



MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH PARISH

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: TO BE A LIGHT UNTO THE WORLD

Parish Priest: Fr. Bosco Sangbok Son SVD

Parish Secretary: Veena Miranda

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00am - 3:00pm

Acknowledgement of Country : We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, Elders and communities and the spirit that binds us in our dreams and aspirations on Dharawal country. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

24th & 25th February 2024

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

**Of you my heart has spoken; Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
Hide not your face from me.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis
(22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18)

(The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith).

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your

son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 115)

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Reader: I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Reader: Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make; I will call on the Lord's name.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Reader: My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

All: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans
(8:31-34)

(God did not spare his own Son).

Parish News and Happenings

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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: (Mark 9:2-10)

(This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him).

Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; Listen to him.

**Readings for the 3rd Sunday of Lent
Year B : 2nd & 3rd March 2024
Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25**

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday : 6:00 pm. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday : 8:00 am & 10:00 am.

Weekday Masses :

Mon- Fridays at 9:00 am

Saturday : 8.30am

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday : 5:15pm – 5:45pm

Every Wednesday : NOVENA to our Mother Mary,
6:30pm Rosary followed by Novena Prayers

Lenten Reflection : Every Sundays during Lent at
2.30pm in the Logos Centre.

Sunday School : Every Sundays during 10am Mass
in the Logos Centre. (during the School Term)

BAPTISMS are open.

For Baptism Preparation please contact **Maria D'souza** through email :
maria197114@gmail.com or **Contact the parish office.**

BAPTISMS on 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 11:30am

Pieta - Lenten Program 2024 :

PIETÀ is an exquisite 80-page (full-color book) containing short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) is available for sale in the Church Foyer. Please see Lina for your copy Or visit parish office (during parish office hours).

Price : \$5/book

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church

Lenten Reflection

Lenten reflection will start on February 18, Sunday at 2:30 pm up to March 24. All are welcome to join.

Bible study resumes on April 14.



Our Catechumens on the day of "Rite of Election" with Bishop Brian



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Parish News and Happenings

Parish Cuppa Weekend

WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY will be holding the monthly Parish Weekend Cuppa on the weekend of **2nd & 3rd March** after weekend masses. You are welcome to bring something sweet or savoury to share. Gold Coin donation appreciated.

Reconciliation 1st Rite

Tuesday, 19th March OR Thursday 21st March 2024 at 6pm (depends on Carmelite Priests availability).

EASTER SERVICES

Holy Thursday, 28th March 2024

Mass at 7pm

Good Friday, 29th March 2024:

Stations of the Cross at 9am

First Rite of Reconciliation at 10am

Celebration of the passion of the Lord at 3pm

Holy Saturday, 30th March 2024:

Easter Vigil Mass at 7pm

Easter Sunday, 31st March 2024:

Mass at 8am & 10am

Death Notice :

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved parishioner,

Lola Moors, who was actively involved in various parish ministries. Lola passed away on Tuesday, 20th Feb 2024.

We extend our deepest condolences to her family and friends and offer our prayers for the repose of her soul. Funeral arrangements are not yet finalized.



Rest in Peace Lola

Reflection : God is in our side

St. Paul tells us that God is on our side. Therefore, neither suffering nor tragedy nor death should separate us from the love of God, a love which we have seen in Christ. Maya Angelu, the American poet and author, is a wise woman and a spiritual one too. She tells how one day she had a religious awakening. It happened in a very simple manner. She was in her twenties and had just moved to San Francisco. She says that at that time she was an acting agnostic. It wasn't that she had stopped believing God; it was just that God didn't seem to be around the neighbour-

hoods she frequented. Then a voice teacher introduced her to a book entitled Lessons in Truth.

She tells how one day the teacher asked her to read to him from the book: I was twenty-four, very erudite, very worldly. He asked me to read a section which ended with the words: "God loves me." I read the piece and closed the book, and the teacher said, 'Read it again.' I pointedly opened the book, and sarcastically read, 'God loves me.' He said, 'Again.' After about the seventh repetition I began to sense that there might be truth in the statement, that there was a possibility that God really did love me. Yes, me, Maya Angelou. Suddenly I began to cry the grandness of it all. I knew that if God loved me, then I could do wonderful things, I could try great things, learn anything, achieve anything. For what could stand against me when God was with me, since any person with God constitutes the majority.

For Maya Angelu, though she believed, God seemed very remote and unreal. It is only when she become convinced that God loved her that God became real for her. Then that belief energised her. Suddenly she felt that she could do anything, face anything, since God loved her and was with her. Jesus had just began his journey to Jerusalem. Up to this time he had been working mostly in Galilee. Even there, the area where he had grown up, he had met a lot of opposition from the religious leaders. But in going to Jerusalem he sensed that a violent death awaited him there. Naturally he recoiled from such a fate. It seems that it was to reflect on this and to pay about it, that he climbed to the top of Mount Tabor.

Jesus had a marvellous experience on that mountain. He heard those wonderful words: 'You are my beloved Son; I am pleased with you.' In other words, he knew that God loved him. This assurance would give him the strength to face the future whatever it held. Our problem is that as soon as we run into trouble our faith fails us. We think that God has abandoned us. But if we pray we will come realise that God has not abandoned us, but is present in our suffering.

At all times, but especially in times of difficulty, we should remember what St Paul says: 'God is on our side.' And with God on our side, we can face anything. To know that nothing can separate us from the love of God is our strength in times of weakness and our hope in times of adversity. In the face of pain, all we have to do is abandon ourselves to his care. Like Jesus on Tabor we too can experience rare moments of light and joy. We get glimpses of the promised land towards which we are travelling in faith. In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come.

Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies

Parish News and Happenings

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Fr Joseph Reddy / Joval

Thanksgiving : Kamini / Babitha Constant

This week masses have been offered for the Sick and Special needs of :



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|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Dr Lydia de Jesus | * Eva Silang |
| * Dr Joycelyn de Jesus | * Carole Dimayuga |
| * Leslie Reich | * Selda Dimayuga |
| * Noli Leyesa | * Nancie |
| * Jaypee Masangkay | * Mason Dulalia |
| * Aida Dayao | * Jun & Charo Doctors |
| * Victor Padura | * TJ del Rio |
| * Nelia Ambat | * Catherine Nguyen |
| * Vivian Martin | * Danny Titmarsh |
| * Sybil Le Miere | * Resty Perez |
| * Mik Jones | * Susan Biag |
| * Lucinda Rose | * Annie Beardley |
| * Amy Wendon | * Cysiane |
| * Christine | * Feliciano Matildo |
| * Marie-ange Suggun | * Bernie Hoey |
| * Maria Vu | * Thushara |
| * Maria D'Souza | |
| * Stevie, Clarissa, Jacob | |

THIS WEEK MASSES HAVE BEEN OFFERED FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS & DEATH ANNIVERSARIES OF :



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|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ✠ Lola Moors | ✠ Maxwell Forland |
| ✠ Luz Lopez | ✠ Claude Serett |
| ✠ Eileen O'Connor - Servant of God | ✠ Rudolf Ciganok |
| ✠ Carolina Sabado | ✠ Simforiana Carbo |
| ✠ Artemio Sr. Sabado | ✠ Pat Wenden |
| ✠ Lorenza & Nateliano Padayon | ✠ Jim Crowe |
| ✠ Alfreda & Rustico Besabella | |
| ✠ Harry Meyne | |
| ✠ Kathleen Robinson | |
| ✠ Gerard Rochecouste | |
| ✠ James Peter Dawson | |
| ✠ Benjamin Domingo | |
| ✠ Josephine McKay | |
| ✠ Marjorie & Ernest Dias | |
| ✠ Peter Foster | |
| ✠ Deceased Members of : | |
| - Helene Family | |
| - Fernando Family | |
| - Vu Family | |
| - Dinh Family | |
| ✠ All souls in Purgatory | |



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 - ✓ After funeral bereavement support available
 - ✓ Arrangements made at our Campbelltown office or in the comfort of your own home
- Call our caring staff on 4620 8822**

SVD Prayer : *"May the darkness of sin and night of unbelief vanish before the light of the Word and the spirit of grace, and may the heart of Jesus live in the hearts of all. Amen"* **Saint Arnold Janssen**

Lenten Prayer :

God of all peoples and nations,
As you accompany us on our Lenten journey,
May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,
Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and
Our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.
Through living simply and loving generously,
May we care for our global family and our common home, as we
*"Aspire not to have more, but to be more".**
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

*Saint Oscar Romero

The 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.*