



# 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 MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lent – 3 March 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:** 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, forever singing your praise.

## 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... **There will be NO Holy Trinity Prayer Group this coming Monday 4 March as it is Labour Day Public Holiday.**

## REFLECTION: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – The Cleansing.

There is nothing like a child's confidence in his or her mother witnessing one of my godchildren bump her chin on the playground. I was amazed by the way she sped to her mother, eyes blinded with tears, and flung herself into the waiting arms. How many of us wish we had the childlike confidence to do the same thing with God when the ups and downs of life knock us around! The end of today's Gospel, however, implies that the reverse is also true: God longs to entrust himself to us, to find a welcome home in our hearts. While many in Jerusalem saw Jesus' signs and believed, something was still amiss, and Jesus "did not trust himself to them." (Jn 2:24) The only explanation given for this by the evangelist, is that Jesus

"could tell what a man had in him." (Jn 2:25) Just as the forecourt of the Temple had become so cluttered by the merchants and money changers that it looked more like a market than like the Father's house, so too, the human heart. The first reading reminds us of ten basic attitudes which clutter our hearts and even can make them inhospitable to God: idolatry, irreverence, workaholism and its Siamese twin, sloth, ingratitude, hatred, lust, greed, deceit, envy. But lest we be tempted to despair, knowing our habitual struggles and weaknesses, the second reading reminds us of the remedy: not a "miracle cure" or a "wise" self help strategy, but the crucified Christ - the Power and wisdom of God "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). Therefore, we can be confident that he is not scandalized by our marketplace hearts, but rather is just waiting for us to invite him in. At the last supper, Jesus promised: "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him" (Jn 14:23) "Homemaking is a messy business and when Jesus starts flipping the tables of our treasured grudges, daydreams and expectations, the feathers will fly, to say the least. We might want to complain, like the people in the Gospel that "it has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary!" But his resurrection is the proof that whatever our dreams may be, they are nothing compared with his dream for us. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead desires to live and work in us. (Rm 8:11) May the Holy Trinity find a welcome home in your heart this

Sunday – not a perfect heart but a heart willing to trust and to let him do unbelievable things in our life.

## 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 pursuing 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lent – 3 March 2024 – Year B

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

**THIRD SUNDAY LENT 2-3 MARCH 2024:** Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for **Leaia** and her family. But with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. **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 **Sunday, 3 March 2024**

Sproxtton on Saturday **9 March 2024** at 10am at St Mary's Cathedral. For more information, please call Carmel or Lisette on 9328 2929.

**CHAPLETS OF THE DIVINE MERCY:** A beautiful, prayerful, sung devotion held at St Thomas More Catholic Church, Dean Road, Bateman, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month commencing at 7.30 pm. The next devotion will be held on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024** commencing at 7.30 pm. Enquiries to George Lopez on 041 991 0039.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Lent – 3 March

**6pm Mass:** Luigina D'Alessandro (16<sup>th</sup> Ann) & Giovina D'Alessandro (Birthday RIP)

**7.30am Mass:** Andrew De Souza (RIP), Antonio Eucheveverria Davalos (RIP)

**9am Mass:** Stephen Randall (RIP), Holy Father Honour, Maria & Ottavio Donati (RIP)

**2.30-3.30pm Holy Hour**

### Tuesday 5 March

**9am Mass:** Manuel Januario & Joselina Garces (RIP)

### Wednesday 6 March

**9am Mass:** John Randall (RIP)

### Thursday 7 March

**9am Mass:** For the People

### Friday 8 March

**9am Mass:** Owen Walsh (RIP)

### Saturday 9 March

**9am Mass:** Edward, Jason, Rebecca De Sousa (Intentions)

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lent – 10 March

**6pm Mass:** Humberto De Sousa (RIP)

**7.30am Mass:** Andrew De Souza (RIP)

**9am Mass:** Holy Trinity Honour



**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**