



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

08 MARCH 2020

FIRST READING

Gen 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

**R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.**

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves
justice and right / and fills the earth with his
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue

their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord
is our help and our shield. / May your love be
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in
you. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Tim 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 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

Mt 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.

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Reflections on the Gospel

A GLIMPSE OF GLORY

Traditionally the Gospel of the Second Sunday in Lent each each year features the mysterious episode of the Transfiguration.

In biblical imagery whiteness signals closeness to God and God's heavenly court. In this scene the presence of two figures, Moses and Elijah, known from the biblical record to be enjoying heavenly existence, confirms this impression. The three privileged disciples glimpse for a moment Jesus' divinity unveiled.

Shortly before this episode he had made clear to them his destiny to suffer and be killed in Jerusalem (16:21), a revelation which they simply could not square with their knowledge of him to be 'the Messiah, the Son of God'. Now his transformation and the pronouncement from on high confirms with divine authority that these two truths must be held together: Jesus *is* God's beloved Son *and* he is, as he has said, going up to Jerusalem to fulfil his messianic vocation in this extremely costly way.

The disciples (specifically Peter) want to 'hold' the moment of glory ('Let us build three tents'). But there are to be no 'short cuts' to glory of this kind. The Messiah who came, 'not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many' (20:28), will enter into the pain and suffering of the world to heal it from within. In this he will be no less God's Son than in the moment of glory.

It is with this deepened sense of Jesus' identity and mission that we are invited to continue with him our Lenten journey to Jerusalem.

Brendan Byrne, SJ



ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC PARISH

Nelson Bay

Diocese of Maitland - Newcastle

We acknowledge the Worimi people - the traditional custodians of this place

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NELSON BAY 2315

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Office Hours Tuesday to Thursday

9:30am to 3:00pm

MASSES AND PRAYERS REQUESTED:

We remember and pray for those who are ill at home and in hospital at this time, may they know the healing presence of Christ: **John Lordanie**

Anniversary: **Peter Ha Nguyen, Loy Carroll**

Recently Deceased: **Joy del Rosario, Helen Harrison, Carmella Biviano**

Privacy Laws. All parishioners are encouraged to pray for the sick. Masses will be offered on request. Due to privacy laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

Letter from Bishop Bill Wright

In light of the current concerns the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is observing the following precautions until further notice:

- Individuals should consider their potential to infect others with an infectious disease, before attending a public liturgical celebration.
- Holy water stoops are to be emptied of holy water.
- When exchanging the sign of peace, members of the assembly are to avoid shaking hands.
- Holy Communion from the Chalice is to be restricted to the celebrant(s) for the time being.
- Holy Communion is not to be given on the tongue until further notice.
- Alcohol-based gels or other hand sanitisers, tissues and bins will be available.
- Parishioners are to be reminded that if they are too unwell to attend Sunday Mass, they can fulfil the Sunday obligation by prayer within their home, reading the Scriptures, or Mass on television.
- Those assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion are to observe good hand hygiene.

More detail on these measures can be found on the letter from the Bishop on the back table. You are encouraged to take a letter to read.

Leadership and the Parish Community

The meeting, commencing at 9.30am on Saturday 21 March, will facilitated by Father Matthew Muller - Chancellor Maitland-Newcastle Diocese. The Parish meeting is a way in which the Bishop's office can assist all Parish Priests and Parish Deacon. It is a time to listen to God's people articulate their hopes and dreams, joy and sorrows for the parish. It will provide a good basis for understanding what is needed in our parish and will also assist in developing our Ongoing Formation Plan.

Lunch will be provided, if you are thinking of going to the meeting please put your name on the clipboard near the Holy goods store for catering.

Reconciliation will be celebrated in our parish. It is each Saturday from 5.15pm to 5.45pm; and the **Second Rite will be on Thursday, 2nd April at 6.00pm**

Votive Candles Stand:

THANK YOU

Our Votive Candles have arrived and will be put into service. **THANK YOU** to the person who donated the Votive Candle Stand. We hope you enjoy many years seeing it put to use to the glory of God and to Our Lady of Perpetual Succour the Patroness of our Diocese.



St. Michael - Pray for us

Project Compassion:

Each year Project Compassion brings together thousands of Australians in schools, parishes and the community to stand in solidarity with the world's most vulnerable communities, to help end poverty; promote justice and uphold dignity. Envelopes and Boxes are at the back of our church and you are encouraged to take one home with the spirit of "Almsgiving" to sacrifice the cost of something, such as a coffee a day or a pizza each week for those who may not even have clean drinking water.

Lenten Reflection Program 2020

Tuesdays at 3pm at 57 Gordon Close, Anna Bay
Wednesdays at 7.00pm in the Church Meeting Room
Sundays at 2.00pm in the Church Meeting Room

Church Rosters: There is a sheet near the Holy Goods Store for any amendments required to the existing Church Rosters. Please complete the form and we will arrange for the amendments in due course.

Caring Group - Caring for our parishioners:

Members of the Caring Group undertake a variety of tasks within the parish including taking Communion to parishioners who can no longer come to Mass and visiting those who are limited in their ability to move outside of their home or nursing home.

If you know of a parishioner or couple who need some support, please refer them to the Caring Group so that some members of the team can take communion to them or just spend some time with them on a regular basis.

Referral sheets are available from the Parish Office or call Julie/Gary on 0411 289 176. You will need to know their contact details and have sought their permission before making the referral.

Monthly Morning Teas: Stay after Mass for a cuppa and a chat after Friday 9.15am Mass. Thank you Sue Hughes and Aurora who will be arranging morning teas throughout the year.

Catechists Mass Bishop William Wright invites you to an annual celebration of the wonderful work of catechists. Date: Saturday 21 March Time: 2pm Venue: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West

ACTiv8 Concert with Fr Rob Galea: All Saints' College, St Mary's Campus Maitland School Hall, 16 Grant St, Maitland. TUESDAY 31 March 2020 from 6.30-8.00pm. Tickets \$13 available on www.eventbrite.com.au (type ACTiv8 concert with Fr Rob) or call Bec Piefke 0422 500 429.

Christian meditation is on every Friday at 10.30am in the Presbytery. Everyone is welcome to attend.

This weekend we witness the baptism of Sofia Jane Lancaster
son of Timothy and Bridgette

May the gift of baptism received strengthen her journey of life and faith she will share with us. Please remember Sofia and her family in your prayers.



Lenten Musings

"Self-denial means knowing only Christ, and no longer oneself. It means seeing only Christ, who goes ahead of us, and no longer the path that is too difficult for us... . Self-denial is saying only: He goes ahead of us; hold fast to him."
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This week's church roster reminders:

Readers: Sat S & R Ryan
Sun D Maricic & A Kero

Ministers of Communion:

Sat J Busch, R & S Ryan, K Locke, R Fitzalan
Sun A Basti, J Eves, S Hughes, J Thomas, B Redmond

Church Cleaning for March: Team 3

Altar Society for March: C Crowe & P Douglas

Next Week's Readings:

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Gospel: John 4:4-5,19-26,39-42

Next week's readers:

Sat: V Valvason & K Locke

Sun: T Burgin & H Ryan



MASS TIMES

Monday	9 March	No Mass
Tuesday	10 March	4.30pm Rosary/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5.00pm Mass
Wednesday	11 March	8.00 am Mass\
Thursday	12 March	9.30am Anointing Mass Regis' Nursing Home 4.30pm Rosary/Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5.00pm Mass
Friday	13 March	9.15am Mass (School Mass Class 5W)
Saturday	14 March	5.15pm to 5.45pm Reconciliation 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday	15 March	8.30am Mass