

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17: 5

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

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

LIVING IN FAITHFULNESS AND HOPE

There are few moments in the scriptures as dramatic as when Abraham has steeled himself to seize the knife that will take the life of his son Isaac. In that moment on the mount Abraham revealed once again his true quality and the depth of his trust in the word of God. Years later, on a mountain God will reveal the glory and grandeur of the greatest gift of all, the presence of Jesus among us, the living word. As Abraham listened to the voice of the Lord God, so too the disciples of all ages are called to listen to the words of Jesus, the beloved Son. His words promise us a life that awaits us beyond death, and his presence will enable the disciples to move on with him to the cross. On a mountain a son's life was saved. Centuries later on a rocky outcrop, scorned and ridiculed, God will give what he did not take from Abraham so that all of us might be saved.

In many ways Paul reflects on what has been gained for us all by that sacrifice on Calvary. Like Abraham, God does not withhold even what is most precious. The glory and promise of the Transfiguration have their fulfilment in Jesus' victory over death, a victory which now enables us to live our lives in faithfulness and hope. Paul is concerned to share the certainty of his belief that, with Jesus pleading our cause, there is no need for fear.

Christopher Monaghan CP



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

28 FEBRUARY 2021

FIRST READING

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

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.

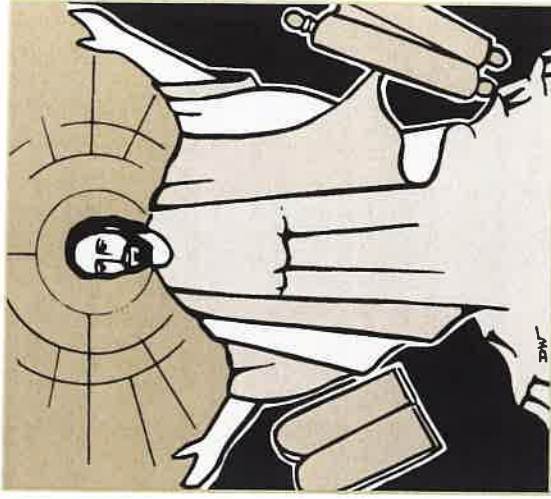
The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the 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 PS Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord / in the land of the living.

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



2. 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. R.

3. 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. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

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.



St Brigid's Parish Catholic Church
 9 Thomas St, Quirindi, NSW
 PO Box 44, Quirindi 2343
 Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
 Willow Tree, NSW
 Tel No: 02 6746 1133
 Fax No: 02 6746 3172
 Email: stbrigid3@bigpond.com or
 Email: quirindiparish@armidale.catholic.org.au
 St Joseph's School website is -
 www.stjosephsquirindi.nsw.edu.au

Administrator: Fr Vince Amaro
 Secretary: Ms Bern Press

28 February 2021 - Second Sunday of Lent

Please Pray For Those Who Have Died

Recently Deceased: Gillian Thomas; Bernard Thomas (Werris Creek); Sister Marcia Dawson RSJ; Fidelma Kennedy (Bishop Michael's Mother); Bishop Luc Mathys; Judy Porter;
Deceased: Terry Fitzpatrick; Kai Fitzpatrick;
Anniversary: Dulcie Trinson; Monsignor John O'Connor; Raymond & Catherine Campbell; Reginald Crossman; Robert Ferguson; Carmel Woodward; Leo Press; Frank Ryan; Teresa Lantry; Bel Carpenter; Kathleen Perkins; Marie Howard; William Guyer; Edna Mary Baker; Lucy Moran; Corey Baker; Leonard Turner; Carol Bourke; Michelle (Tootle) Lawrence; Win Lawson; Sam Miller; John Barr; Margaret Squires; Frank Donnelly; Bob Webeck; Michel Dare

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God Rest in Peace. Amen.

And for those who are ill:
 Sister Pat Barley; Lisa Brown; Ray Lamb of Gunnedah; Les Ward, David Seiler; Rita Looney; Bobbie Palon; Fr. John Willis; Clare Crane; Bill Gleeson; Billy Godden; Ros Turton; Gavin Sewell; Ian Gallagher; Fiona Nolan; Gail Martin; Wendy Brown; Sue Thomson; Lucy Gigg; Father Pat O'Neill; Tom Sanderson; Colleen Hyatt; Michael McCormick; Dan O'Donnell; Marie Dalton; Jack Dunn; Colin Gallagher; Andrew McManus; Ivy Taylor; Joan GreenTree; Rosalynn Chan; all the members of the Parish who are ill.

Other Intentions:

Roster

6/7/2021 R: B McNamara
 7/3/2021 R: D Kerkaan
 C: J Daniels & K Sweep

Coming Events

Sun 28 First Communion Mass at 9.30am
 Fri 5 Stations of the Cross at 5.00pm at St Brigid's
 Fri 5 World Day of Prayer at the Harvest Christian Church at 7.00pm
 Tues 9 Clergy Assembly
 Wed 10 Clergy Assembly
 Wed 10 Confirmation Lessons begin in the Parish Hall at 3.50pm
 Fri 12 Stations of the Cross at 5.00pm at St Brigid's
 Thurs 25 Confessions at St Brigid's with visiting priests

Planned Giving \$445.00 + \$29.00 = \$474.00

First Collection \$454.60

Coronavirus - The following must be observed at all Masses:

1. If you are unwell, stay at home and get tested as soon as possible.
2. Please check-in with your details by scanning the QR code using your smart phones or by the log sheet.
3. Sanitise your hands before entering and when leaving the church.
4. Please observe physical distancing inside the Church, at the foyer and immediate surroundings.
5. People from the same household may sit together.
6. Before and after Mass celebrant and faithful alike should minimize any time spent together, and particularly avoid gathering in large groups.
7. This church bulletin notice is for single use only. Kindly take this home with you or put it in the bin after use.



Project Compassion — Margaret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margaret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security



First Holy Communion - Sunday 28 February 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

Many blessings and congratulations to the young, who this weekend receive Jesus Christ, Our Lord for the first time in Holy Communion. Many thanks to the Teachers, Catechists, Father Vince and the Sacramental Team, who have so generously given of their time and attention. Thanks to the parents who responded to our call to be with their children during this hugely important time of preparation. **You are all invited to attend Morning Tea afterwards.**

LENTEN PENANCE

During Lent and on the Fridays of the year, we do penance, not only on our own account, but also in the name of the Church and of the world. We must take seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not restricted our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases, it has left room for our own responsible choices. We should carefully select the form of penance that we consider most appropriate for our own circumstances and growth in the Christian life.

DAYS OF PENANCE

1. Abstinence from meat, and fasting, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain.
2. On all other Fridays of the year including the Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) prayer - for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.
 - (b) self-denial - for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) helping others - for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

Prayer to St Joseph, Patron of the Holy Catholic Church

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

World Day of Prayer - next Friday 5th March at the Harvest Christian Church at 7.00pm. This is a Combined Churches event and St Brigid's Parish takes it's turn in holding it. Please come and join in.

Volunteers for Washing of the Feet on Holy Thursday Night Please advise Bern at the Presbytery if you would like to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday night.

Volunteers required to do the flowers in the church. There are a couple of vacant spots if you can help call Helen Hurley on 0447 424 682. Many thanks.

Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 5.00pm at St Brigid's. All welcome to attend.