



Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

23 March 2025

readings

Next Week 4th Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12
Ps 33:2-7
2 Cor 5:17-21
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

in a nutshell

Unless you repent. When misfortune strikes people considered to the sinners, others might say: 'They had it coming! God is punishing them!' In today's Gospel Jesus criticises such attitudes on two grounds. Firstly, it is wrong to see the wrath of God in every tragic event. Secondly, we need to recognise that we are all guilty of sin and in need of conversion. Instead of judging others, let us ask God to forgive our sins and help us as we undertake the difficult task of reform.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend, especially, Pope Francis, John Laan, Harry & Dorothy Heering, Jim & Pat Henshaw, Fr Pat Purcell
For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversary occur at this time.

of special note

Parish Stewardship Campaign continues this week.

More information inside

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Psalm Response

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30 pm (EST)
5:00pm (EDST)
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—6:00pm
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Tuesday—5:10pm-5:40pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Tuesday 5:00pm
Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH



Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's Conference 0427 874 374 or John Bird 0407 848 192

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday please

moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee on first and third Saturdays of the month at 8:00 –10:00 am. Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church.

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, April 1

Finance Committee 7:00pm

Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm

Parish Council 8:00pm

Parish Notices

Parish Stewardship Program

Thank you to everyone who promptly collected their offertory giving envelopes last weekend. If you have not yet retrieved yours, we kindly remind you to do so this weekend.

For those who wish to submit their filled-out pledge cards, there are several convenient options:

- Place them in the collections boxes in the narthex
- Drop them off at the parish office

Your ongoing generosity and dedication to our parish are truly appreciated. Thank you for your support in strengthening our community and mission.

Stewardship Corner

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" - Luke 13:7

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have, or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous; we are called to develop and nurture our gifts; and return them with increase. We are called to be generous with all of gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

Supporting the Parish

There are a number of ways to contribute to the financial viability of the Parish:

- Cash donations and envelopes in the labelled boxes in the narthex
- Tap and Go terminals
- Via the QR code in the bulletin

Adoration of the Eucharist

Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration. (St. Theresa of Calcutta)

Confession: As Pope Francis has repeated many times, The Lord never tires of forgiving. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Christ reaches out to forgive the sins of his people. Here, we experience a living encounter with God's tender mercy. Through sin, we have turned away from God, but by this healing sacrament, we are restored to right relationship with him.

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Tuesday at 5:00pm & Friday mornings 8:00am. Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Project Compassion

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.

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

Lenten Series – The Seven Last Words (Discussion Group)

The St. Paul Centre (Dr. Scott Hahn) is offering a free Lenten Video Series. We will have a Lenten Discussion group every Wednesday of Lent at 6pm in the parish portable. We will discuss the videos from The Seven Last Words series. Though we will watch the video on Wednesdays, it would be best if you would have seen the video prior to our discussion. You can sign up for free at <https://stpaulcenter.com/>

Stations of the Cross During Lent—6:00pm Fridays at St Mary's

We are praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary.

Walk with Mary 2025

On Sunday, 23 March, there will be at St Patrick's Cathedral prayers commencing at 2pm followed by Mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli followed by a street procession. For more information visit thecombinedsocietiesofmary.com or call Mrs Joy Hunt 9509 2207.

Fraternity of St Joseph Young Men's Group (Lilydale)

Young men and dads (18-50) are invited to a monthly gathering at St Patrick's for a time of prayer and fellowship. Commencing at 6:30pm with a Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration) in the Church; followed by a time of socialising and recreation in the Community Centre, from 7:30pm-9:00pm. Food and drinks provided, plus the opportunity to show your skills with the dartboard and table-tennis table! First Friday of the month.

The Parish Prayer Group

Meets Monday at 9:15 am and Fridays at 2pm. For more information please call Maria at 0409 793 001 or just come on in and discover peace in the presence of our Lord in the Eucharist!

Australian Catholic Youth Festival

The festival will be held in Victoria from 30 Nov—2 Dec 2025. Registrations open soon. For more information visit our website. <https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn>

2025 Jubilee Year

For information visit the parish website.

Something to make you Smile!

Paddy and Mick are walking down the road. Paddy's got a bag of doughnuts in his hand and says to Mick, "If you can guess how many doughnuts are in my bag, you can have them both."

sourced from www.majellan.media

Holy Week Both Parishes.

Tuesday: No Mass or Adoration at St Mary. Father will be at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass. Everyone is invited to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral at 10:00am, Tuesday, 15 April. This special Mass will have the blessing of the oils by the archbishop and the renewal of the promises by the priests gathered for the Mass.

Wednesday: Regular Mass at Yarra Junction at 9am.

Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper: Yarra Junction, 6pm & Mount Evelyn 8pm (No morning mass)

Good Friday: Stations of the Cross at 9am at St Mary and Passion of the Lord at 3pm at St Mary.

Confessions: after Stations and the Passion of the Lord.

Easter Saturday: Easter Vigil will be celebrated at St Mary's at 7pm. There will not be a Vigil celebrated at Yarra Junction.

Easter Sunday: Easter Mass at **Yarra Junction** at 8:30am and St Mary's at 10:30am & 5:00pm.

Readings Reflection

[Fruits of the Fig](#)

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54–55, 72–73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today's Epistle that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning"—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish, not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners" but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to "repentance"—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm, blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

The Forty Days of Lent

What is the significance of the number forty in Scripture?

The Lord said to Moses, “Write these words; in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.” And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments. (Ex 34:27-28)

You shall remember all the way which the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments, or not. (Dt 8:2)

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And he fasted forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

When the number forty is used to quantify a period of time, it signifies a period of preparation, trial, or testing that precedes a new beginning or significant event in salvation history; for example, for forty days and forty nights Christ fasted in the wilderness to prepare for the beginning of his public ministry.

Scripture frequently makes use of certain symbolic numbers. Seven, for example, represents perfection, while six signifies imperfection; the number twelve relates to the Twelve Apostles, who in turn relate to the twelve Tribes of Israel. Whenever the number forty is found in Scripture, it relates to a time of trial or testing in order to inaugurate an event of great significance. Some examples:

- In the story of Noah, God sent rain for forty days and forty nights to destroy a sinful humanity and to wash away the sins of the world, inaugurating a new covenant with man. (Gen 7:4)
- God led the Israelites in the desert for forty years in order to form them as a people and to prepare them to enter the Promised Land. (Dt 8:2)
- Moses was on Mount Sinai with God for forty days to receive the Ten Commandments and the Law. (Ex 24:18)
- Christ’s forty days and nights in the wilderness prepared him to carry out his mission of salvation that would culminate in his Passion, Death, and Resurrection.
- After his Resurrection Christ appeared to the Apostles over the course of forty days, teaching them and preparing them for their apostolic mission before he ascended to Heaven.

The Church traditionally recognizes this symbolic time in the season of Lent, which comprises forty days of prayer, penance, and almsgiving in preparation for the celebration of Christ’s Resurrection at Easter.

From the Didache Bible

538 The Gospels speak of a time of solitude for Jesus in the desert immediately after his baptism by John. Driven by the Spirit into the desert, Jesus remains there for forty days without eating; he lives among wild beasts, and angels minister to him. At the end of this time Satan tempts him three times, seeking to compromise his filial attitude toward God. Jesus rebuffs these attacks, which recapitulate the temptations of Adam in Paradise and of Israel in the desert, and the devil leaves him “until an opportune time.”

539 The evangelists indicate the salvific meaning of this mysterious event: Jesus is the new Adam who remained faithful just where the first Adam had given in to temptation. Jesus fulfills Israel’s vocation perfectly: in contrast to those who had once provoked God during forty years in the desert, Christ reveals himself as God’s Servant, totally obedient to the divine will. In this, Jesus is the devil’s conqueror: he “binds the strong man” to take back his plunder. Jesus’ victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father.

540 Jesus’ temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: “For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning.” By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church