



Christ the King Church

ST MEL'S PARISH

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

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9am - 3pm

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.

Second Sunday of Lent

8 March 2020

Readings for
this week:



Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

Readings for
next Sunday:



Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42



Liturgical Jottings Blessings I

In the first reading today the word "bless" is mentioned five times: God blesses Abram; Abram's name will be a blessing, God will bless those who bless Abram and the people will bless themselves. All in four short verses!

What are Blessings? In a word, God bestows his blessing by communicating or declaring his own goodness; his ministers bless God by praising him and thanking him and by offering him their reverent worship and service. Whoever blesses others in God's name invokes the divine help upon individuals or upon an assembled people. (Book of Blessing General Introduction #6c)

Looking at the Readings

The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord is celebrated on 6 August. Yet each year we read the account of the transfiguration on the second Sunday of Lent. What is its connection to Lent? In the Preface for this Sunday we hear: "after Christ had told the disciples of his coming death ... he manifested his glory to show, even by the testimony of the Law and the Prophets, that the Passion leads to the glory of the resurrection." This preface is substantially different to the Preface for the Feast which focuses on the glory of Christ and the church.

The Lenten preface focuses on our journey to Easter with the prediction of Christ's passion and death that leads to his resurrection and glory. Like Peter, James and John, we need encouragement and glimpses of what is to come to both live out our Lent and endure the sufferings and sorrows of life. Moreover, the light of the transfigured Christ remains as our guide through Lent and his words to Peter and to us: "Be not afraid!" raises us up when we are down.

The Transfiguration as a Mystery of Light

In 2002 St Pope John Paul II introduced the "Luminous Mysteries" to the Rosary, increasing the 15 decades to 20. The Mysteries of Light are based on the life of Christ in the Gospels. The fourth decade is the Transfiguration of the Lord.

Quote for the Week

"Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself." *St. Peter Chrysologus*

Pope Francis' Lenten Message 2020

Christian joy flows from listening to, and accepting, the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus... Whoever believes this message rejects the lie that our life is ours to do with as we will. Rather, life is born of the love of God our Father, from his desire to grant us life in abundance (cf. *Jn* 10:10). If we listen instead to the tempting voice of the "father of lies" (*Jn* 8:44), we risk sinking into the abyss of absurdity, and experiencing hell here on earth, as all too many tragic events in the personal and collective human experience sadly bear witness. (#1)

On the Lighter Side

Which of God's servants was the Bible's most flagrant lawbreaker?
Moses, because he broke all 10 commandments at once."



Anniversaries: Giuseppe Antonio Lorenzini, Giuseppe Primerano, Leonardo D'Augello, Giuseppe Salamone, Natalina Mariani, Augusta Copat Family, Michael Kelly.



Prayers for the sick: Vic Apostle, Graeme, Andre, Margaret Cranko, Carmel Walsh, Joseph Yandall.

MASSES THIS WEEK: 9th March - March 15th

Mon 9th - No Mass

Tues 10th - 5.30pm

Wed 11th - 9.15am

Thurs 12th - 9.15am

Fri 13th - 9.15am

Sat 14th - 9.00am Mass

Sun 15th March - 9.30am & 5.00pm



PARISH ACTIVITIES / MINISTRIES

WEEKLY: Bingo Every Wednesday.

Italian Rosary Every Tuesday.

Mediation Group-Every Monday
7.30pm to 8.30pm

MONTHLY: Liturgy Team Meeting

PPC Meeting

St Vincent de Paul 1st & 3rd Wed

Majellan Club

Finance Council

Bereavement/Funeral Team

BAPTISMS: Every FIRST Sunday of the Month at 9.30am Mass

BAPTISMAL PREPARATIONS: Third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday after the 9am Mass.

WEDDINGS: Couples must make yourselves known to the Parish Priest at least 6 months before booking the Church.

Blessed Virgin Mary - Every FIRST Saturday of the month 9.30am - Holy Rosary & Novena.



SPECIAL BLESSINGS:

First Sunday: Baptisms

Second Sunday: Birthday Celebrations

Third Sunday: Wedding Anniversaries

Fourth Sunday: Children & their families,
Mothers / Parents expecting a child.



National Advice on Liturgical Implications in Light of Coronavirus

Please take the time to read the insert in this week-ends bulletin in relation to the Coronavirus. There are a number of recommendations from various departments including the Department of Health -

* Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice.

* The Body of Christ only to be administered in the hand because of the high risk of transmission if people continue to receive on the tongue.

There are other recommendations listed following the advice of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

REFLECTION FROM FR PETER

The Transfiguration is one of the more powerful stories and encounter we have in the Lenten Season, dramatic in presentation with a feeling of grandeur for the disciples with Jesus on the mountaintop. Peter, James and John are given a glimpse of what is to come in the resurrection.

Jesus appears with clothes like the sun, 'as white as light'. There is much by way of symbolism through this story. The obvious one is the mountain ascended by Peter, James and John meeting with Jesus and where another hilltop experience would claim them through Jesus and his crucifixion, to his complete mountaintop moment.

So what about us in this story? We don't aspire to mountaintop experiences. Though if we have driven up mountains we know there is anticipation on all we will see and the view we take in once we reach the summit. It's like we have a glorified moment! We know from our own lives and the lives of ourselves as followers of Christ of those gone before us that the truly faithful life will cause us to have moments where God's presence is clearer and obvious to us. It's as if we have our motivation to 'camp in this place'!

Our prayer in this Lenten Season is to see where our 'peak' experiences in faith take us on the path where fullness of resurrection life awaits. So it's about seeing all that is worthwhile in living with our struggles and knowing the hand of God reaches out calling us onward. The other significant part of all this is by seeing the clothing we bring into our need covers us in the light of God's presence, similar to the Baptismal garment of putting on Christ and being proclaimed as a "new creation".

This week of Lent is one where through Caritas we see the presence of the Cambodian people through people like Phany generating enough income for her family as rice farmer. Phany like many of her people are finding to new transfigurational experiences to support themselves and with agencies like Caritas. May our Project Compassion giving this week be one where many can benefit from our generosity.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow him with a lively faith. God's desire for us are living with a stewardship offering new ways of life. As St Teresa of Calcutta once said .. **"God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful"**.

SOME DATES TO KEEP IN YOUR PLANNING

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - Our next gathering of the PPC will be held this Wednesday 11th March at 7.00pm.

***MASS WITH ANOINTING**

Sunday March 15th 9.30am and 5.00pm

***PARISH RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

Tuesday 7th April at 7.30pm

***HOLY THURSDAY EVENING MASS**

Thursday 9th April - 7.30pm

Recommitment for all Ministers of the Eucharist.

***CHRISM MASS - BENDIGO**

Tuesday 7th April at 11.00am

CHILD SAFETY AND PROTOCOLS -

We have been visited by our child Safety Officer for the Diocese, Anne McIntosh. Some communication we as Parish need to be mindful of ...

Sandhurst Diocese is being audited this year.

Some 10 parishes will be randomly chosen.

All volunteers need to be compliant to the standards we are following and to be familiar with the protocols.

This whole area of Children their safety and for the vulnerable is becoming more and more...!!

‘JOURNEY TO EASTER 2020’ - As a parish we have one from our community in Judy Lang who is making her journey towards Easter through St. Brendan's at this time. You may recall last year Melanie Domaschenz, Judy's daughter made her journey to Easter. I approached Judy after Mass last week and suggested for her to come into our Church at Easter considering she lives in our Parish. Judy was delighted about this and so we anticipate Judy will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist this Easter Vigil at St Mel's. Fr Peter

CATHOLIC INQUIRY EVENINGS. In August this year it is my intention to hold inquiry evenings for anyone in our Parish of St. Mel's seeking to explore a way of belonging to our Church and making a journey later in the year, into next year and be received at Easter in 2021. The **TWO** Inquiry evenings in August are on Sunday evenings the 9th and 16th here in the gathering room at 7.30pm. So if you know or hear of anyone can you inform of this opportunity. Thanks

Fr. Peter

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP OF OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS. You may already know significant changes take effect from next year as to the role of Parish Priests (Canonical Administrators) to their Parish Schools. Discussions at different levels are taking place throughout this year on this. Priests are having an afternoon with our Bishop Shane and a convened panel to meet on Tuesday March 17th to look at this important development. Fr Peter

Readers & Commentators 15th March 2020

9.30 am Mass - Mary Calandro, Camille Kelly, Nora McCarthy

5.00pm Mass - Paul Bertol & Luisa Cassise

Counters for 15th March - S Cortese, J Cortese, R Iaria

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

AN EXPOSITION OF SCRIPTURE AND THEOLOGY

What do we know? Why believe it? All are Welcome **7.30 - 9.00pm, March 10, 17, 24 & 31st** at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre. Each night will include teaching about the Kingdom of God with an opportunity for questions and discussions. Bring your bibles. Contact 0438 071 630 for more information.

PLANNED GIVING / ENVELOPES - There have been a few plain envelopes in our weekly collections. If it is your pledge, please write your pledge number and the amount given on the envelope, otherwise it will be banked in the loose collection and it will not appear on your statement. If it is a Mass offering, please write this on the envelope, so we know. If you would like to go onto a direct debit for your pledge, please call into the Parish office and fill out the forms with your bank details. *Your generosity and love of God is much appreciated to build your Parish.* Thank you.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2020

Parents wishing their children to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist in the St Mel's Parish Sacramental Program are advised that registration for enrolment is on Sunday March 15th and 22nd, after Mass at 9.30am and 5.00pm. Please be advised that there has been a change of date to the Sacramental Mass. This will now be held on Sunday July 19th 2020 with Bishop Shane Mackinlay.

This Program will be suitable for children in Grade 4 and above with an additional enrolment to be scheduled later in 2020 for children in Grade 3 and above.

Further enquiries please contact St Mel's Parish Office on 58312194 or Mel Shiels on 0400150188.

SACRAMENTAL TEAM 2020

At St Mel's Parish, we accept the responsibilities for passing on our Christian faith, values and traditions, beliefs and stories to the children of our community. There is a saying that ***it takes a village to raise a child***, likewise the whole faith community is needed to help our children before, during and after the celebration of the Sacraments. Within our community, children can learn what it is to be a Catholic. Anyone wishing to join the St Mel's Parish Sacramental Team in 2020 please contact the St Mel's Parish Office on 58312194 or Mel Shiels on 0400150188.

PARISH FOOTY COMPETITION FOR 2020

Football generates much conversation at this time of the year. For all our "teams are going to be premiers"! So here is your chance to predict how you think the final 8 will be at the end of the season. Here is what you need to do ... Take an official form from the narthex and write down the teams in your order first to eight. You need to submit \$5 - per entry. On the envelope you need to write your name, phone number, and submit your entry with \$5- inside. Entries must be lodged BEFORE the season starts!!! **ENTRIES CAN BE RETURNED to the Church or at the Parish Office by Thursday March 19th.** My reliable scrutineers will sort the winners before the finals series commences. Fr Peter

HAPPY HOUR - Our next gathering will take place on Thursday March 19th from 5.00pm in the Parish House Gathering room. Given St Patrick's Day will have taken place earlier, our Happy Hour will take a theme of ... ***"be in green"!!! We will remember St Joseph whose feast day it is!!!***

READINGS FOR SUNDAY - 8th MARCH 2020

First Reading - Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The Word of The Lord

Second Reading - 2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The Word of The Lord

Gospel - Matthew - 17:1-9

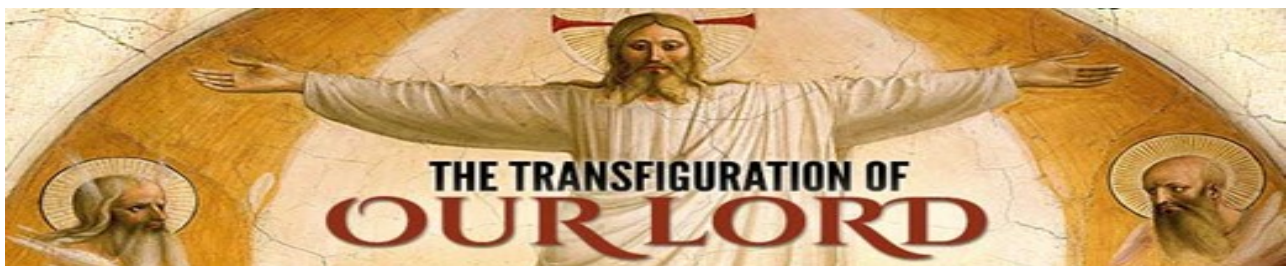
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord



MASS TIMES IN NEIGHBOURING PARISHES

St Brendan's - Saturday Vigil 6.00pm and Sunday 8.00am & 11.00am / Sunday Syro Malabar Rite - 5.30pm
Weekday Mass Times - Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am
Thursday at Ave Maria Village at 4.30pm
St Mary's, Mooroopna - Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 10.00am
St Mary's, Dookie - Sunday 9.30am 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays
St Bernard's, Katandra West - Sunday 9.30am 2nd Sunday

