



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.

4th Sunday of Lent - Year B

9th & 10th March 2024

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Entrance Antiphon

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

FIRST READING

A reading from the second book of Chronicles
(36:14-16, 19-23)

(The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people).

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this

land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 136)

All: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reader: By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.

All: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reader: 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.'

All: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

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

Parish News and Happenings

All: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reader: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

All: Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians
(2:4-10)

(When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life).

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.

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!

GOSPEL: (John 3:14-21)

(God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him).

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.

Readings for the 5th Sunday of Lent
Year B : 16th & 17th March 2024
Jer 31:31-34; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

BAPTISMS are open.

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



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. 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.

Lenten Reflection

Lenten reflection : Every Sunday at 2:30 pm during Lent . All are welcome to join.

Bible study resumes on April 14, 2024

Station of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7:00pm in the church.

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)

Parish News and Happenings

Reconciliation 1st Rite

Tuesday, 19th March at 6:00pm

**Good Friday, 29th March 2024 at 10am
(after Stations of the Cross)**

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

A Spiritual Retreat for Women with powerful teaching and testimonies followed by a healing service led by Anastasia Rebello and team.

Come and Experience Women Alive

Never let the fire in your heart go out. Keep it alive. Serve the Lord



**Saturday 13th April
2024 (9:30am to
3:30pm)** at
St John's Parish Hall,
31 Cordeaux St,
Campbelltown.
Free Entry.

RSVP : SMS Maria D'Souza on 0433 905 968

Notice : Lenten healing retreat with Father Roni George from Divine retreat centre, Somersby . Come with your friends and family to receive Gods healing touch. There will be worship, healing mass and adoration at Good Shepherd Church , 21 Twentieth Ave , Hoxton Park on Friday March 22nd from 7 pm to 9.30 pm.

Notice: Please note that there will be no Adoration after the mass on **Friday 15th March** due to the funeral service.

Funeral Notices : **Aida Smith** passed away on 06-03-24 and her funeral Mass will be held in our church on Wednesday 13th March at 11:00am

Ryan Saville passed away on 02-03-24 and his funeral Service will be held in our church on Friday 15th March at 10:30am

4th Sunday of Lent

Reflection :

Nicodemus

Nicodemus is at the centre of today's Gospel. Even though he appears only three times in the Gospel Story (all three appearances occur in John), he is a very interesting character. He was a Pharisee, and a member of the Sanhedrin – the supreme court of the Jews.

The first time Nicodemus appears is in the Gospel passage we've just read. We are told that he was impressed by the teaching and deeds of Jesus. It was clear to him that the hand of God was in them. So he came to see Jesus, but did so under cover of darkness. Which suggests that he didn't want to be seen. But we shouldn't be too hard on him on this account. Given the fact that he was a Pharisee, it was a wonder he came at all. Jesus honoured him with a long interview.

By the time Nicodemus puts in his second appearance, opposition to Jesus had hardened. By now the Pharisees had made up their minds to kill him, and were ready to do so without even giving him a trial. But Nicodemus intervened, declaring that Jesus should at least be given a fair hearing as the law demanded (Jn 7:51). This was a more public involvement with Jesus. And the third and last time Nicodemus appears is at the burial of Jesus. It was he who provided a large quantity of expensive spices for his burial (Jn 19:39)

What can we deduce about Nicodemus from these three brief appearances? The first appearance shows that he was an open-minded man, and a genuine seeker of the truth. The second appearance shows that he was a fair-minded man, when he insisted that Jesus should not be condemned without a trial. And the third appearance shows that he was a wealthy man, but also a generous and compassionate one.

All of these qualities we can admire and copy with profit. But what Nicodemus seems to have been unable to do was come straight out and make a full and public act of faith in Jesus. He doesn't seem to have had the courage to come out of the darkness and choose decisively for the light. We are left with the picture of a decent man, who could have been a great man. A mediocre person – neither a great saint nor a great sinner.

Reflecting on Nicodemus should challenge us to come out from the shadows, and not to be afraid or ashamed to profess openly our faith in Jesus, and to be ready to pay whatever price is required for doing so. Those who believe will not be lost, but will have eternal life. But it is not simply a matter of believing, but of living according to that belief.

New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies
Flor McCarthy, SDB

9th & 10th March 2024

Parish News and Happenings

Thanksgiving & Special Intention Mass offered for:

Birthday : Doreen Fraser / Judeson Peter

Thanksgiving : Clara D'Souza / Smith Family

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 |
| * Christine | * Cysiane |
| * Marie-ange Suggun | * Feliciana Matildo |
| * Maria Vu | * Bernie Hoey |
| * Maria D'Souza | * Thushara |
| * Stevie, Clarissa, Jacob | |
| * Mick Jones | |

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



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|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| ✠ Lola Moors | ✠ Demetria Aquina |
| ✠ Amy Wenden | ✠ Yolanda Lava |
| ✠ Francoise Sidonie | ✠ Joanne Helene |
| ✠ Marta Rudmann | ✠ Josef Pespischi |
| ✠ Remo de Santis | ✠ Roger Lerch |
| ✠ Ian Longhurst | ✠ Elizabeth Clarke |
| ✠ Saviour | ✠ Edan Kaciuno |
| ✠ Carolina & Artemio Sr Sabato | ✠ Lucrese Helene |
| ✠ Domenic & Maria Dinh | ✠ Franciszek Smolik |
| ✠ Peter & Maria Nguyen | ✠ May Quealy |
| ✠ Ernesto & Marilyn Padayon | ✠ Wilfred Dyson |
| ✠ Nateliano & Lorenza Padayon | ✠ Juvana Lopez |
| ✠ Gregorio Damicog Sr | ✠ Lourd Amma |
| ✠ Noel & Lucrese Helene | |
| ✠ Anthonipillai Peter | |
| ✠ Consolation Zabat | |
| ✠ Leticia Olate | |
| ✠ Narciso San Miguel | |
| ✠ John Mach Due Nguyen | |
| ✠ Christian Gutierrez | |
| ✠ All souls in Purgatory | |



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- ✓ Catholic family owned and operated
 - ✓ 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.*