

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.

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Breaking Open the Word

THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

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.'

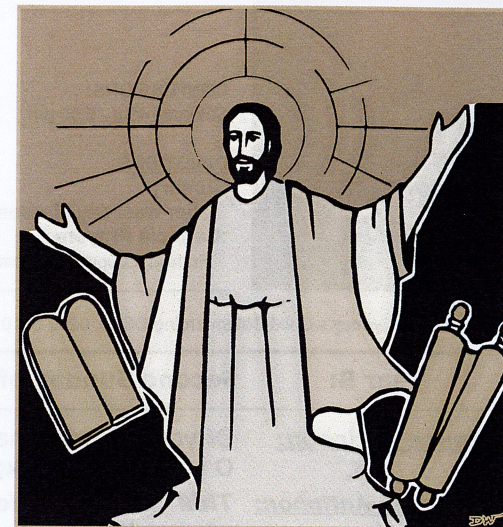
■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

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

1. 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.

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH PAGEWOOD

25 Donovan Ave, Maroubra 2035 Tel: (02) 9344 7914 Office hours: Fri 8:15am to 2.15pm
Email: olapagewood@gmail.com Website: www.olapagewood.org.au



Parish Administrator
Fr Daney Irudayadoss

CONFESSIONS:
Saturday 4:15 - 5:00 pm

DEVOTIONS

:Rosary
after weekday Masses
:Cenacle Prayers
Fridays 5:00pm – 6:00pm

MASS TIMINGS:

Monday 8:00 am; Tuesday 7:00 pm
Wednesday to Friday 8:00 am
Saturday 8:00 am and Vigil 5:30 pm
Sunday 8:00am & 10:00 am

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Wednesday after the 8:00 am Mass.

Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament
Saturday from 4:15pm to 5:00 pm
First Fridays from 11.30am to 12.15pm

Archdiocese of Sydney's Child Safeguarding Office: 9290 5810 safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

Year B: Second Sunday of Lent 25-02-2024

Entrance Antiphon: Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Communion Antiphon: ***This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.***

Prayer for Lent: *God of all of all hope, we pray for our world with all its beauty and need. We thank you for the love in our lives that is a mirror of your unending love. May all creation know your compassion this Lent and may we take courage to share it, especially those who don't have what they need. In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses: 'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous things. Through our prayers, fasting and almsgiving, move us to act in the company of your Spirit, showing compassion and acting for justice to renew the face of the Earth, now and for all future generations. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

(from Caritas Australia/Project Compassion Prayer 2024)

We offer special prayers for:

The sick: Jim Lisbona, Nayade Malkun, Lynette Drew, Jorge Azar, Milagros F. Cannistraro, Sarah Cannistraro, Sevi Zachary Claveria, Marieta De Venecia, Sue Domancich, Vivian Felice, Herman Liew, Doris Magri, Javier Malkun, July Malkun, Manuel Mantilla, Marija & Barclay Family, Owen McLoughlin, Felomina Moulic, Jay R. Moulic, Salvador Murillo, Yvonne Parry, Jessa Reina De Vera-Cruz, Thelma Soriano, Ann-Marie Stevens, Venus Tabayoyong, James Trehwella, Aurea Visperas, Alison Wilkinson, Jessica & Joseph Wilkinson, all our sick parishioners, sick members of our families and friends and all the sick in the world.

The deceased:

Recently: Simon Pedisich (funeral 27th Feb 10.30am in OLA Church), Zlatko & Julkica Klobuchar, Mauro Soriano (3/2/24), Al G de Vera (8/2/24)

Anniversary: Mrs Remelinda Tecson (20/2), Maria Jeanette Tecson (24/2), John Yoon (29/2), John Wilkinson (1&1/2yr on 31/2), Andrew Spiteri (2nd anniv on 2/03), Victoriano Villacorta, Fernando de Vera, Abelardo Biala

Others: Giovanni Family, Vincenzo & Elena Sellaro Gerace, Cosentino, Rizzo, Artese & Sellaro Families, the deceased members of our families and friends and all Souls in Purgatory.

Roster Mar 2/3 5.30pm

Lectors:

Harry Bickers
Violet & Leilani Barnes

8am

Joyce Francis
Meri Hardi

10am

Marilyn Kahn
Reuben Kahn

Church Cleaning & Preparation: Roster 2 March (first Saturday of the month)

Dusting & Tidying Pews: Mona Rezcallah

Vacuuming Church Floor: Sebastian Cheong

NOTE for Altar Flowers Arrangers: No Flowers for Altar until Easter 31/03/2024

First Friday of the month Anointing of the Sick during 8am mass on 1st March 2024.

First Friday Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on 1st March 2024 from 11.30am to 12.15pm

LENT

2024 Lenten Companion booklets are available for free in the church foyer.

Stations of the Cross: On Friday mornings during Lent after the 8am Mass, we will continue the practice of the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. It is a fitting way to pray and contemplate God's love for us during Lent.

The Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle Prayers on Fridays 5pm to 6pm. You are invited to join in the Rosary prayers and Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Project Compassion: During our Lenten season to help us in the practice of almsgiving – Project Compassion envelopes and boxes are available for your contributions.

NO FOREIGN COINS Please: Please do not place any foreign coins and currency in any collections as they cause problems with our counting machine and the bank's.

The First Collection taken after the Prayer of Faithful supports our Archdiocesan clergies' stipends and presbytery expenses. **The Second Collection which will be taken immediately after The First Collection** supports our church's liturgical and running expenses as well as repairs and maintenance. **Tap donations are divided equally to First & Second Collections.**

2024 Daily Mass Books for \$20 only each: There are still about 3 Daily Mass books available in the church foyer. Please place your cash or tap device receipt in the chained box.

Catholic Weekly for \$2 each, in the church foyer. Please place your cash in the wall slot.

OLA Pagewood Parish's Presbytery Refurbishment:

OLA Pagewood Parish's presbytery is in need of repairs; and the refurbishment work has already begun. The parish is asking for help (if you can) with the expenses of the refurbishment. Please use the specially allocated envelopes in the church for your contributions (not taxable). Thank you very much for your donations and support. May God bless you abundantly.

Volunteer needed: A reader is needed for the Sunday 8am masses. If you are able to help, please email the parish office. Thank you.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bidjigal and Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, the traditional custodians of this land, with deep respect. May the elders, past and present, be blessed and honoured. May we work together and build a future based on compassion, justice, hope, faith and recognition.