

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT— YEAR B

06— 07 MARCH 2021

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday - 9am-4pm, Friday, 1pm - 5pm)

Corrie (Wed-Thurs, 9am - 3pm)



GOSPEL— HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself - thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. However, to complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage - so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

Different View - Just like Jesus

This gospel passage must be one of the most commonly misused passages in the Bible. Often it is used as justification for someone losing their temper, or worse, an outrageous temper tantrum, or 'dummy spit'. People will declare in their defence, 'Well, Jesus lost his temper and got angry in the Temple!' They fail to appreciate the difference between their own hot-headedness and the outrage against injustice that was being expressed by Jesus.

Greg Sunter

Reflection

God has given us the Ten Commandments, the Law, the Prophets and Jesus his Son, so that we might know the Way, the Truth and the Life. When we are called to account for how we spent our lives, whom we loved and how we made the world a better place for all, most of us will not be able to plead ignorance. May our Eucharist this Sunday enable us to be mindful of what the Ten Commandments say, but even more may it give us the courage and strength to live them out in a world that needs witnesses to them more than ever.

Richard Leonard, SJ

A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH

*St Joseph, you were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial. You kept Jesus and Mary
under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our
local Church to respond to those in need. You taught the
Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.
You were part of God's plan for all humanity:
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.
You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly
the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.
You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation:
help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, Thy will be done. Amen.*



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of *anything...*” - Exodus 20:4

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

MASS ONLINE

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE

Masses are livestreamed daily on our Archdiocesan YouTube channel and on Sundays are available to view on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV).

BOX HILL PARISH

Daily Masses: <https://www.facebook.com/GBHparish>

Sunday Masses also on:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/GreaterBoxHillParish>

MASS FOR YOU AT HOME

Available at Network Ten - 10 Play

<https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

VIETNAMESE SUNDAY MASS AT 5:00 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/sttimvn>



Our Thanksgiving Online Payment Portal is **Parish Pay Portal**

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=116521&langPref=en-CA>

Gratitude for your continuing support.

You may also opt to use the direct debit facility, kindly email or call us for application form or the Parish bank details.

SACRAMENTS:

Baptism: 1st Sunday of the Month (9:00 AM Mass)

- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

2021 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy’s school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy’s school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday from 9:00-3PM and Friday from 1:00- 5:00PM

MASS TIMES:

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
 - ◆ Sunday: 9:00 AM
 - ◆ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.

WEEKDAYS:

- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am



Let us rejoice and extend our blessings to

CHARLOTTE GRACE TA

on her Baptism Day

07 March 2021



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

THE POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

Let us pray that the Lord may give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open ourselves to all.

Autumn Ember Days

5 March

Ember days mark the beginning of each of the four seasons.

Kept in the Roman Church since the 5th century, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has decided to observe the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance.



THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

New sets of Thanksgiving envelopes and Quarterly statements are now available in the foyer.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Gerald Oliver, Frank Boyle, Charles Curmi, Dymrna O’Reilly, Karen Day, Noel Tenorio, Anne O’Connor, James Russouw, John Burns, Rob Davey, Geordy Hanley, Mary Benson, Mary Maguire, Jim Parslow, Elsie Carr, Marie Mullane, Paul Griffin, Mary Grealy, Florence Lloyd, Carmine Rodolfo Rizzuto, Inge Cammans, John Michael Collins.

ROSTERS:	6:00PM	9:00AM
EUCHARIST MINISTERS		
◆ This Week	Peter Naughtin	Chin L Tay
◆ Next week	Mary Italiano	Eleanor Mendes
PROCLAIMERS		
◆ This Week C/ P:	Rachel Grealy	Alfred Lee
◆ Next week C/ P:	Peggy D’ Cruz	Daphne Hickman Andrew Johny
COUNTERS		
This Week: Peter Deayton/ Lester Steele		
Next Week: Michael Yii / Kelvin Chen		



POPE: FOR LENT, READ GOSPEL, FAST FROM GOSSIP

People should fast from gossiping and spreading hearsay and instead take up reading the Gospel as part of their Lenten journey, Pope Francis said on Sunday. “For Lent this year, I will not speak ill of others, I will not gossip and all of us can do this, everyone. This is a wonderful kind of fasting,” the Pope said after praying the Angelus.

Greeting visitors in St Peter’s Square, the Pope said his advice for Lent included adding a different kind of fasting “that won’t make you feel hungry: fasting from spreading rumours and gossiping”.

“And don’t forget that it will also be helpful to read a verse from the Gospel every day,” he said, urging people to have on hand a pocket-size edition to read whenever possible, even if it is just a random verse.

“This will open your heart to the Lord,” he added.

Francis marked Rare Disease Day, also held on Sunday, to raise awareness and improve advocacy and access to treatment.

He thanked all those involved in medical research for diagnosing and coming up with treatments for rare diseases, and he encouraged support networks and associations so people do not feel alone and can share experience and advice.

“Let us pray for all people who have a rare disease,” he said, especially for children who suffer.

CATHOLIC SECTOR PUSHES FOR ‘ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION’ REFORM

Catholic Health Australia is urging the Morrison Government to not let the once-in-a-generation opportunity presented by the aged care royal commission for lasting and meaningful reform pass it by.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison released the final report and announced the Government will spend \$452 million to fix Australia’s aged care system as part of a first step in responding to the royal commission into the sector.

Catholic Health Australia, which is the largest grouping of non-government aged care providers, said in its response to the royal commission’s final report the Government should concentrate its efforts on four key areas:

- Giving families choice and control over the type of care they need, including gradually removing the waiting list for home care packages and ending the rationing of services;
- Putting in place more staff and training and paying them properly;
- Increased disclosure and transparency that rates performance; and
- Providing timely access by older people in aged care to the services of the wider health system.

CHA chief executive Pat Garcia acknowledged the hard but necessary work undertaken by the commissioners and said his members were looking forward to hearing the Government’s response in full. “Our members recognise that significant reform is needed to deliver an aged care system that really caters for the needs of older Australians and puts them at the very centre of what we do.

BENEDICT SAYS DECISION TO RESIGN WAS ‘THE RIGHT THING’

Benedict XVI addressed conspiracy theories about his resignation as pope in an interview with an Italian newspaper published a day after the eighth anniversary of the end of his pontificate. The pope emeritus told Corriere della Sera that he stood by his decision despite criticism from his friends.

“It was a difficult decision. But I made it in full consciousness, and I think I did the right thing,” the 93-year-old told the journalist Massimo Franco during a private visit.

“Some of my friends who are a bit ‘fanatical’ are still angry, they didn’t want to accept my choice. I think of the conspiracy theories that followed it: some said it was because of the Vatileaks scandal, some said it was because of a conspiracy of the gay lobby, some said it was because of the case of the conservative Lefebvrian theologian Richard Williamson.

“They do not want to believe in a choice made consciously. But my conscience is fine.”

His almost eight-year-long pontificate was overshadowed by the publication of confidential papal documents, known as the Vatileaks scandal, leaked by his butler. The Italian media also speculated about the existence of a “gay lobby” at the Vatican before Benedict XVI’s resignation.

In 2009, Benedict lifted the excommunication of four Society of St Pius X bishops, including Bishop Williamson. Shortly afterward, Swedish television broadcast an interview with Bishop Williamson that led to the English bishop’s conviction for Holocaust denial by a German court.

He also underlined that there is only one pope – Francis – rather than two.

Benedict XVI announced his resignation on February 11, 2013. His resignation went into effect on February 28, 2013, when he became the first pope in almost 600 years to step down.

WORKING DOCUMENT FOR THE FIFTH PLENARY COUNCIL RELEASED

The working document for the Fifth Plenary Council of Australia provides a catalyst for the Church to renew the journey of prayer and discernment toward the first assembly in October, Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says.

The document, known as an *instrumentum laboris*, draws heavily on the voices heard during the Listening and Dialogue and Listening and Discernment phases of the Plenary Council, but also from other key sources. It is entitled Continuing the Journey.

‘As writers, we drew inspiration from Scripture, writings and teachings of the Church including the documents of the Second Vatican Council, encyclicals and papal exhortations, Australian bishops’ pastoral letters and more.

‘This is an exciting step forward and we take it together, amidst a time of great change. More than 220,000 people participated in the first stages of Listening and Dialogue, and those voices can be heard clearly in the working document,’ said Archbishop Costelloe, president of the Plenary Council.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

The Ten Commandments are badly named. Rather, they are the Ten Responses which should characterize a liberated people, freed from slavery by 'the Lord, your God'. We could take a moment to pray, using the Ten Responses to review and guide our reflection and practice as we move towards Easter. This will help us to celebrate the enigmatic saying: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it again.' In short, God's sanctuary is not a place but a person. And, by baptismal adoption, we can share in this extraordinary status: we too can become temples. (*Fr Michael Tate*)

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you are the wisdom of God.	Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you call us to have a change of heart.	Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, your law is worth more than gold.	Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

FIRST READING: Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. 'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. 'You shall not kill. 'You shall not commit adultery. 'You shall not steal. 'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**
4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

SECOND READING: 1Cor1: 22-25

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL: Jn2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

NEXT SUNDAY: 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Second Reading: Eph 2:4-10; Gospel: Jn 3:14-21