as we live our daily lives.

The Transfiguration of Jesus gives us hope and courage as we draw closer to him during this season of Lent.

Fr Leenus.

Q: What happened when the blue ship and the red ship collided at sea? **A:** Their crew were marooned.



Journey Through The Gospels

Reading the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John with Bishop David Walker.

Studying Scripture and exploring how they guide Christian discipleship, whether you're seeking inspiration or a deeper connection with the Word, this offers a space for contemplation, prayer, and growth in your spiritual journey.

What to Expect:

- Weekly Gospel video access – FREE
- Live online discussions every Saturday (4-5pm AEDT)
- Ask questions, share reflections, seek clarification
- Connect with like-minded Catholics

Ideal for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Scripture.

Sign up & stay notified! Get weekly reminders and video access before each session.

For more info and registration: lectiodivina.com.au

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

Lk 9: 28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Luke.

*As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed,
and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.*

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, 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 he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him'. And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

PRAYER IS KEY

On this Sunday we accompany Jesus up a mountain with three of his first-called disciples, Peter, John and James. The intention of Jesus' mountain-ascent, as Luke notes, is 'to pray'.

Luke locates this event at the beginning of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, where suffering and death await. This journey will occupy almost half the Gospel. The journey is one of instruction. Jesus instructs his disciples, Luke's audience and us on how to be authentic in a culture where status and materialism seduce. Prayer is key. Like the prophets of the First Testament, Jesus, the prophet, speaks truth and confronts compromised leadership. This will come at a high cost. Luke's Jesus knows this. The mountain is sacred, perceived as closer to the Heavens and God's abode. Jesus prays to God seeking discernment in what will unfold.

This prayer, in which the disciples are also caught up, brings him into communion with two First Testament figures, Moses and Elijah, representatives of the Torah (Moses, whom Israelites believed inspired the first five books of the Bible) and the Prophets (Elijah). Their presence is Luke's reminder that God's loving accompaniment of and revelation to the Israelites continued through Jesus into Luke's day. This scene is helpful for our Lenten journey. Prayer, especially in times of struggle and the search for discernment, is key.

Fr Michael Trainor