

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT— YEAR B

20 — 21 MARCH 2021

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

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

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



GOD DECLARES THAT THE COVENANT WILL BE 'PLANTED DEEP WITHIN THEM' AND 'WRITTEN ON THEIR HEARTS'

This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again - the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

Greg Sunter

HOLY WEEK CELEBRATION 2021

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has provided some general principles for celebrations during Holy Week. Devotions such as Stations of the Cross, outdoor Masses and liturgies, Lenten and Easter celebrations, parish gatherings etc. are all subject to the relevant COVID regulations, but should be celebrated in a way that retains the beauty and sacredness of each opportunity for worship.

During the Evening Mass for the Lord's Supper, the Washing of the Feet (which is already optional) is to be omitted, and the Veneration of the Holy Cross during the Celebration of the Passion of Our Lord, should be made by a simple genuflection: the Cross is not to be revered with a kiss, or by touching.



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

"I will be their God and they shall be my people."
Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Miria Cardenti, Barbara Marcus,
Vincent James Anderson,
Vincenzo Gigliotti, Veronica Buick,
Fr Walter Silvester SAC,
Harold Lapsley.

ROSTERS: 6:00PM 9:00AM

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

◆ This Week	Peter Naughtin	Pat Kawalevski
◆ Next week	Susan Chen	Chin L Tay

PROCLAIMERS

◆ This Week C/P:	Hubert Lobo	Ryan Yee
◆ Next week C/P:	Patrick Kelly	Trevis Yee

COUNTERS

This Week: Mary Choy / Eileen Tam
Next Week: Patrick Kelly / Anico Yee

LENTEN RECONCILIATION AFTER 9:00 AM MASS 21 MARCH

Forgiveness is not the fruit of our own efforts but rather a gift, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with the wellspring of mercy and of grace that flows unceasingly from the open heart of the Crucified and Risen Christ.
~ Pope Francis

Why confess to a priest?



- Jesus told the Apostles and their successors to forgive sins in God's name (Jn 20:23).
- God knows you need to hear his forgiveness announced to you, just as you need another to tell you 'I love you'.
- Through the words of the priest, who welcomes you in Christ's name, it is God himself who forgives you.

How to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Prepare yourself by calling to mind what God has done for you. Ask yourself: 'When did I go against God's love?'
- No worries: the priest will welcome you and guide you. Make the sign of the cross as he blesses you: "In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit".
- Thank God for his love, and share a text from God's Word which will help you.
- Confess your sins in the light of God's merciful love. The priest will give you some advice and a penitence through which you show your desire to change and live more in accordance with the gospel.
- After a prayer (an act of contrition), the priest formally says in God's name:



'God, the Father of Mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to himself and has sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit'.

Holy Week Schedule of Activities



Palm Sunday

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



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS: A TIMELESS DEVOTION**

The Stations or Way of the Cross is one of the most traditional and identifiable devotional practices in Catholicism. The devotional prayer can be traced back to early Christian pilgrims who would visit the various historical sites in Jerusalem associated with Jesus Christ's suffering and death. Known as the "Via Dolorosa", each station represented a significant place where Christ had walked on his way to crucifixion.

When the Franciscans became custodians of the historical sites in Jerusalem and the Holy Land in 1342, they began to popularise the devotion, and it was not long before the practice spread to other parts of western Europe. Through the centuries the number of stations varied, with some versions numbering up to 40 stations. From around the sixteenth century, there have been fourteen stations, many of which can be identified in parish churches today.

In 1975, the Congregation for Sacred Rites in Rome produced a revised list of the Stations of the Cross, with each station linking closely with the gospel accounts of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This version begins with the Last Supper and concludes with Jesus' Resurrection. This revised version was used by St John Paul II, who reinforced their role in contemplating the life and death of Jesus

Christ:

'What does it mean to have a part in the Cross of Christ? It means to experience, in the Holy Spirit, the love hidden within the Cross of Christ. It means to recognize, in the light of this love, our own cross. It means to take up that cross once more and, strengthened by this love, to continue our journey... To journey through life, in imitation of the one who "endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb 12:2).

—Pope John Paul II, Stations of the Cross at the Colosseum, Good Friday 2000

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN MELBOURNE

As one of the oldest forms of prayer, the stations also serve to connect us with members of the early church. And while the stations recall the events of Jesus' passion, the aim is not to re-enact past events but to be inspired by the Lord's witness of self-giving love.

Melbourne is home to some beautiful versions of the stations, from stained glass windows to sculptures, wood carvings and paintings by local and international artists. With churches now reopened to the public, perhaps this season of Lent is an opportune time to visit and pray the Stations of the Cross at your local parish or in any parishes around Melbourne.

VATICAN ASKS CATHOLICS TO SUPPORT GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

The support of Catholics worldwide is an invaluable resource for small Christian communities in the Middle East that have been devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, a Vatican official said.

In a letter sent to bishops around the world and released by the Vatican, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, asked for continued support for the traditional Good Friday collection for the Holy Land.

"If this small gesture of solidarity and sharing – St Paul and St Francis of Assisi would call it 'restitution' – fails, it will be even more difficult for many of them to resist the temptation to leave their country, more demanding to support the parishes in their pastoral and educational work and harder to sustain the social commitment to the poor and suffering," Cardinal Sandri said.

The collection, taken up at the request of the Pope, is administered by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land and the Congregation for Eastern Churches, which uses it for the formation of candidates for the priesthood, the support of the clergy, educational activities, cultural formation and subsidies.

In his letter, Cardinal Sandri said 2020 was "a year of trials" for the Holy Land's Christians and the economic aid from the annual collection fell short since many churches were forced to close their doors during the pandemic.

Last month, the Holy Land Commissary for Australia, Franciscan Father Mario Debattista, told The Catholic Leader that total donations from Australia to the Holy Land from last year were down below one third of what it was in previous years before COVID-19.

POPE URGES MORE SUPPORT FOR WORKING MOTHERS

Pope Francis has called for more support for working mothers during and after the pandemic, saying that women are needed in the renewal of society and the economy.

"Women urgently need help with childcare, and should not be discriminated against in terms of pay and advancement, or with the loss of their work as women," the Pope said in a book-length interview.

"Rather, their presence is increasingly precious at the centre of the processes of social, political, occupational and institutional renewal."

The Pope pointed to the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary's role in the "rebirth of humanity", and said that women should be given the space to help bring about a better future.

Francis suggested that women – if given more support – could make a "decisive contribution to the reconstruction of the economy and of the society to come because women make the world beautiful and make contexts more inclusive".

The Pope's comments appear in an Italian book titled Dio e il Mondo che Verrà, which means "God and the World to Come".

In the question-and-answer format book, the Pope answered questions on societal issues exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, such as economic inequality and social injustice.

In particular, he decried the "vicious cycle" of armed violence, poverty, and exploitation, calling for international agreement on a political course of action.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

When we go within our hearts to listen to God's word, we must not be surprised that we encounter a challenge. Jesus will challenge us to follow him wherever he goes, to do the will of his Father, as he did. Like Jesus, we may feel troubled at times with what we have to face each day. Like Jesus, we will come to understand that our Father is with us in everything we do. We have nothing to fear. We heard Jesus tell us: "My Father will honour whoever serves me." That is Jesus' promise to us. (*Salesian Feed*)

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you draw all to deepest life.

Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you submitted humbly to death.

Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the source of eternal salvation.

Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy.

FIRST READING: Jer 31: 31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5: 7-9

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

IF YOU SERVE ME, FOLLOW ME, SAYS THE LORD; AND WHERE I AM, MY SERVANT WILL ALSO BE.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL: John 12: 20-23

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.