

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, / that all who believe in him might have eternal life. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

GOD’S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Laetare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is “rejoice”) we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times “grace” is repeated: “by grace you have been saved,” “the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” and “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that “we are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

John’s Gospel reminds us “God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that “those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

How will we respond to God’s love, gift and grace?

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

FIRST READING

2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”’

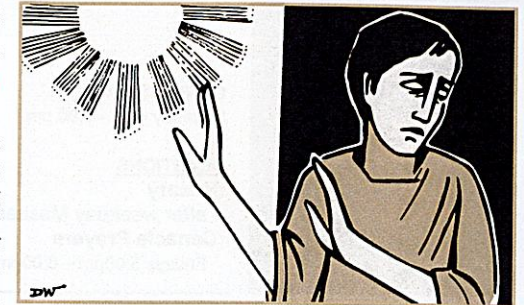
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 136. R. v. 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon / there we sat and wept, / remembering Zion: / on the poplars that grew there / we hung our harps. **R.**



2. For it was there that they asked us, / our captors, for songs, / our oppressors, for joy. / ‘Sing to us,’ they said, / ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ **R.**

3. O how could we sing / the song of the Lord / on alien soil? / If I forget you, Jerusalem, / let my right hand wither! **R.**

4. O let my tongue / cleave to my mouth / if I remember you not, / if I prize not Jerusalem / above all my joys! **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he has meant us to live it.

■ The word of the Lord.

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH PAGEWOOD

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Email: olapagewood@gmail.com Website: www.olapagewood.org.au



Parish Administrator
Fr Daney Irudayadoss

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: Fourth Sunday of Lent 10-03-2024

Entrance Antiphon: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Communion Antiphon: *Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.*

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 Trewhella, 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: Mauro Soriano (40days), Sime Pedisich, Zlatko & Julkica Klobuchar
Anniversary: Maria Luisa Malkun(21st anniv on 3/3), Atanacia Visperas(3/3),
Lourdes Soriano(13/3)

Others: Andrew Spiteri, John Wilkinson, Miko & Marica Vucetic, Blanca & children, Giovanni Family, Vincenzo & Elena Sellaro Gerace, Cosentino, Rizzo, Artese & Sellaro Families, deceased Araujo Family members, the deceased members of our families and friends and all Souls in Purgatory.

Roster Mar 16/17 5.30pm

8am

10am

Lectors: (John Heffernan)
Lyra Menczer

Bev Anlezark
Iskandar Ajjaka

Maria Visto
Edwin Kolencherry

Church Cleaning & Preparation: Roster 16 March third Saturday of the month)

Dusting & Tidying Pews: Nancy Cheung

Vacuuming Church Floor: Kina Falemaka

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.

Project Compassion: reaches out to the world's most vulnerable communities to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity 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. Thank you for your donations.

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 \$15 only each: There are still 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.

Holy Week 2024

Reconciliation: Mon 25th March; after the 8am mass
Tues 26th March; 5.30pm to 6.45pm Confessions
Wed 27th March; after 8am mass

Wednesday 27th March: Mass at 8am

Holy Thursday 28th March: Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm

Good Friday 29th March: Stations of the Cross 10am
Celebration of Lord's Passion 3pm

Holy Saturday 30th March: Easter Vigil Mass at 7pm

Easter Sunday 31st March: Mass at 8am and 10am

Easter Monday 1st April: Please note **NO MASS on Easter Monday**

