

GOSPEL

Jn 12: 20-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word

A MATTER OF TIME

In this fifth week of Lent, we approach the crux of our belief. We are drawing near to our journey through Passion Sunday and Holy Week. Jeremiah heralds: "See the days are coming" and Jesus in the Gospel of John proclaims, "Now the hour has come!" These times are both important in their own context yet also mark God's time.

Jeremiah's prophetic words announce God's new covenant with the House of Israel, a covenant which God writes on their hearts that "I will be your God and you will be my people" (Jer 31:33).

As John's passage opens, it is the time of the Passover and some Greeks want *to see* Jesus. Their seeking of Jesus affirms the words of the Pharisees earlier "the world has gone after him" (John 12:19). The Greeks approach Philip as he has a Greek name, and Philip goes with Andrew, to Jesus. With the Greeks seeking him, Jesus recognises that the gathering has begun, "the world has gone after him," so he announces, "the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified" (John 12:23). An Amen saying follows: "Very truly (Amen, amen), I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). In this image of a grain of wheat is firstly the revelatory sense of Jesus' fate, destiny and mission. Secondly it is the way to see the disciples and our own lives and mission.

Dr Rosemary Canavan



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

17 MARCH 2024

FIRST READING

Jer 31: 31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

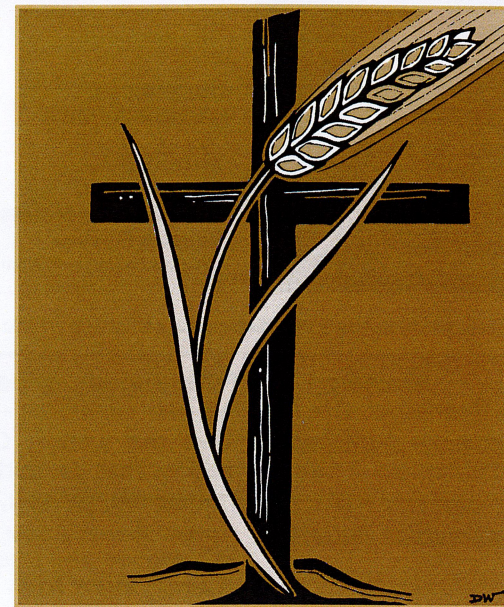
RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50: 3-4, 12-15. R. v. 12

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

3. Give me again the joy of your help; / with a spirit of fervour sustain me, / that I may teach transgressors your ways / and sinners may return to you. **R.**



SECOND READING

Heb 5: 7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 12: 26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; / and where I am, my servant will also be. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION PARISH PAGEWOOD

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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

DEVOTIONS

•Rosary

after weekday Masses

•Cenacle Prayers

Fridays 5:00pm – 6:00pm

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: **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

17-03-2024

Entrance Antiphon:

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Communion Antiphon: *Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.*

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: *Thanksgiving:* Aurea Visperas

The sick: Helen Yu, 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: Felicidad Yabut Delos Reyes, Bev Kuschert, Mauro Soriano (40days), Sime Pedisich, Zlatko & Julkica Klobuchar **Anniversary:** Patrick Cheong (16/3), Veronica Luo (11/3), Johan Padua Chuaunsu (5th on 10/3), Luz Espejo (2nd on 7/3), Lourdes Soriano(13/3) **Others:** Andrew Spiteri, John Wilkinson, Giovanni Family, Vincenzo & Elena Sellaro Gerace, Cosentino, Rizzo, Artese & Sellaro Families, deceased Araujo Family members, Miko & Marica Vucetic, Blanca & children, the deceased members of our families and friends and all Souls in Purgatory.

Roster March 23/24

5.30pm

8am

10am

Lectors:

Violet & Leilani Barnes
Harry Bickers

Meri Hardi
Joyce Francis

Rosa Vunich
Frances Green

READING of the Passion:

shorter form Mark 15:1-39 Parish Bulletin

N: Kate O'Regan

N: Bernadine Lavender

N: Reuben Kahn

O/C: Monica Ribeiro

Others/Crowd: Darren Lee

Others/Crowd: Marilyn Kahn

Church Cleaning & Preparation: Roster 23 March, fourth Saturday of the month)

Altar Palms leaves Arranging: Linda Potres

Dusting & Tidying Pews: Linda Potres

Vacuuming Church Floor: Mary Galea

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. The total donations received for the restoration was \$2875. The cost for the restoration is anticipated to be \$2750 (including GST). Thank you very much for all your generous donations which was more than sufficient for the restoration. May our Queen Mother Mary continue to intercede for all our prayer intentions. God bless you all abundantly!



Stations of the Cross: On Friday mornings during Lent after the 8am Mass

Project Compassion: helps 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. Parish issues tax receipts for cash/cheque donations above \$2 are tax deductible. Caritas Australia issues tax receipts for card donations. Thank you for your contributions.

Feast Days of the Week: 18 March – Saint Patrick 19 March – Saint Joseph

The Donations towards Presbytery Renovations total was \$1180. The cost of the renovations of Presbytery floor upstairs was around \$3000. Thank you for your generosity.

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.**

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**

