



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Second Sunday of LENT Yr C, 15-16 March, 2025

Compare your life to a migrant's, Pope says in his message for Lent

(by Justin McLellan—CNS, in Catholic Magazine)

Pope Francis urged Christians to examine their consciences in Lent by comparing their daily lives to the hardships faced by migrants, calling it a way to grow in empathy and discover God's call to compassion.

'It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathise with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father,' the Pope wrote in his message for Lent 2025.

The message, signed 6 February, before the Pope was hospitalised on 14 February for treatment of double pneumonia, was released by the Vatican on 25 February.

Reflecting on the theme 'Let us journey together in hope,' the Pope said that Lent is a time to confront both personal and collective struggles with faith and compassion.

Comparing the Lenten journey to the Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt, he recalled 'our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones.'

'A first call to conversion thus comes from the realisation that all of us are pilgrims in this life,' he wrote. 'Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilised by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone?'

Pope Francis also emphasised the importance of journeying together, saying Christians are

called to walk 'side by side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded'.

Christians, he said, should reflect on whether they are open to others or focused only on their own needs.

The Pope called on Christians to journey together in hope towards Easter, living out the central message of the Jubilee Year: 'Hope does not disappoint.'

Another Lenten call to conversion, he said, is to embrace hope and trust in God's promise of eternal life, made possible through Christ's resurrection.

Pope Francis encouraged Christians to consider whether they truly live in a way that reflects hope, trusting in God's promise of eternal life, seeking forgiveness and committing themselves to justice, fraternity and care for creation.

'Christ,' he wrote, 'lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!'

Masses

Monday
9am

Tuesday
9am Mass

Wednesday
7pm Mass

Thursday
9am Mass

Friday
9am Mass

Saturday
6pm Mass

Sunday
9am, 11am, 6pm

Please note
Sunday 11am online
Mass is

[https://youtube.com/live/
VKpp07VqjQg?
feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/VKpp07VqjQg?feature=share)

Reconciliation
Saturdays
10am—10.30am

Parish Priest:
Fr Brendan Connell CP

Assistant Parish Priest
Fr Sony Kannanaikal CP
Fr. Tuan Paul Anh-Do CP

Parish Staff:
Gillian Velupillay (Bursar)
Didi Karkas (Secretary)
Valerie Ferreira
(Safeguarding & Visitation)

St Paul Apostle North
Primary School
Ph. 9700 6068
Principal
Cathy Mason

St Paul Apostle South
Primary School
Ph. 9700 3663
Principal
Mr Paul Gleeson

St John's
Regional College
Ph. 9791 3366
Principal
Mr Tim Hogan

Readings for NEXT WEEK
Third Sunday of LENT Year C

First Reading

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush;

Moses looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said,

"I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that Moses had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" and Moses said, "Here I am." The Lord said, "Come no closer! Remove sandal from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." God said further, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I am has sent me to you.' This is my name forever and this my memorial for all generations."

Psalm

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits

It is the Lord who forgives all your iniquity,

Who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy

The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud; all passed through the sea; all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.

Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Repent, says the Lord;

the kingdom of heaven is at hand

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

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Jesus was teaching the crowds; some of those present told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices, Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them-do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"

No, I tell you' but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then Jesus told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here!

For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?"

The gardener replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

Reflection

1. We must "bear fruit" if we are to thrive and survive.
2. Repentance is an ongoing process of change.
3. Our faith is made real by the actions we take and the fruit we produce. Let us ask Christ to help us in the year ahead "go and bear fruit", fruit that will last forever

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults

STATION OF THE CROSS

During Lenten Season, we have the Station of the Cross in the Church **every FRIDAY at 7pm**. All are welcome to join in. The Passionist Companion group will be leading us each week.



LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLET

If you are looking for an aid to assist with reflection during this Lent season, **LENTEN BOOKLETS** are available in the Piety Stall at \$7 each.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Please note that the last family night for those who have registered in this program is on **TUESDAY, 25 MARCH, 2025** at 7pm in the Church. Your attendance with candidates is compulsory.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Please remember that if your child is in grade 6 (and have received both the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of First Communion) and wishes to take part in the **2025 Sacrament of Confirmation**. You must hand in the registration form **BY THURSDAY, 17th APRIL 2025**. Even though the program will not commence until term three, we need to finalise the numbers by the 17th of April.

PARISH BINGO

Our next parish Bingo is on **FRIDAY, 21 March, 2025** at 7.30pm in the Annexe. You can come on your own or in a group. For more information please contact Louis 0419 008 173, Vianney 0438 700 675 or Joe 0419 385 441

PARISH YOUTH GROUPS 4:12 YOUTH

This group is designed to suit all children from grade 5 to year 8. Unfortunately, this will not be suitable for older children.

The group has resumed their gathering from last month. The next gathering will be on **FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2025** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. If you or children are interested in

joining the group, please come along. A variety of activities is arranged for each gathering. For planning purposes, please contact Trish Brown on 0412 357 350 if you wish to attend

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

As you know, Valerie has been very busy updating the parish database with your safeguarding details. These include Working With Children Checks (WWC), Code of Conduct forms and in some cases Police checks. We are often asked why people are required to provide these checks when they don't work with children. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne requires a WWC from all volunteers regardless of their roles. This includes all groups such as choirs, readers, communion ministers, collectors, youth group organisers, sacristans, flower decoration groups etc. We look forward to your cooperation in complying with these requests to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all. Those volunteers who are unable to provide these items, will regrettably be removed from the rosters.

PROJECT COMPASSION BOX

Each year, Caritas Australia's Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Project Compassion Box will be available in the Church from Ash Wednesday. Please feel free to pick some up for yourselves or sharing with others.



WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN

'Chai Time' A special afternoon of delicious connoisseur canapés, sweet treats, and premium tea, is a fundraising event to support Wellsprings for Women's Emergency Relief Program. Event will be on Saturday 3rd May 2025 (2pm to 5pm) at Kennedy Hall, Killester College, 433 Springvale Rd, Springvale. RSVP by Thursday, 17th April using this QR code



Readings:

Second Sunday of LENT Yr C

Genesis 15: 5-12. 17-18

Philippians 3: 17-4: 1

Luke 9: 28-36

Third Sunday of LENT Yr C

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Pope Francis, Italia Fata, Eva Marie, Dominique Balmano, Marie-Noelle Herchenroder, Kevin Ooi, Rose Liew, Annabelle Ghatt, Maranatha Fidow, James Mendis, Oliver Mendis, Fr Tony Martyn, Merlinda B. Szuba, Marian Meade, "Horse" Ian Price, Josip Dujic, Anton Nadarajah, Hector de Santos, Teariki Sword, Rui Manuel Campos, Ruby Reid, Danny Sugunasekera, Dorothy Locke, Piper Anne Spriggs, Grace Sprigg, Ronella Tyrell **and All those in aged care or homebound with chronic health issues**

Those who have died

Giuseppe Rubbino, Hasel Francisco, Joyce Charlotte Livingston, Aida Hendriks, Russell Ferreira, Anton Jansz, Marianayagam, Eda Noyan, Carmela Vella, Patrick's Bonhomme **and all who are named in our church memorial book**

May they rest in peace

Station of the Cross At St. Paul Apostle Church Endeavour Hills

Every FRIDAY during LENT from 7pm in the CHURCH

BINGO NIGHT

Join us for a night of fun and games on our 10th anniversary

GAME | PRIZE | PARTY

FRIDAY, 21 MARCH, 2025

STARTS AT 7.30PM

at Tim O'Toole Annexe

For more information please contact

Louis 0419 008 173

Vianney 0438 700 675 or

Joe 0419 385 441



St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS 2025

	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am
1st Sunday	Helen Sanders Beryl Barnfield	Patti Family	Cabrera family
2nd Sunday	Valerie & Ian Ferreira	Nella Rudan Josephine Gherxi	Lobo Family
3rd Sunday	Beth & Mars Sota	Amaya Tenisio Isaac Faalili	Christine & Angelo Gaiardo
4th Sunday	Daryl & Astrid Drego	Hoad Family	Maclou family
5th Sunday	Carmeline Don Paul	Amaya Tenisio Isaac Faalili	Cabrera Family