



St Paul Apostle Catholic Community

One Family

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Thir Sunday of LENT Yr C, 22-23 March, 2025

Reflection on Luke 13: 1-9

(by Pope Francis)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel for this third Sunday of Lent (cf. Lk 13: 1-9) speaks to us about God's mercy and of our conversion. Jesus recounts the parable of the barren fig tree. A man has planted a fig tree in his vineyard, and with great confidence, each summer, he goes in search of its fruits, but he finds none because that tree is barren. Spurred by this disappointment which has recurred for at least three years, the man considers cutting down the fig tree in order to plant another. So he calls the field hand who is in the vineyard and tells him of his disappointment, ordering him to cut down the tree so as not to use up the ground needlessly. But the vinedresser asks the master to be patient and asks him for one more year during which the vinedresser himself would take special and delicate care of the fig tree, so as to stimulate its productivity. This is the parable. What does this parable symbolize? What do the characters in this parable symbolize?

The master represents God the Father and the vinedresser is the image of Jesus, while the fig tree is the symbol of an indifferent and insensitive humanity. Jesus intercedes with the Father in favour of humanity — and he always does so — and implores him to wait and to give it more time so that it may bring forth the fruits of love and justice. The fig tree that the master in the parable wants to uproot represents a sterile existence that is incapable of giving, incapable of doing good. It is the symbol of one who lives for himself, sated and calm, enjoying his own comforts, incapable of turning his gaze and his heart to those beside him who find themselves in conditions of suffering, poverty and hardship. This attitude of selfishness and spiritual barrenness, is compared to the vinedresser's great love for the fig tree. He asks the master to wait. He is patient, knows how to wait, and devotes his

time and his work to it. He promises the master to take special care of that unfortunate tree.

And this vinedresser's likeness manifests the mercy of God who leaves us time for conversion. We all need to convert ourselves, to take a step forward; and God's patience and mercy accompanies us in this. Despite the barrenness that marks our lives at times, God is patient and offers us the possibility to change and make progress on the path towards good. However, the deferment requested and received in expectation of the tree bearing fruit also indicates the urgency of conversion. The vinedresser tells the master: "Let it alone, sir, this year also" (v. 8). The possibility of conversion is not unlimited; thus, it is necessary to seize it immediately; otherwise it might be lost forever. This Lent, we can consider: what do I have to do to draw nearer to the Lord, to convert myself, to "cut out" those things that are not good? "No, no, I will wait for next Lent". But will I be alive next Lent? Today, let us each think: what must I do before this mercy of God who awaits me and who always forgives? What must I do? We can have great trust in God's mercy but without abusing it. We must not justify spiritual laziness, but increase our commitment to respond promptly to this mercy with heartfelt sincerity.

During the time of Lent, the Lord invites us to convert. Each of us must feel addressed by this call, and correct something in our lives, in our way of thinking, of behaving and of living our relationships with others. At the same time, we must imitate the patience of God who trusts in everyone's ability to "rise again" and to continue the journey. God is Father and does not extinguish the weak flame, but rather, accompanies and cares for those who are weak so that they may gain strength and bring their contribution of love to the community. May the Virgin Mary help us to live these days of preparation for Easter as a time of spiritual renewal and trusting openness to the grace of God and his mercy.

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/Bk8AfrGupUg?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

Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua
The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." While the children of Israel were camped on Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the children of Israel no longer had manna; they are the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
The poor one called, and the Lord heard,
and saved that person from every trouble

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

A reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians
Brothers and sisters:
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away;
see, everything has become new! All of this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
I will get up and go to my father and say to him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them a parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them.

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. The young man would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' "

so he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and puts his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe – the best one – and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!'

And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when they came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. The slave replied, 'Your brother has come and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him, 'Son you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

Reflection

In each celebration of Mass, we hear of the generosity of God the Father who gives us not merely sandals on our feet and a new robe around our shoulders – but his own Son in the Eucharist

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

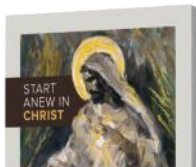
STATION OF THE CROSS

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.

CHRISM MASS

This year Chrism Mass (Mass of the Oils) at St Patrick's Cathedral is on **TUESDAY, 15 APRIL, 2025** at 10am.



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 next gathering will be on **FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2025** in the Tim O'Toole Annexe. If your 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

Multiculturalism is a core part of the Victorian identity, our character and way of life. Our state is home to people who speak 290 languages and have 314 different ancestries. It's also a place where anyone can contribute and belong. Cultural Diversity Week is a time to celebrate the power, influence, and stories of Victoria's rich multicultural communities, and all Victorians are invited to participate through a variety of in-person events and activities. In 2025, Cultural Diversity Week will take place across the state from 17 - 23 March.

As we prepare for Cultural Diversity Week, we invite Victorians to reflect on the day that paved the way for these celebrations. March 21 is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD). This day reminds us that while celebrating multiculturalism is vital, so too is supporting and advocating on behalf of multicultural communities. IDERD concludes Cultural Diversity Week, and so we invite all communities to continue conversations about diversity, inclusion and belonging long after the week has ended. For more information <https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity-week-victorian-multicultural-commission>

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:

Third Sunday of LENT Yr C

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

Luke 13:1-9

Fourth Sunday of LENT Yr C

Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Luke 15: 1-3. 11-32

www.universalis.com

This weekend we pray for:

Those who are sick

Annette Tanner, 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

Paul Darbyshire, Michael O'Callaghan, Giuseppe Rubbino, Hasel Francisco, Joyce Charlotte Livingston, Aida Hendriks, Russell Ferreira, Anton Jansz, Marianayagam, Stephen D'Souza, Joe Trindade, Mireille D'Argent, Gerarde Heeraman **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

During this Lenten Season,
come join us for a session on
SORROWS OF MOTHER MARY
April 11th, 2025

begins straight after 9am Mass, until 10.30am
Lead by Fr Sony CP
At St Paul Apostle Church,
Endeavour Hills

St Paul Apostle Parish Endeavour Hills
MINISTERS OF WORD/ COMMENTATORS 2025

	Saturday—6pm	Sunday 9am	Sunday 11am	Sunday 6pm
1st Sunday	Mary Pegram Liz Spear	Virendra Jayetileke Alvita Dias	Anne Astin Rinku Arora	Stephen Nasalio William Roncon
2nd Sunday	Marg Daly Liseby Lapierre	Grace Sudjono Rosa Mitchell	Mars Sota Beth Sota	Charlene Nheu Mignonne Meerwald
3rd Sunday	Liz Flood Trevor Saldanha	Agnes Giam William Round	Anne Astin Cecilia Tan	Jeremy Ferrao Reg Young
4th Sunday	Mark Rolfe Karen Rolfe	Mary Moore Jodicee Tenisio	Mary Heaton Yvonne Sherwin	Marg Keating William Roncon
5th Sunday	Marg Daly Trevor Saldanha	Grace Sudjono Janina Gorski	Mary Heaton Jennifer Tanti	Lakni Weerasekera Charlene Nheu