



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

"BE STILL AND KNOW I AM GOD..."

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Parish Priest : Fr Peter Taylor

St Mel's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

Sunday 21 March 2021

Readings for this week:



Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

Readings for next week



Entrance: Mark 11:1-10
Isaiah 50:4-7
Philippians 2:6-11
Passion of Mark 14:1-5:47



Liturgical Jottings

The Collect

The Opening Prayer at Masses is now more aptly titled the Collect. It may come after several prayers, eg Palm Sunday, so not really the first or opening prayer of the liturgy. The prayer is introduced by the words "Let us pray" and followed by a few moments of silence to let us quietly add our own prayers that are then "collected" by the priest and offered to God through Jesus Christ.

In today's Collect we ask for help on the journey. Throughout Lent, we have the image of the disciples on the road to Jerusalem, of the pilgrim Church on a journey through the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection.

This Sunday, we pray to walk the journey with eager faith and love. With Jesus as our model, we await on the other side of suffering and pain. Let us ask God's help to become more deeply united with Christ, to become Christ-like in love, and to love the world as Jesus did.

Looking at the Readings

The first readings in this Lenten cycle have highlighted "Covenant". It is mentioned 176 in the Old Testament (Hebrew & Greek). This day the Prophet Jeremiah uniquely speaks of the "New Covenant" (31:31) that the Lord will make with new laws and written upon a new heart. The Responsorial psalm also takes up this theme: "A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me." Ps 51:10.

The Gospel passage today is complex. There are four strands: the Greeks, possibly pagan, who wanted to see Jesus; secondly the parable of the wheat grain that dies to give life; thirdly Jesus' troubled soul; and finally the epiphany - God's voice attesting to Jesus and his glory.

What weaves these strands is Jesus' testimony in the last verses. Without mentioning the cross Jesus says he will be lifted up and draw all people to himself. The Parable of the seed united death to the resurrection and ascension and to Christ's life to our lives. The Cross and Resurrection are one act of giving glory. We journey with Christ to his death and to his resurrection.

A Palm Sunday Message

So, in these holy days, in our homes, let us stand before the Crucified One, the fullest measure of God's love for us, and before the God who serves us to the point of giving his life, and let us ask for the grace to live in order to serve. May we reach out to those who are suffering and those most in need. May we not be concerned about what we lack, but what good we can do for others. *Pope Francis 2020.*

Prayer for the Week

Lord God your Son died once for all
to establish your grace for ever amongst us;
and by his rising from the dead
he has fashioned anew our human nature,
restoring to us the heavenly gifts
lost through the deceit of the evil one.
(from the Preface 5th Sunday Lent, Ambrosian Missal)

On the Lighter Side

What did one stalk of wheat say to the other? "We wheat again!" What did the German wheat say to the Aussie wheat? "Gluten tag!" Why did the grain grower insult his crop? "Because he was wheat intolerant!" Why did the farmer win so many awards? He was out standing in his field!

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St Mel's Parish is

"A welcoming and caring community that helps all people grow stronger in our Catholic Faith."

REFLECTION - From Fr Peter

This week's gospel begins with people wishing to see Jesus. More by not simply observing Jesus rather to 'see' so as to understand. It's good for us to see at this point of our Lenten Season to see where we give a face to Jesus in our presence. This presence maybe in those we know of who are displaced. Some who don't have the basic necessities of life, just in ways we lend a help to another.

Our Project Compassion focus takes to Halima a Rohingya woman living in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Our support of Caritas enables Halima and her two children to access clean water and sanitation facilities within the camp, along with access to food and clothing.

Later in the Gospel, Jesus speaks of service... 'Whoever serves me must follow me'. To see Jesus in the face of human experience, does cause a reaction ... how do we serve and follow him"? Fr Peter

HOLY WEEK AT ST MEL'S 2021... NEXT WEEK IS PASSION SUNDAY ... You will be invited to collect a palm branch or equivalent as you enter the Church OR you may bring your own. Branches will be blessed while all are gathered IN THE CHURCH...

TUESDAY MARCH 30th Commencing at 7pm our PARISH RITE OF RECONCILIATION will take place.

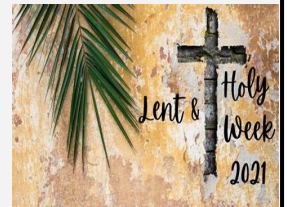
HOLY THURSDAY April 1st ... MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER at 7.00pm the evening concludes with the WATCH until 9.00pm. Ministers of the Eucharist are encouraged to come and renew their ministry. During the Mass all will have some water poured onto their hands...

GOOD FRIDAY April 2nd ...The Way of the Cross will be held in the Church at 9am
The PASSION OF THE LORD is at 3pm. PLEASE KNOW ,
Veneration of the Cross will be by a BOW only. There will be NO touching / Kissing of the cross. (COVID regulations.).

HOLY SATURDAY April 3rd ...Morning Prayer of the Church at 9.00am

EASTER VIGIL ... COMMENCES AT 7PM in the Church. Upon entering the Church please take a taper!!!! A small fire will be lit in the Church, the new Easter candle presented, please know during the vigil Mass, 5 adults and three children will be Baptised, the 5 adults receive Confirmation and First Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY April 4th ... 9.30AM MASS ONLY!!!! (NO 5.00PM MASS)!!



Responsorial Psalm : Create a clean heart in me, O God.

PROJECT COMPASSION ... "BE MORE". MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCH AS YOU ENTER. PLEASE CONSIDER TAKING A GIVING BOX OR PACK OF EVELOPES. SOME AVAILABLE AS YOU EXIT.

**PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE**

SUPPORT FOR HOLY WEEK ... To make the Holy Week ceremonies go effectively I need some to consider being available for different ministries. A sheet has been prepared for you to place your names where required. Please become involved, as I'm hoping this will eliminate having to make many phone calls...[Thank you.](#)

CHRISTIAN INITIATION ...We presently are gathering on Thursday afternoons at 5.00pm in the gathering room. Our candidates are doing really well in a reading program for their formation. Liz Rodriguez, Jane Stock, along with Kim and Andrew Cowen and their three children are looking forward to Holy Week and their reception into our Church here at St Mel's this Easter Vigil. Fr Peter

EASTER HOLY WATER ... Should you wish to have the newly blessed Easter water for your personal use at home, can you please bring your own bottle or carrier when coming to the Easter Vigil / Easter Sunday Masses ... thankyou Fr Peter.

Weekday Masses 22nd March-28th March 2021

Monday 22nd March - NO MASS

Tuesday 23rd March - 9.15am

Wednesday 24th March - 9.15am

Thursday 25th March - 9.15am

Friday 26th March - 9.15am Mass

Saturday 27th March- 9.00am Mass

Sunday 28th March - 9.30am & 5pm

Weekday Masses - Tuesday to Friday back to 9.15am!!!



Anniversaries: Angelo Sciglitano, Giuseppina & Bruno Cavallaro, Giovanna Mammone, Maria Teresa Mammone, Francesco Piscioneri, Salvatore & Peppino Gagliardi, Giovanna Constantino, Olga Vincenzo Deluca, Rosa Giuseppe Piscioneri, Rocco Scarcella, Michael Francavilla, Efipania Aguirre, Cecilia Antonino, Rocco Iaria.

Special Intention: Reynalyn & Alejandro George