

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR B

13 – 14 MARCH 2021

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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



ARE WE LIKE THOSE PEOPLE?

The first readings for Sundays 1 to 4 of Lent sketch for us the history of salvation, reminding us that, from humanity's beginnings, we have needed, and received, rescue from sin. Next week we will hear a prophecy of what that history of salvation pointed to: Jesus' Passion and Resurrection, and his Gift of the Spirit. That was the New Covenant, God's ultimate pledge of loyalty; it was God's great saving deed, which won eternal life for all humanity.

In the previous Gospel readings, Jesus himself points forward to that great deed, when his Body, the true Temple, would be lifted up on the Cross so as to pour forth the Living Water. Like the grain of wheat that must be buried to yield a harvest, he would empower us to give our lives in union with him so as to rise in glory.

Today's first reading is about the Temple's destruction. It tells us why God allowed these traumatic events to befall his People: they had not remained faithful to him, they had resisted the Prophets, they had worshipped false "gods" and failed to practise justice or care for the poor. The second reading declares that God is rich in mercy and great in love. So why didn't God protect his people from the heartbreak when Jerusalem was destroyed?

God will never reject his People. That is because he is faithful to his Covenant with Noah, his Promise to Abraham, the fierce love he revealed through Moses - we have been listening to those. For St Paul, Jesus does not abolish the Promise to Abraham. He fulfils it, and graciously opens it to all nations.

Some Christian writers have implied: "We are not like those people of old, whom the Prophets told off. We Christians are better than them, so God will never have reason to reject us." Scripture shows us some people resisting God, and some traumatic events as punishments for sin. St Paul sees such writings as a warning to us. The Liturgy does not give us such texts so that we can pride ourselves, but to make us examine ourselves. After all, Jesus himself warned us that calling him "Lord, Lord" does not ensure entry into his Kingdom.

And today, God's people are in exile. They are homeless, sleeping in the streets of our cities. They are hungry, not knowing where the next meal will come from. They are abused, tortured, and abandoned by society.

How good a witness are we? There remains the challenge of Christ, who "brought us to life when we were dead in sin, and who came not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved."

Richard Conrad O.P. teaches dogmatic and sacramental theology at Blackfriars, Oxford, where he is also the director of the Aquinas Institute.



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

"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.

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>

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI'S 2021 PATRICK ORATION

will be held on Wednesday 17 March. The broadcast begins at 7.30pm and can be viewed on community channel C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and via YouTube at 7.30pm.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Gwendoline Fuller, James William Thomas, Luisa Cigana, Reginald Peters, Sarah Smith, Ona Kilby, Mary McLoney, Cheryl Taylor, Sis Anne Dynon, Bill McKenzie, Noreen Joy Taylor, Annie Reynolds, Margaret Greenway, Leonard Patton, Bro Pat Bicknell, Kevin Bradley, Neven Brysha, Mary Rose Hammett.

ROSTERS:

6:00PM

9:00AM

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

♦ This Week	Peter Naughtin	Trevor Hickman
♦ Next week	Mary Italiano	Pat Kawalevski

PROCLAIMERS

♦ This Week C/P:	Peggy D' Cruz	Daphne Hickman
♦ Next week C/P:	Hubert Lobo	Ryan Yee

COUNTERS

This Week: Michael Yii / Kelvin Chen

Next Week: Mary Choy / Eileen Tam

LENTEN RECONCILIATION

AFTER 9:00 AM MASS

21 MARCH

God is waiting for you to experience his infinite love and mercy!

Reconcile with others

- To be reconciled with someone is a very profound experience.
- A disturbed relationship takes a new beginning!
- For Jesus, making up with others is part of our relationship with God (Matthew 5:23-24).



Reconcile with God

- When you look honestly at your life, illuminated by the Word of God, you will see that you need God's forgiveness.
- Your negligence or sinful actions are completely opposed to his great love for you.
- He ardently desires to forgive and heal you!

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

- 17 March - St Patrick
- 19 March - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Morning Readers and

Commentators

14 March, Sunday after 9:00 mass

Meeting with Margaret King in church.

Holy Week Schedule of Activities



PALM SUNDAY WEEKEND (27-28 MARCH)

- 6:00 PM - SATURDAY VIGIL MASS
- 9:00 AM - SUNDAY MASS
- 5:00 PM - VIETNAMESE MASS

HOLY THURSDAY (01 APRIL)

- 7:00 PM - LORD'S SUPPER
- ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (AFTER MASS UNTIL 10:00PM)

Holy Thursday



GOOD FRIDAY (02 APRIL)

- 2:00 PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- 3:00 PM - PASSION OF THE LORD (FOLLOWED BY CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY)



HOLY SATURDAY (03 APRIL)

- 3:00 PM - CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY
- 8:00 PM - EASTER VIGIL MASS (NO 6:00 PM MASS)



EASTER SUNDAY (04 APRIL)

- 9:00 AM - SUNDAY MASS
- 4:30 PM - DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET
- 5:00 PM - VIETNAMESE MASS



POPE SAYS IRAQ TRIP WAS WORTH THE RISK

Wrapping up his historic four-day trip to Iraq, Pope Francis said the Church's commitment to dialogue with other Churches and with other religions flows from the Gospel, but some Catholics disagree.

"Often you must take a risk" to promote harmony, he told reporters yesterday as he flew back to Rome from Baghdad. "There are some criticisms: 'The Pope isn't courageous, he's reckless.' He's doing things against Catholic doctrine. He's a step away from heresy."

Still, he said, through prayer and listening to the advice of experts and aides, he has become convinced that God wants the Church — and all humanity, for that matter — to continue promoting a sense of belonging to one human family.

With sporadic violence continuing in Iraq, the Pope's March 5-8 trip involved a massive security operation with the deployment of thousands of police and military officers.

But the other danger was posed by COVID-19. Pope Francis said the pandemic was what made him repeatedly think, "maybe, maybe not" about the visit.

"I thought so much, prayed so much" about the Iraq trip because of the coronavirus pandemic, "and in the end I made the decision freely, but it came from within. And I said to myself the one who helped me decide this will take care of the people."

AMBASSADOR: VATICAN MAKING PROGRESS FOR WOMEN LEADERS

International Women's Day was celebrated last Monday with the global theme "Women in leadership: achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world".

In terms of the Church, Pope Francis is making small but significant steps towards greater inclusion of women in decision making and leadership.

He has amended Canon Law so that women may be officially recognised as exercising the ministries of Lector and Acolyte. And he has appointed a woman as Under-Secretary to the Synod of Bishops — with the right to vote.

Chiara Porro, the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See has told Vatican News that Pope Francis is an active promotor of gender equality: "Within the Vatican walls there have been a number of initiatives and relevant appointments that promote gender equality in the workplace" and that highlight the important role that women are playing in the Holy See, in the Vatican, and in the Church at large.

Ms Porro said she believes there's a general realisation of the need to increase female participation in Church leadership.

"By that I don't necessarily mean in the clerical leadership, but as Pope Francis regularly says, women play very important roles within the Catholic Church, in dioceses, in schools, in hospitals, not to mention the fundamental role of religious sisters who are central to the work of the Church across the globe," she said.

"It's about recognising the important contribution of women, giving women a voice at every opportunity, allowing them to contribute to decision-making, which I think is a very important step forward in these appointments and in some of these councils that have been developed."

EUTHANASIA TO BECOME LAW IN TASMANIA IN 2022

Tasmania will join Victoria and Western Australia in legalising voluntary euthanasia, following the passage of a bill through the state's lower house last week.

The End-of-Life Choices bill passed the House of Assembly, with the support of Labor and Greens MPs and a sufficient number of Liberal MPs, who had a conscience vote.

While the euthanasia legislation must return to the upper house, it is expected to pass that chamber later this month, becoming law from mid-2022.

Under the controversial reform, those suffering "intolerably" with terminal illness will be able to apply to access lethal medication, via a multi-stage process requiring support from two doctors.

Opponents of the bill criticised the quality of the debate, as MPs appeared determined to pass the bill. It passed 16-6. Umbrella group Live and Die Well was "very disappointed" at the vote, given that it occurred just over a week after the release of two significant reports into the legislation.

Supporters of the bill have hailed it as nation-leading and long-overdue, after three earlier attempts to enact similar laws in Tasmania in the past decade.

Amendments to allow entire hospitals and aged-care centres to boycott the euthanasia system were defeated.

However, Liberal Premier Peter Gutwein, a supporter of the bill, promised the Catholic health sector would have input into protocols for transferring patients from non-euthanasia participating institutions to those offering it.

READING BIBLE 'BOOSTS MENTAL WELLBEING'

Reading the Bible has had a positive effect on people's "mental wellbeing" during the pandemic, according to a Christian research survey conducted in the United Kingdom.

The survey also found that respondents were reading the Bible more and turning to Bible-related videos more during the pandemic.

The survey, carried out on behalf of the Bible Society, posed a number of questions to 1000 people who identified themselves as Christians and who had attended church at least once a month before restrictions aimed at curbing the pandemic. The questions were asked in December, and the results were published online by the Bible Society on Monday.

Forty-two per cent of respondents reported that reading the Bible increased a "sense of hope in God during the crisis, rising to nearly half (49 per cent) among 45- to 54-year-olds," the report said.

It said 23 per cent of those surveyed said the Bible "had increased their mental wellbeing, including 47 per cent of 24- to 34-year-olds," and 33 per cent of 16- to 24-year-olds reported that reading the Bible had helped them "feel less lonely".

While many continue to turn to print editions of the Bible, 23 per cent reported using "a Bible-reading app, 30 per cent are now listening to the Bible" and 59 per cent of those surveyed said that "they now watched more Bible-related videos or had started watching them."

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. May this Lenten Eucharist enable us to receive the humble gift of right judgment that helps us to see the darkness for what it is, and keeps us walking in the light of Christ. *(Greg Sunter)*

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, it is by grace that we have been saved.	Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.
Christ Jesus, you call us out of darkness into the light of your truth.	Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you came not to condemn but to save.	Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

FIRST READING: 2Chr 36: 14-16, 19-23

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 fulfil 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.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

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

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. 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.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

SECOND READING: Eph 2: 4-10

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.

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:

Jesus said to Nicodemus:
‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone Who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.
On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’