



# THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

26 JANUARY 2025

## FIRST READING

Neh 8:2-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

*They read from the book of the Law and they understood what was read.*

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered, 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

■ The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. Jn 6:63

**R.** Your words, Lord, are spirit and 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. May the spoken words of my mouth, / the thoughts of my heart, / win favour in your sight, O Lord, / my rescuer, my rock! **R.**

## SECOND READING

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*Together you are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

■ The word of the Lord.

*Longer form, 1 Cor 12:12-30.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!



## OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

### 3rd Sunday Ordinary - 26 January 2025 - Year C

#### OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL PARISH HILTON

**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael Separovich

**Address:** 82 Collick Street, Hilton, WA, 6163

**Phone:** (08) 9314 7733

**Email:** [sec.hilton@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto: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:** 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>

**REFLECTION: Stone Soup.** I could not have been any closer to normal family life than when I witnessed a highly emotive debate (squabble) between three young siblings over ownership of Christmas gifts and stewardship. Mind you it was late in the day when the peace of the world was broken. This fracas has led me to reflect upon a conversation I once had with a Benedictine Monk and his sharing of the Monastic Rule of St Benedict. There is a custom that every monastery in the world has. There is a custom by which all live by. The Monastic Rule of Possessions. The community members ask permission for the things one needs. A monk or sister would ask permission for several things. It is understood in the monastery that one has no personal possessions. Say whatever I may have can be equally used by any other member of that community. The books one used, the computer, even the garden shovel all belongs to the community. If money as a gift comes by way of one person who is in community it goes straight into the Monastery account. This is a valued way of living for those who are called to monastic life. And is cherished deeply. St Benedict in the Rule tells again and again that “Nothing is ours”. There are those who perhaps not living this way of life may think that this is pretty childish, after all you can say, “I am a grown person, an adult. Why on earth need I ask for what I need. I can make my own decision.” Well, that is all true of course but as my seasoned monk continued to add, “As the

years go by, as one lives this way of life, you begin to understand something very important, none of us whoever we are or whatever we do, actually have right to anything in this world. Nothing is ours. All is a gift! Do we have the right to the sun that woke you up this morning? Is the sun yours? Do you have the right to the love of another? Is love yours? Is that person yours? There is a beautiful native American saying which goes like this; “This is not my land. It belongs to the One who created it and I have the privilege of living upon it. I accord that same privilege to others. Life and every facet of it belongs to God. Belongs to the God who created all things, and I have the privilege of its use.” We live in the shadow of giftedness, the giftedness of God who sees to all our needs. If we take ownership of anything then there is every chance someone else will miss out. Our dear wise monk continued to say; “Have we not seen that the actual right of so many in the world to own such vast quantities of goods of this world has meant the deprivation of millions of others.” The Benedictine way of life lays much stone by the virtue of stewardship. We have a God-given responsibility to care for what is not ours. And “nothing is ours”. Now as we commenced the New year, I invite you to reflect and look a little differently to life. I invite you to look at life and everything in it as a gift. The grass beneath your feet, the air we breathe, the people who grace your life, the breeze that caresses your face and the kindness that creeps across your life. Don’t be

afraid of asking permission of God before you take something. That simple act repeated will again remind us of who is really in charge and thank God because it is God that is in charge.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK PARISHIONERS:

Christine Rhow, Maria, Consiglia Ciavatta, Irwin Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell, Steven, Davina, Elisabetta Paddon, Edward Fortune, Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb, Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero, Jacqueline Paul, Lou Collova, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, June McGinnity, John Brackovich, Alison, Sofia, Rebecca, Fr Francis Sundararajan, Fr Greg Carroll, Bill Watkins, Daniel DiMarco, Joshua Oorschot, Fr John Piumatti, Mila Hogan, Mara Ravlich, Fr Vittorio Ricciardi, Lloyd Smith, Tegan Colgan, Patrick O’Brien, Archbishop Emeritus Barry Hickey, Fr Jean Fernandez, Fr Benedict Quadros, Fr John Hogan, Alessia Saraceni, Anthony Lopez, Fr Richard Rutkauskas, Fr Peter Meo, Severina Cukrov, Dennis Woodcock, Jenny Mizera.

**SCHOOL CARPARK:** Parishioners, please be aware that during January 2025 there will be works at the school with trucks and tradie vehicles occupying the school carpark.



# OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

## 3rd Sunday Ordinary - 26 January 2025 - Year C

### BULLETIN SPONSORS

<p><b>AUSTRALIAN LEADING LOCK SERVICE</b> Mark Berkovic 0408 404 048 <a href="mailto:mls@dammot.com.au">mls@dammot.com.au</a></p>	<p><b>AVILA COURT RETIREMENT VILLAGE</b> For more information, please contact Judy 0448 205 283</p>	<p><b>UNITED PEST CONTROL</b> PO Box 7141, Spearwood, 6163 0433 995 688</p>
<p><b>RICH HARVEST</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>ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY</b> Meet every Monday, except for public holidays, between 7 and 8 pm in the first meeting room to the left of the Church. New members are always welcome. Please contact Ian (President) on 0428 121 152 for further information.</p>	<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>

**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:** 9.30-10am and 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday 9.30 – 10.30am.

**HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** HTPG Prayer group is in recess until Monday 3 February 2025.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In His presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in His holy place.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** Jesus you are the Good Shepherd who is always mindful of your Church. Watch over those who are Baptised in your name and grant peace and harmony to all families. We ask you to choose from the families of our Parish many priests, deacons, sisters and brothers who will gladly spend

their lives making you known and loved.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025**  
We are reminded that the Sacraments are a gift to us from God. We meet God in each of the Sacraments. They assist us in our spiritual relationship with God and others. These are gifts from on High. That is why we must prepare well to receive them because God is calling us and talking to us.

- Reconciliation**
1. Presentation of Candidates: Saturday 22-2-25 at 6pm
  2. Parent Workshop: Tuesday 11-3-25 at 6pm
  3. Parent / Child Workshop: Tuesday 18-3-25 at 6pm
  4. The Sacrament by Appointment: Tuesday 1-4-25 from 3.15 to 4.15pm
  5. Wednesday 2-4-25 from 3.15 to 6pm
- First Eucharist**
1. Presentation of Candidates: Saturday 3-5-24 at 6pm
  2. Parent Workshop: Wednesday 7-5-25 at 6pm
  3. Parent / Child Workshop: Wednesday 14-5-25 at 6pm
  4. 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist by Appointment: Saturday 14-6-25 at 6pm
  5. Sunday 15-6-25 at 9am
  6. Saturday 21-6-25 at 6pm
  7. Sunday 22-6-25 at 9am
- Confirmation**
1. Presentation of Candidates: Saturday 26-7-25 at 6pm

2. Parent Workshop: Wednesday 6-8-25 at 6pm
  3. Parent / Child Workshop: Wednesday 20-8-25 at 6pm
  4. Sacrament of Confirmation: Saturday 13-9-25 at 4pm
- PARENT / S and CANDIDATES MUST ATTEND to fulfil the Formation Process.**

**SACRAMENTAL BOOKS AVAILABLE:** Those children of our Parish School who are preparing for the Sacrament of Penance, the Candidate Parent, Family Workbook is available to purchase from the Parish Temporary Office situated near the kindergarten play area and the back of the Parish House during normal Parish Office Hours for \$10 each book.

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**Saturday 25 to Friday 31 January 2025**  
**Saturday 25 January**  
**9am Mass:** Intention of Donor  
**6pm Mass:** Alberto Giglia (RIP Anniversary)  
**Sunday 26 January – AUSTRALIA DAY**  
**7.30am Mass:** Mara Separovich (RIP Anniversary)  
**9am Mass:** Angelo & Nina Bertone + Deceased Family Members  
**Tuesday 28 January**  
**9am Mass:** Intention of Donor  
**Wednesday 29 January**  
**9am Mass:** Margie Ketelapper (RIP)  
**Thursday 30 January**  
**9am Mass:** Antun & Maria Cucevic (RIP)  
**Friday 31 January**  
**9am Mass:** Holy Souls



GOSPEL

Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

*The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.*

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eye-witnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,  
for he has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to  
the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives  
and to the blind new sight,  
to set the downtrodden free,  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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# Breaking Open the Word

## GOD'S SPIRIT-FILLED AGENT

This Sunday we read the opening four verses of Luke's Gospel (1:1-4), skip over Jesus' birth narrative (chapters 1 and 2), Luke's introduction of John the Baptist (3:1-20), Jesus' baptism (3:21-22), a genealogy (3:23-38) and Jesus' temptation (4:1-13)—stories which will emerge at various times during this year—and move to a defining moment set in Jesus' hometown synagogue in Nazareth (4:14-21).

This event lays out the full meaning of Jesus' future ministry in the Gospel. Luke presents Jesus, the faithful Jew, at his local synagogue for the Sabbath Scripture, choosing to read from the prophet Isaiah. Luke brings together two parts of Isaiah, edits them and rearranges them to have Jesus pronounce the two key messages the evangelist wants the Gospel audience to hear: that Jesus is God's Spirit-filled agent (confirming his status from earlier scenes) whose sole intent is to lead God's people, especially the poor, oppressed and spiritually blind, to freedom; and that the God of Jesus is not a God just for the Jews, but for all people irrespective of social or ethnic status.

It is this last point that attracts ire from his co-religionists and introduces a theme of opposition that will emerge as the Gospel unfolds. Evident in the Nazareth-event is Luke's freedom, clear from the opening verses of today's passage, to reshape the biblical tradition (Isaiah) and the story of Jesus to speak freshly to the Gospel's Greco-Roman audience. Luke thus provides a pattern for contemporary theological reflection and church teaching.

Fr Michael Trainor