



Second Sunday of Lent - Yr C

16th March, 2025

Parish Priest Fr Vincent Nguyen
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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.

May they rest in peace

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- 15/03/25** Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
16/03/25 Normal Sunday Masses
**All Masses 15/3 & 16/3 will be
Reconciliation Commitment Masses.**
- 18/03/25** 5pm Weekday Mass – Gisborne
19/03/25 9:15am Weekday Mass – Gisborne
19/03/25 10am – Easter Liturgy & Music meeting
20/03/25 **NO Weekday Mass**
20/03/25 Holy Cross Year 5 Class Mass – HC
21/03/25 9:15am Weekday Mass – Gisborne
22/03/25 Saturday 6pm Mass – Gisborne
23/03/25 Normal Sunday Masses
23/03/25 12pm Baptisms – Gisborne
25/03/25 Clergy Regional Meeting
25/03/25 **NO Weekday Mass**
26/03/25 9:15am – Weekday Mass – Gisborne
26/03/25 7pm Holy Cross PS Reconciliation
27/03/25 **NO Weekday Mass**
27/03/25 7pm St. Brigid's PS Reconciliation
28/03/25 **NO Weekday Mass**

REFLECTION by Fr. Michael Tate

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person? What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief.

Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' body was transfigured. This was no out of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' body was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory. That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, bodysoul. That is our ultimate destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God?

You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.

mtate@bigpond.com**PROJECT COMPASSION LENTEN PRAYER**

God of our journey, we are all pilgrims of hope brought together by your love and your wish that we may all be one. We pray that in this Year of Jubilee when we are called to greater justice and care for our common home that we may
Unite Against Poverty.

May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed and the renewal of creation. May our compassionate minds and generous hearts help bring about a world where all can live in peace.

May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer bring us closer to your loving heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen**



Rosters & Events



Ministers for next weekend's Masses

3rd Sunday of Lent – Year C

22nd & 23rd March, 2025

6:00pm Mass St. Brigid's
Reader: F. Murone
Eucharist: K. Aprile

8:00am Mass St. Ambrose's
Welcomer: J. White
Reader: A. Dewar

Flowers:
No flowers
during Lent
Greenery only
please



9:30am Mass St. Patrick's
Reader: M. Redman
Eucharist: B. Stanchinotti

11:00am Mass St. Brigid's
Reader: B. Myers
Eucharist: V. Firman

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

To mark the 150th anniversary of St Brigid's Church, all families & parishioners are encouraged to purchase the book, which was written and published by parishioner, Leo Duggan in 2000 and has been re-printed with the added Addendum summarising what has occurred in the Parish since then.

All proceeds will help your Parish to offset the costs of the 150th anniversary celebration. Your support is greatly appreciated. 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.*



Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.



You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes, by going **online at:** caritas.org.au/project-compassion **or by calling:** 1800 024 413

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

OPEN HOUSE

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

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.

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

SCRIPTURE STUDIES

Thursday – 10am
For all enquiries please contact
Bernie 0414 890 377

St Brigid's Parish Weekly Giving

Collections last week: Presbytery \$580
Thanksgiving \$1060

Thank you for your ongoing support through the Thanksgiving Program.

Introduction: Our Lenten celebration moves from the focus of the humanity of Christ in his temptations to the divinity of Christ seen in his transfiguration. As we have already shared his divine life of grace through our baptism we can use as our own words and say with Peter “Lord, it is good for us to be here”.

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

We hear of the covenant the Lord God entered into with Abram, who accepts God's promise, and so is called our Father in faith.

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Paul says that we have been raised up with Jesus by our baptism and we are to be transfigured in his Risen Spirit. Now is the time to remain faithful and not lose our way.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

We hear Luke's account of the transfiguration and how the disciples were deeply struck by their vision of Jesus and his divinity.

Prayer of Intercession: We have heard the enthusiasm of Peter in acclaiming “Lord, it is good for us to be here”. Now we can acclaim our faith and renew our intentions of this Lenten season to live our faith.

1. For our priests and bishops, that in responding to the invitation to listen to the voice of your Son, the chosen One, they might inspire all your people to listen to Christ with the ears of our hearts.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

2. That the Church be led by the Spirit to give positive witness to the transfiguration of God's people in our world.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

3. That the leaders of the three religions who recognise Abraham (ie. the Jewish, the Christian, and the Islamic faiths) may work together to fulfil the promise of Abraham.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

4. That the work of Caritas Australia (Australian Catholic Relief) be enabled by the sacrifices of ordinary people who give to Project Compassion.

(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. May they receive the reward of eternal life.

(pause) We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer

Please join in the parish Prayer.

Celebrant: God of Abraham, our Father in faith, we thank you for all the blessings you promised on his descendants that we too may follow him in faith to share the eternal life of your promise. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Next week's readings: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

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

Second Sunday of Lent, Year C

16 March 2025

First Reading

Genesis 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.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 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

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

or Phil 3:20 – 4:1 (shorter form)

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

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

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us. I have told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 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

Luke 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.

Light in the Desert

A LENTEN RESOURCE

Second Sunday in Lent, Year C

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

Now about eight days after these sayings, taking Peter, John and James with him he went up the mountain to pray. And it happened that, as he was praying, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became dazzling white. And suddenly, there were two men talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his departed which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem ... a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and as 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.' (Luke 9: 28-31, 34-36)

Did you know?

Points of interest and Catholic lore.

'Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, "sackcloth and ashes," fasting and mortification, but at *conversion of heart, interior conversion*. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures, and works of penance ... Scripture and the [Church] Fathers insist on three forms: *fasting, prayer, and almsgiving*, which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others' (CCC §1430, 1434).

Exploring the faith

We started Lent with the desert. Now we come to another place 'set apart' in the Bible: the mountaintop. If the desert signifies struggle and testing, the mountaintop signifies divine revelation and communion with God. The prophet Ezekiel reveals that the garden of Eden was, in fact, set on a mountain (Ez 28:13-14); it was from Mount Sinai that God delivered the law



The Transfiguration of the Lord, by D Nolle (1694).

to Moses, and where Moses and the elders ate and drank in God's presence (Ex 24:11); it was on a mountain that the prophet Elijah heard the still, small voice of God (1 Kings 19:11-13); it was from a mountain that Christ delivered his most famous sermon (Matthew 5-7); and it was on a mountaintop that the apostles witnessed Christ transfigured, receiving a glimpse of who he truly was as the Son of God (Lk 9:28-36). It was no wonder Peter wanted to make shelters and stay there.

The mountaintop signifies divine revelation and communion with God.

Dei verbum is Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. One of Christianity's many distinguishing marks is that we hold to Divine Revelation. We are not simply a philosophy or moral system. We believe something, and someone, has been revealed to us. While there are specific *things*, specific *teachings*, that have been revealed (Christ was a teacher, after all), *Dei verbum* draws us into the deeper reality that God reveals *himself* first and foremost. He reveals that he is a communion of love—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and that through the sacraments we are raised out of our fallen condition to share in that divine life. This is not esoteric doctrine. Instead, it teaches us something that could change the way we see Christianity, and our own lives, forever.

Reading from *Dei verbum*

2. In His goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature. Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself ...

4. To see Jesus is to see His Father. For this reason Jesus perfected revelation by fulfilling it through his whole work of making Himself present and manifesting Himself: through His words and deeds, His signs and wonders, but especially through His death and glorious resurrection from the dead and final sending of the Spirit of truth. Moreover He confirmed with divine testimony what revelation proclaimed, that God is with us to free us from the darkness of sin and death, and to raise us up to life eternal ...

8. Therefore the Apostles, handing on what they themselves had received, warn the faithful to hold fast to the traditions which they have learned either by word of mouth or by letter (see 2 Thess 2:15), and to fight in defence of the faith handed on once and for all (see Jude 1:3) Now what was handed on by the Apostles includes everything which contributes toward the holiness of life and increase in faith of the peoples of God; and so the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes.

This tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit. For there is a growth in the understanding of the realities and the words which have been handed down. This happens through the contemplation and study made by believers, who treasure these things in their hearts, through a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience, and through the preaching of those who have received through Episcopal succession the sure gift of truth ...

21. The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the

body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body ... For in the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven meets His children with great love and speaks with them; and the force and power in the word of God is so great that it stands as the support and energy of the Church, the strength of faith for her sons, the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life.

Questions

- » In the Scriptures, the mountaintop evokes divine revelation and communion. Have you ever had a 'mountaintop experience' where you felt especially loved or spoken to by God? What happened?
- » What stands out to you most from this passage from *Dei verbum*? Why?
- » How might a deeper understanding of Divine Revelation, as set out here in *Dei verbum*, aid our Lenten conversion of heart? How might it move us to continue on the path of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving?

Notes
