

GOSPEL

Jn 2: 13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

CHRIST, THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD

The image of a limp, distorted body on the cross, which we know as the crucifix, has a long history of development. While its central place with the altar in our churches and its focus for personal devotion may seem normal to us, it is an anathema to others. How is this the focus of our belief and worship? A reminder of the sacrifice, its very presence points to the resurrection, salvation and the hope of everlasting life with God who loves us.

Today's readings grapple with this dilemma. Paul's words to the Corinthians capture something of the complexity of those early days of preaching the Good News: "preaching a crucified Christ." Who would believe in a dead Messiah? Yet Paul insists "but to those who are called, Jews and Gentiles, a Christ who is the power and wisdom of God" (1 Cor 1:24). Paul's tussle with this is juxtaposed with John's account of Jesus cleansing the Temple where Jesus says, "Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). This imagery made no sense to the Judeans for this Temple, the Holy of the Holies and dwelling place of God took 46 years to build. The narrator adds that the temple Jesus spoke of was his own body. The narrator also recounts that the disciples had heard Jesus' words but it made no sense to them either until the event of the resurrection. Let us contemplate Christ as the power and wisdom of God.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / B

3 MARCH 2024

FIRST READING

Ex 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 20: 1-17.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18: 8-11. R. Jn 6: 68

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**

4. They are more to be desired than gold, / than the purest of gold / and sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

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 Irudayados

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

CONFESSIONS:
Saturday 4:15 - 5:00 pm

Baptisms and Marriages: By appointment

DEVOTIONS

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

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:

Third Sunday of Lent

3-03-2024

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home; and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

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: Celin Malkun, Speranza Dorigo, Jim Lisbona, Nayade Malkun, Lynette Drew, Jorge Azar, Milagros F. Cannistraro, Sarah Cannistraro, Sevi Zachary Claveria, Marieta De Venecia, Sue Domancich, Vivian Felice, 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: Sime Pedisich, Zlatko & Julkica Klobuchar, Mauro Soriano (3/2/24), Al G de Vera (8/2/24) **Anniversary:** Andrew Spiteri (2nd anniv on 2/03), John Yoon (29/2), John Wilkinson (1&1/2yr on 31/2), Maria Jeanette Tecson (24/2) **Others:** Miko & Marica Vucetic, Blanca & children, Giovanni Family, Vincenzo & Elena Sellaro Gerace, Cosentino, Rizzo, Artese & Sellaro Families, deceased Araujo Family members, Eurycles Dollor Jordao De Araujo, Clotilde Maria T. Nunes, Helena MG De Araujo, Suzi Paulo De A Santos, Maria CT De Araujo, Maria LM De Araujo, Helena Yola De Araujo, Angela Lay, Maria Timenes, the deceased members of our families and friends and all Souls in Purgatory.

We welcome to our parish community
Sonny & Pearl Hardy who were baptised this weekend.
Congratulations to the parents Anthony & Kate.



Roster Mar 9/10

5.30pm

8am

10am

Lectors:

Brennan Sharpley
Beatriz Visperas

Bernadine Lavender
Darren Lee

Anthony Grima
Bernadette Heywood

Church Cleaning & Preparation: Roster 9 March (second Saturday of the month)

Dusting & Tidying Pews: Nicy Kolencherry

Vacuuming Church Floor: Tiago Santiago

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



Our Outdoor Mary Statue is being restored. Hopefully she will be back by Easter 31st March 2024. We would appreciate any donations towards the restoration. To donate, use this QR code or go online to our parish website www.olapagewood.org.au/ OR use your card on the tap devices in the church; OR for cash, use the special envelopes provided.



Many thanks for your donations. God bless you all.

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; Rosary prayers and Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Project Compassion: Through the Lenten campaign, Caritas Australia reaches out to the poorest in the world with the support of donations. Project Compassion envelopes and boxes are available at the church porch. Your donations can be handed to the parish during Lent, or during Holy Week. Donations above \$2 are tax deductible.

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 2 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.

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.