



# 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 MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lent - 25 February 2024 - Year B

### OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

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### OFFICE HOURS

**Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:** 9am – 3pm  
**Thursday:** 9am – 12.30pm

### MINISTRY TEAM

**Parish Secretary:** Tereza Camacho  
**Safeguarding Officer:**  
 Brigitte Liddelow 0432 908 980  
**Avila Retirement Village Secretary:**  
 Judy Rowlands 0448 205 283  
**OLMC Primary School Principal:**  
 Jayson Peacock 9269 2000  
**OLMC Primary School RE:** Tracey Marsden  
**Seton Catholic College Website:** <http://www.seton.wa.edu.au/olmc-parish>

**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.

### 2024 SACRAMENTAL DATES:

**Reconciliation:** Wednesday 27-3-24 from 3pm

**First Holy Communion:** Sunday 9-6-24 at 9am

**Confirmation:** Saturday 24-8-24 at 6pm

### HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:

Monday night's 7-9pm. All welcome.

### REFLECTION: Transfiguration - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent.

If we were left during the week fearful of life's challenges, then today's comforting message is that God is with us. The human Jesus certainly must have been some charismatic persuasive power over the apostles for them to have left their jobs at their first meeting with him. But now Peter, James and John's trust is rewarded as they experience the very presence of God in Jesus. The direction God gives these chosen three – and us of course is **"Listen to Him"** (Mk 9:7). We may have thought in the past that Lent involved "giving something up" or saying lots of prayers, but I think that the thrust in these times, following the lead of the Second Vatican Council which opened up the scriptures for us, is to do more listening. This too is the principle and call of the Plenary Council, and that of Solidarity. Doing violence to ourselves does not necessarily convert us. True penance is not masochism. Denial of self must have a reason. It must be love. Love is to enter into the

mind of the other. That's where the listening comes in. A closer reading of the Gospels allows God to speak to us of his love. Our prayer is simply a response to this. Prayer cannot be my doing all the talking. I could end up talking to myself. Six weeks of close listening may bring us to the point where we can say with the prophet Jeremiah: "You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced; you have overpowered me; you were the stronger." (Jer 20:7) The Gospel today asks us to have a hard look at Jesus' own rejection, suffering and cruel death. Mark does not see Jesus as deliberately seeking out suffering. Jesus is depicted as experiencing great fear and anxiety in the Garden of Gethsemane, praying repeatedly to his Father to "take this cup away from me" (Mk 14:36). In announcing the Gospel, the good news of God's love we are boldly told Christ necessarily had to meet opposition from the evil forces which still clung to control the earth. "For it is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against the sovereignties and the powers who originate the darkness of this world." (Ep 6:12) We don't know why God allows the evil we experience. Poverty, sickness, death. These are facts in our lives as they were in the life of Jesus. What is crucial, St Mark is trying to tell us, is our attitude towards these things. The Gospel makes it very clear that however real these things are in our lives, they are not what God has finally in store for us. Jesus in living his life and responding to the will of his Father, met suffering and death, yet he was destined to transcend these things, to be raised up and be victorious. This is the meaning of the Transfiguration. God will be with us. God will deliver us. Our

failures, our illnesses, our fears, are not the final page of the story.




### RESIDENCY IN THE PRESBYTERY UPDATE:

Parishioners, I wish to inform those projects such as the Maintenance to the Presbytery, where the expenditure exceeds \$50,000 requires submission to and approval by the Archbishop. An application for expenditure from the Parish involves provision of a brief which includes two or three builders' quotes, tradespersons or suppliers and showing of the source of finance to meet the costing and that the Parish is capable to meet the cost or the debt. Because of the urgency of the matter and to comply to Safeguarding guidelines, the Archbishop's Office granted permission for the project. In lieu of the Parish calling for builder - tenders etc. the church Authority offered the assistance for its own Property / Maintenance Office in so much as provide costings. The Property Office draws from their own panel of trades persons to undertake the extensive maintenance of church property. These costings were closely scrutinised by the attendees at the Parish Council meeting. The costings were found to be "on par" to that which would be on the market. It was unanimously passed that the Parish accept the quote. The decision was conveyed to the Church Office and approval was granted. Work is scheduled to begin in the pursing weeks. So please take care and keep a distance to the grounds around the church and presbytery. In the interim the Priest and Parish Secretary will be relocated to the Parish Meeting Room. Keeping you informed. Fr. Michael.



# OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

## 2nd Sunday Lent - 25 February 2024 - Year B

 <p><b>BOWRA &amp; O'DEA FUNERAL DIRECTORS</b> Because the little things are everything. 312 South Street, Hilton 9239 7744 or <a href="http://www.bowraodea.com.au">www.bowraodea.com.au</a></p>	 <p><b>SUSIE LOMBARDI</b> 24 HOURS - 1300 779 093 E: <a href="mailto:remembrance.susie@outlook.com">remembrance.susie@outlook.com</a> <a href="http://www.remembrancefunerals.com.au">www.remembrancefunerals.com.au</a></p> 	<p><b>RICH HARVEST PTY LTD</b> Religious Products Mon to Fri 10.30am – 6pm Sat 10.30am – 3pm 39 Hulme Court, Myaree 9329 9889 or <a href="http://www.rich7harvest.com.au">www.rich7harvest.com.au</a></p>
<p><b>AUSTRALIAN LEADING LOCK SERVICE</b> Mark Berkovic 0408 404 048 PO Box 4573, Myaree BC, 6960 <a href="mailto:mls@dammot.com.au">mls@dammot.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>AVILA COURT RETIREMENT VILLAGE</b> Low cost *rental unit accommodation. For more information contact: <b>Judy 0448 205 283</b> * Conditions apply</p>	<p><b>UNITED PEST CONTROL</b> 48 Motril Avenue, Coogee. PO Box 7141, Spearwood, 6163 9418 1095 or 0433 995 688</p>

**MASS TIMES WEEKENDS:** Saturday Vigil 6pm, Sunday 7.30am & 9am.  
**MASS TIMES WEEKDAYS – FEBRUARY:** Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 9am & Friday 9am.  
**RECONCILIATION - Saturday's during FEBRUARY:** 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment.  
**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday 9.30 – 10.30am.

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:** Please note weekday Mass Time changes for the month of February as follows – Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday Mass at 9am. Thursday & Saturday NO 9am Mass.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS:** Christine Rhow, Veronica, Maria, Consiglia Ciavatta, Irwin Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Martin, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell, Steven, Davina, Elisabetta Paddon, Dermot McKernon, Edward Fortune, Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb, Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero, Jacqueline Paul, Lou Collova, Edward Forster, Anne & Justine Tonti, Greenville Paul, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June McGinnity.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024:** Parents of children who attend our Parish School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and who discern that their child receive either the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Eucharist or Confirmation **your written Expression of Interest of having your child wishing to participate in the formation for a sacrament will be received at the Mass on Saturday 6pm on 17 February 2024.**

Please note **No Expression of Interest forms will be accepted by proxy. At this time, attendance of the Parent Sacramental Formation is Mandatory.** We as a Parish and Parish School support the Archbishop's Mandate on the receiving of Sacraments.

**2024 PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER:** God 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 with 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 prayer, 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 in the name of Christ. Amen.

**SECOND SUNDAY LENT 24 & 25 February 2024:** After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. **Please donate to Project Compassion.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

**PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE:** Invite you to the Day of the Unborn Child Mass which will be celebrated by Bishop Don Sproston on Saturday **9 March 2024** at 10am at St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, please call Carmel or Lisette on 9328 2929.

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**2nd Sunday Lent - 25 February**  
**6pm Mass:** Lavino Panizza (Ann)  
**7.30am Mass:** Andrew De Souza (RIP), Paul Cooper (Ann)  
**9am Mass:** William Edwards (Ann), Dorita Martin (3rd Ann), Holy Trinity Honour

**Tuesday 27 February**  
**9am Mass:** Antonino, Basilia & Giuseppe Orlando (Ann) & Nino Russo, Gaetano Lanza (RIP)

**Wednesday 28 February**  
**9am Mass:** Almerinda Messias (RIP)

**Thursday 29 February**  
**NO 9am MASS**

**Friday 1 March**  
**9am Anointing Mass:** Joe & Teresa (Intentions)  
**10am Holy Communion:** To Hilton Park Aged Care

**Saturday 2 March**  
**NO 9am MASS**

**3rd Sunday Lent – 3 March**  
**6pm Mass:** Luigina D'Alessandro (16th Ann) & Giovina D'Alessandro (Birthday RIP)  
**7.30am Mass:** Andrew De Souza (RIP)  
**9am Mass:** Stephen Randall (RIP), Holy Father Honour  
**2.30-3.30pm** Holy Hour



### 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