



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 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 MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

4th Sunday Lent - 10 March 2024 - Year B

OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Separovich
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Email: sec.hilton@perthcatholic.org.au
Web: <http://www.olmchilton.org.au/parish-bulletin/>

OFFICE HOURS

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

MINISTRY TEAM

Parish Secretary: Tereza Camacho
Safeguarding Officer:
 Brigette 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: 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.

SACRAMENTAL DATES 2024: Parents and candidates who have attended to all preparatory requirements for the sacrament of **First Reconciliation** (ie Commitment Ceremony and Workshop Attendance) may book a time for their child's celebration of the Sacrament on either of the following days and periods: Tuesday 26-3-26 from 3pm-4.15pm or Wednesday 27-3-24 from 3pm-6pm. Appointments are at 15-minute intervals. Bookings can be made by phoning the Parish Office during office hours on 9314 7733. Parents and family members are welcome to accompany their child for the Sacrament. Sacrament of **First Holy Communion** is to be celebrated on Sunday 9th June at 9am. **Confirmation** will be celebrated on Saturday 24-8-24 at 6pm. Please note Sponsor for Confirmation must be Catholic, 16 years of age and over and received Sacrament of Confirmation themselves. Parents and Grandparents cannot be Sponsors. However, Grandparents may act as a Proxy for the Sponsor.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2024: Parents and children who were unable to attend the Sacramental Commitment Mass on Saturday 17-2-24 are now invited to speak to Fr Michael to arrange an alternative weekend Mass Time for their child to be presented, to the Community, to make their commitment, and to receive a special blessing.

HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Monday night's 7-9pm. All welcome.

CONDOLENCES: Condolences to Sr Kathleen Laffan PBVM and the Presentation Order on the recent death of Sr Kathleen Power. Sr Kathleen worked in the Mandurah parish for many years. Our prayers and thoughts are with the Presentation community at this time.

CONDOLENCES: Our sincere condolences are also extended to Alex and Sinead Forster, the Forster Family, and to Brigette & Michael Liddelow on the recent death of son and Grandson Baby Edward (Teddy) Forster. You are all very much in our prayers and thoughts.

REFLECTION for 4th SUNDAY LENT: During the seventh century BC, the inhabitants of Jerusalem had moved further and further away from their mission to shine the light of God's holiness, goodness, and majesty on the world. Thus, the light of truth was instead shone then by the invasion of the Babylonians and the destruction of all the signs of the Covenant promises: The Temple, the land and even the royal line, which seemed to be extinguished. God used this desolation and time of exile to enlighten the hearts of his people and enkindle in them the hope of a Saviour, the Messiah, the "Anointed One". The power of God's merciful grace is seen in King Cyrus. After his Persian empire defeated the Babylonians, he allowed and sponsored the exiles to return to Jerusalem. Even more miraculously had the humility to recognize this Gentile as a "Christos" and to publicly acknowledge that they had been so "dead through sin" that only a foreigner, one outside the Covenant, had been able to raise them up. They didn't even attempt to claim the credit. In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to admit that sometimes we prefer to hide in darkness than to live in the light of truth. Facing the truth



about what is in our hearts. Today requires constant acts of faith, choosing again and again to trust that it is by grace that we have been saved ... not by anything we have done (Ep 2:8). But when we do this, we experience the tremendous freedom of knowing that "God sent his Son into this world not to condemn the world but so that through Him the world might be saved". (Jn 3:17) We have no reason to fear the healing light of Christ. During this Lenten season God desires that we too experience a revival of faith, that we step out of darkness and see with the eyes of God. When we make acts of faith in Jesus, in the midst of our daily struggles, this touches Jesus and triggers the divine life of grace in us. We may not feel the effects immediately, but over time it changes the way we think and act. We become aware of God's presence in us, spending time talking to him in prayer, listening quietly for his reply, outpouring his peace into our inner spiritual self. When we have the Lord within us, this brings us joy! We are then able to see all things happening to us as part of his good providence and pleasure. Let us pray. Father, we pray that we may be aware of your Son, Jesus, who wants to give himself to us so that we may grow in holiness and be led to union with you in heaven. Amen.

PRIEST TEMPORARY OFFICE: It is envisaged (hoped and prayed for) that at some juncture in time in this coming week I shall be able to attend to emails in the temporary office which will be in the Meeting Room. To date the Parish Secretary office is still unaffected by the workings of the tradespeople and can be called up in the parish office.



OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

4th Sunday Lent - 10 March 2024 - Year B

 <p>BOWRA & O'DEA FUNERAL DIRECTORS Because the little things are everything. 312 South Street, Hilton 9239 7744 or www.bowraodea.com.au</p>	 <p>SUSIE LOMBARDI 24 HOURS - 1300 779 093 E: remembrance.susie@outlook.com www.remembrancefunerals.com.au</p>	<p>RICH HARVEST PTY LTD Religious Products Mon to Fri 10.30am – 6pm Sat 10.30am – 3pm 39 Hulme Court, Myaree 9329 9889 or www.rich7harvest.com.au</p>
<p>AUSTRALIAN LEADING LOCK SERVICE Mark Berkovic 0408 404 048 PO Box 4573, Myaree BC, 6960 mls@dammot.com.au</p>	<p>AVILA COURT RETIREMENT VILLAGE Low cost *rental unit accommodation. For more information contact: Judy 0448 205 283 * Conditions apply</p>	<p>UNITED PEST CONTROL 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: Tuesday 9am, Wednesday 9am, Thursday 9am, Friday 9am & Saturday 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.

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, Anne & Justine Tonti, Greenville Paul, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June McGinnity.

RESIDENCY IN THE PRESBYTERY UPDATE: Parishioners, I have returned back to the parish after taking some long-awaited leave. I am happy to report that the tradespeople are working progressively through the repairs of the internal presbytery / office. I can report that work on the wet areas are progressing and some internal doors reflecting compliance with safeguarding are being hung in the office area. I request that all the persons and vehicles keep well away from the skip bins as well as safety for car tyres!

“DISABLED PARKING BAYS”: Parishioners, please remember that the marked bays are provided solely for those who are disabled. It is acknowledged that the bays may not be the desired width. We hope to investigate the matter in due course. The use of the bays is on an honour system,

and I sincerely thank all those who have been mindful of the needs of others. Parishioners who taxi the elderly and disabled are welcome to have their passenger's elite from the mode of transport at the west portico of the church. They may then enter the church through the western glass doors. However, the vehicle must be relocated immediately after the passenger has been settled allowing others to follow. Let us continue to be thoughtful of each other.

CANDELABRA – VOTIVE CANDLES: Parishioners the tradition of lighting votive candles continues to be a part of our faith tradition. It has been noted that the volume of candles consumed has risen sharply but the monetary donation does not reflect this. A donation of 20c per candle is asked of. This covers the expense to the church for the purchase of each votive candle.

PARISH FINANCES: The Parish outgoings for the period, December 2023 to February 2024 totalled \$14,177. The average number of Planned Giving Envelopes received for the same was 37 per week. In addition, 10 Parishioners support the Parish via Direct Debit System. We sincerely thank ALL for their generosity and financial support and encourage the use of Planned Giving Envelopes and the Direct Debit System.

4th SUNDAY LENT 9-10 MARCH 2024: As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, **Memory** faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. **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 or by calling 1800 024 413.

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

MASS INTENTIONS
4th Sunday Lent – 10 March
6pm Mass: Humberto De Sousa (RIP), Anita Mateljak (Bday Int)
7.30am Mass: Andrew De Souza (RIP), Regina Pass (RIP)
9am Mass: Holy Trinity Honour, Genoveva Martins (RIP Bday), Danni Anjeo (RIP)

Tuesday 12 March
9am Mass: Pia Bartolomeu (RIP)

Wednesday 13 March
9am Mass: Jose & Conceicao De Sousa (RIP)

Thursday 14 March
9am Mass: Pauline Belviso (6th Ann)
Friday 15 March
9am Mass: Sacred Heart of Jesus & Immaculate Heart of Mary Honour
Funeral Mass for Baby Edward (Teddy) Forster

Saturday 16 March
9am Mass: Jesus Christ & St Raphael Archangel Honour & Thanksgiving

5th Sunday Lent – 17 March
6pm Mass: Giovina D'Alessandro (RIP Ann)
7.30am Mass: Andrew De Souza (RIP), Sr Maria Grazia Rossi (Ann) & Filomena Carozza (Ann)
9am Mass: Michael Brento (Bday Int), Dianne De Olival (RIP) & Maria Da Silva (RIP), Holy Spirit Thanksgiving for Gift of Life, Zelia De Agrela (RIP)



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.**

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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