

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

10 March 2024

Readings

Next Week

Jer 31:31-34
Ps 50:3-4, 12-15
Heb 5:7-9
Jn 12:20-30

in a nutshell

God loved the World so Much.
During the season of Lent we humbly acknowledge the ways in which we have failed to respond to our Christian vocation. We do this before a God who is infinitely rich in mercy and grace, who sent the Son to the world not to condemn it but to be its saviour. Acknowledging our failings and accepting healing and forgiveness from Christ prepares us to celebrate the feast of Easter with Joy.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering, Frankie Petinella
For those who have died recently and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time

of special note

Stations of the Cross is celebrated every Friday during lent.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.)

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.)

O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

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

Weekday Mass & Rosary

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

Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

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

Exposition

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

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.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.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

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

Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church leaving the front for the truly disabled.

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 Alan Somers
0419 134 300

**Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: mountevelyn@cam.org.au**

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

Regular Gardening/Working Bee—1st & 3rd Friday

Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church. 4pm onwards

Next—Friday March 15

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, 19 March

Finance Committee 7:00pm

Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm

Parish Council 8:00pm

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH



Parish Notices

New Tap and Go Terminals

Further to our new method of collecting contributions to the Parish and Presbytery, we have two new Tap and Go machines: one for the parish account and one for the presbytery account. These are placed beside the respective collection boxes in the narthex. These machines allow you to choose the amount you are giving. Be patient we are trying to rectify connection problems!

A reminder that as collections are no longer taken up during Mass donations can be placed in the labelled boxes in the narthex either before or after Mass.

Stations of the Cross During Lent

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. Jesus said to St Faustina: There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy.

Mount Evelyn: 7:30pm; Yarra Junction: 6:00pm.

Project Compassion—Fourth Sunday of Lent

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Good friends find pleasure in one another's company. Let us know pleasure in the company of our best Friend, a Friend who can do everything for us, a Friend who loves us beyond measure. Here in the Blessed Sacrament we can talk to him straight from the heart...We are perfectly free to approach the King of the universe with full confidence and without fear. (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

Confession: Each one must confess his sin so that God's forgiveness, already granted on the Cross, may have an effect in his heart and in his life. (Pope Benedict XVI)

Adoration: Friday morning 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

February Finance Report

Total income (stewardship & Cash): \$5097.07

Total Expenditure: \$11441.12

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours.

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change lives. Learn more: Join our Mission Webinar March 5th, 2024, 6:00 - 6:30 pm.

63 years preparing Australians for enduring global relationships to build sustainable, self-reliant, community development. Learn Even More: Join our two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together.

Contact: 02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au

Celebrating 170 years of St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia

1854–2024

Fr Gerald Ward arrived in Melbourne in 1850 from England where he was familiar with the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. After serving a number of parishes, he was appointed parish priest of St Francis's in the city.

Fr Gerald Ward established the first conference in Australia at St Francis church in Melbourne on 5 March 1854. He became our first official 'conference president' and set about addressing problems, such as the devastatingly high numbers of homeless and deserted children roaming the streets – the direct result of parents leaving for the Gold Rush fields, such as Ballarat and Bendigo.

In 1855, Fr Ward became responsible for five orphaned children and, after discussions with the government, he witnessed the laying of the foundation stone for the St Vincent de Paul Orphanage in South Melbourne, where the first children were accepted in 1857. This was considered the first 'Special Work' of the Society in Australia.

Fr Ward told the Victorian Government (in the language of the day) that "the new conference aims to provide relief for the destitute, in a manner as much as possible permanently beneficial and the visitation of poor families". Tragically, he died in 1858 (less than 10 years of arriving in Australia) and was widely known as "one in whom many a widow and orphan had found a good friend".

Fr Ward's enduring legacy is the continuation of his early work through the Society's 242 conferences, 3,632 members, 6,434 volunteers and 113 Vinnies Shops across Victoria.

While the works of our Society have evolved over the past 170 years to cater for ongoing changes in our communities, our Mission, Vision and Purpose remain the same. The continuing story of the Society in Victoria and, more broadly, Australia relies on the Vincentian community which gathers in conferences across Victoria and our vast nation.

Something to Bring a Smile!

There once was a man named Mr Odd. He got so tired of people making jokes about his name, he wrote in his will that he did not want his name on his headstone. Years later, when people visited the cemetery where he was buried they saw the blank headstone and would say, "That's odd!"

Sourced from www.majellan.media

Readings Reflection

[Living in the Light](#)

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89:3).

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm.

But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4).

God is rich in mercy, as today's Epistle teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations (see 2 Samuel 7:14–15; Psalm 2:7–9). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see Revelation 22:16).

Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see Wisdom 16:6–7; Numbers 21:9). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself (see John 12:32).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see John 19:37) and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

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

Laetare Sunday is permeated with a joy

This Fourth Sunday of Lent, traditionally known as “Laetare Sunday”, is permeated with a joy which, to some extent, attenuates the penitential atmosphere of this holy season: “Rejoice Jerusalem!”, the Church says in the Entrance Antiphon, “Be glad for her ... you who mourned for her”.

The refrain of the Responsorial Psalm echoes this invitation: “The memory of you, Lord, is our joy”. To think of God gives joy. We spontaneously ask ourselves: but why should we rejoice? One reason, of course, is the approach of Easter. The expectation of Easter gives us a foretaste of the joy of the encounter with the Risen Christ.

The deepest reason, however, lies in the message offered by the biblical readings that the liturgy presents to us today and that we have heard. They remind us that despite our unworthiness, God’s infinite mercy is destined for us. God loves us in a way that we might call “obstinate” and enfolds us in his inexhaustible tenderness.

This is what already emerges from the First Reading from the Book of Chronicles in the Old Testament (cf. 2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23). The sacred author offers us a concise and meaningful interpretation of the history of the Chosen People, who suffered God’s punishment as a consequence of their rebellious behaviour: the temple was destroyed and the people in exile no longer had a land; it truly seemed that God had forgotten them.

Then, however, they saw that God, through punishment, pursues a plan of mercy. It was to be the destruction of the Holy City and the temple—as I said—, it was to be an exile that would move the people’s hearts and bring them back to their God so that they might know him more deeply. And then the Lord, demonstrating the absolute primacy of his initiative over every purely human effort, was to make use of a pagan, King Cyrus of Persia, to set Israel free. In the text we have heard, the anger and mercy of the Lord alternate in a dramatic sequence, but love triumphs in the end, for God is love.

How can we fail to grasp from the memory of those distant events a message valid for all times, including our own? In thinking of the past centuries, we can see that God continues to love us even when he punishes us. Even when God’s plans pass through trial and punishment, they always aim at an outcome of mercy and forgiveness.

This is what the Apostle Paul confirmed for us in the Second Reading, recalling that “God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ” (Eph 2:4–5).

To express this reality of salvation the Apostle, together with the term “mercy”, *eleos* in Greek, uses the word for love, *agape*, taken up and further amplified in the most beautiful statement which we heard in the Gospel passage: “God so loved the world that he gave his Only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (Jn 3:16).

As we know, that “giving” on the part of the Father had a dramatic development: it even went to the point of the sacrifice of the Son on the Cross.

If Jesus’ entire mission in history is an eloquent sign of God’s love, his death, in which God’s redeeming tenderness is fully expressed, is quite uniquely so. Always, but particularly in this Lenten Season, our meditation must be centred on the Cross. In it we contemplate the glory of the Lord that shines out in the martyred body of Jesus.

God’s greatness, his being love, becomes visible precisely in this total gift of himself. It is the glory of the Crucified One that every Christian is called to understand, live and bear witness to with his life.

The Cross—the giving of himself on the part of the Son of God—is the definitive “sign” par excellence given to us so that we might understand the truth about man and the truth about God: we have all been created and redeemed by a God who sacrificed his only Son out of love.

This is why the Crucifixion, as I wrote in the Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, “is the culmination of that turning of God against himself in which he gives himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form” (n. 12).

How should we respond to this radical love of the Lord?

The Gospel presents to us a person by the name of Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin of Jerusalem who sought out Jesus by night. He was a well-to-do man, attracted by the Lord’s words and example, but one who hesitated to take the leap of faith because he was fearful of others. He felt the fascination of this Rabbi, so different from the others, but could not manage to rid himself of the conditioning of his environment that was hostile to Jesus, and stood irresolute on the threshold of faith.

How many people also in our time are in search of God, in search of Jesus and of his Church, in search of divine mercy, and are waiting for a “sign” that will touch their minds and their hearts!

Today, as then, the Evangelist reminds us that the only “sign” is Jesus raised on the Cross: Jesus who died and rose is the absolutely sufficient sign. Through him we can understand the truth about life and obtain salvation.

This is the principal proclamation of the Church, which remains unchanged down the ages.

The Christian faith, therefore, is not an ideology but a personal encounter with the Crucified and Risen Christ. From this experience, both individual and communitarian, flows a new way of thinking and acting: an existence marked by love is born, as the saints testify.

Benedict XVI, Fourth Sunday of Lent Homily, 26 March 2006