



THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

30 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Josh 5: 9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 33: 2-7. R. v. 9

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, / his praise always on my lips; / in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. / The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. / Together let us praise his name. / I sought the Lord and he answered me; / from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; / let your faces not be abashed. / This poor man called; the Lord heard him / and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

SECOND READING

2 Cor 5: 17-21

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

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we

are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 15: 18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid



OUR LADY of MT CARMEL PARISH BULLETIN

4th Sunday Lent - 30 March 2025 - Year C

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: 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: Sin is a symptom. If you are sneezing, it is clear that the sneezing is not the real problem. You either have an allergy or a disease and the sneezing is just a symptom pointing you to the deeper problem. You can stuff tissues up your nose or find a way of permanently blowing your nose or spending on many types of medications to put abeyance to the symptom. Now all this will give you only a temporary solution to the symptom, but it won't solve the underlying issue. In fact, the pressure will probably build up until your 'head explodes'. It seems obvious that the sensible solution is to see a doctor and deal with the real disease. We need to realise that this is the same situation with sin. Sin is just a symptom of a deeper disease of the heart. We sin ultimately because we are desperately looking for love. The sickness of the heart then manifests itself in all sorts of ugly other ways, lust, anger, jealousy, sloth. But we need to be clear that what we call sin is a symptom actively pointing us to the real problem. If we look at our life in this way, we discover the difference between law and grace. The Law was the equivalent of trying to block up your nose to stop sneezing. Surround yourself with laws to shame you into changing your behaviour. This could work for a short time but eventually the pressure builds up and you explode into worse behaviour. The mystery of grace is that Jesus came to deal with the real problem by loving us. When He sat down with sinners it was as though He was saying, 'I could

put up with your sneezing as long as you are committed in dealing with the cause of the problem'. As we gaze upon the Cross, and we allow ourselves to be loved we find that our reason for sinning gradually disappears.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 29-30

March 2025: Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family. **Please donate today.** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes, by calling 1800 024 413 or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

PROJECT COMPASSION ENVELOPES:

Please support Project Compassion by taking Project Compassion Envelopes from the foyer table.

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. Amen.

PREGNANCY ASSISTANCE:

Began in 1996 by Archbishop Emeritus Barry Hickey. Pregnancy Assistance (PA)

offers a free and confidential service for women who need practical, emotional or counselling (including miscarriage and post-abortion grief counselling) support during their pregnancy and up to the first year of the baby's life. PA relies solely on second-hand (in good condition) and new baby goods, and we graciously accept monetary donations (which are tax deductible over \$2) from the local community. Currently, PA is in need of baby toiletries, bassinets, newborn car seats (restrictions apply), baby baths, 0000 + 000 singlets, 0000 boy + girl summer clothes and baths. PA can be contacted on 9328 2929.

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK

PARISHIONERS:

Christine Rhow, Maria, Consiglia Ciavatta, Irwin Beachell, Isabella Da Cunha, Norma Elliott, Rudi Tassell, Steven, Elisabetta Paddon, Edward Fortune, Beatrice Fernandez, Lisa Bubb, Romilda Marinelli, Aaron LoCicero, Lou Collova, Christine Schwarten Henry, Fr Joseph Angelo, Fr Anibal Da Cunha, Peter Scanlan, 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, Dennis Woodcock, Giuseppe Cappiello, Vincent Cappiello, Rhonda McGinnity, Teresa Berlingeri, Carmelina Valenti, Reta White.



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ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Meet every Monday, except for public holidays, between 7 to 8pm 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 more information.

BOWRA & O'DEA FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Because the little things are everything.
312 South Street, Hilton
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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.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Wednesday 5.30 – 6.30pm & Friday 9.30 – 10.30am.

receive them because God is calling us and talking to us.

Reconciliation

1. The Sacrament by Appointment: Tuesday 1-4-25 from 3.15 to 4.15pm
2. 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. 1st 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 29 March to Friday 4 April 2025

Saturday 29 March

9am Mass: Nina & Angelo Bertone (RIP)

6pm Mass: Intention of Donor

Sunday 30 March

7.30am Mass: For the People

9am Mass: John Randall (RIP)

Tuesday 1 April

8am Mass: Intention of Donor

10am Funeral Mass

Wednesday 2 April

9am Mass: Stephen Randall (RIP)

Thursday 3 April

NO Mass

Friday 4 April

9am Anointing Mass: Holy Souls

10am Holy Communion: Hilton Park Aged Care

SECOND RITE RECONCILIATION:

As we are in the season of Lent, Mater Christi Catholic Church, 340 Yangebup Road, Yangebup will be holding Second Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 7pm.

HOLY TRINITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:

Monday night's 7-9pm except during school holidays and public holidays.

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:

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

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

3/4 ... Saturday, 29 March 2025



servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found." '

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

GOD'S LAVISH DELIGHT

This Sunday's Gospel brings us to the very heart of Luke's teaching—forgiveness and God's delight in the return of the sinner. The Gospel's introduction sets the scene: Jesus attracts and dines with moral reprobates. Is this mirroring what's happening with Luke's householders as they gather for the Lord's Supper? Like Jesus, are they too being criticised by religious legislators?

Three parables follow. Our focus is on the third, the parable of two lost sons. Preachers often exclusively focus on the young son who demands his inheritance to leave the farm for a life of pleasure. The son is virtually treating his father as though dead when inheritances were usually bequeathed. He wants to completely cut family ties. We know what follows. The son's need to address his chronic hunger and loneliness sitting with Earth's most unclean creature, the pig, brings him to acknowledge his wrongdoing. He wants to return to his father's farm not as a son but as a hired hand.

The father's longing for his son's return is palpable and completely upturns social expectation. It reflects God's visceral response to the lost one who returns. The second older son is also lost. His adamant rejection of his younger brother's behaviour and his unwillingness to join the celebration of the brother's return flags an attitude circulating in Luke's world. The father's plea to this son for a change of heart is also a plea to the Gospel audience: Are we able to celebrate the joy of God's lavish delight over those we would prefer to exclude?



Fr Michael Trainor