

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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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



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.



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www.facebook.com/EastwoodCatholic

MASS TIMES, RECONCILIATION AND DEVOTION

Weekday Mass: Monday - 7:30am (Communion Service, except on Feast Days);

Tuesday to Thursday - 7:30am (followed by Holy Rosary); Friday - 5pm

Weekend Mass: Saturday Vigil - 5:30pm (livestreamed); Sunday - 8am, 9:30am, 6pm

CCC Mass: Sunday at 12noon (English/Cantonese)

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 4pm-5pm

First Friday Devotion: Monthly at 4pm

First Saturday Mass and Devotion: Monthly at 9am

Exposition and Benediction: First weekend of the month at all Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Friday 4pm-4:45pm and Saturday 4:30pm-5:15pm

SCAN OUR
PARISH
QR CODE TO
DONATE
ONLINE



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT/Year B

25 Feb 2024

PRAYER REQUESTS:



Recently Deceased: Anna Radovanovic, Mirek Bimr, Ann Court, Noelene Wilkinson

Death Anniversary: Patrick O'Connor, Raymond Coe, Lewis George Saunders

Deceased: Julian Micalef, Ben Isaacs, Selwyn Jackson, Peter McNamara, Milly Farrell, Francis Murray, Marie Cummins; Casey, Landon, O'Connor, Pigott & Stewart families; Geoff and Patricia Clarke; Ron & Jan Brayan.

Sick: Marian Arendarczyk, Ling Sin Fong, Xiao Yi Chen, Sheriden Nemecek, Paul Celler, Dave Isaacs, Terence Cahill, Barbara Hall, Elizabeth Uy Tan, Graham Rumble, Sam Wong, Robert Lauw, June Phelan, Anne McIntyre, Adhy Guna S., Daisy Gouw, Nur Gouw

ATTENTION ST KEVIN'S PARISHIONERS!

Our parish will have a **BAKE SALE** this Sun 25th Feb after the 9:30am Mass! Proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards future parish projects and events. Come and support our parish fundraiser!!! All welcome! See you there!

PARISH NEWS:

- We welcome Lexton Fong into the family of God. Congratulations on your baptism!
- New Liturgical Rosters are now available for collection at the back of the church.**
- On March 1, we will have our First Friday Devotion at 4pm. All are invited to attend.
- On March 2, we will have our First Saturday Mass and Devotion at 9am. All welcome.
- On Sun 3rd March, FOSK (Friends of St Kevin's) will serve morning tea outside the Church.** Please join us after the 9:30am Mass. Thank you!
- The Liturgy Office of the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is running a series of courses across the archdiocese. See poster in the church foyer for details or visit: <https://liturgy.sydneycatholic.org/ministry-training-formation/>.** St Therese Denistone will run the **Acolytes Course for the next three Wednesdays, Feb 28, Mar 6 & 13 from 6:30pm-9:30pm.**
- Next Didasko Adult Faith Formation course will be on Mon, Mar 4, 11 & 18, 7:30pm** in the Haseler Centre. TOPIC: 'God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology,' will be presented by Chris Wolte. COST: FREE. To register contact the parish office (02) 9874 2533.

- Fr Fabius sends his thanks for supporting the Cuppa book fundraiser** for the benefit of Pere Achte Primary School in Uganda. See his letter of appreciation on the noticeboard.
- ST KEVIN'S PLAYGROUP** every Wednesday in the Haseler Centre (parish hall) from 9:30am-11:30am. All parents/carers and little ones are welcome to join in the fun! For info grab a flyer from the church foyer or email: anne.johnson@syd.catholic.edu.au, St Kevin's Family Educator.
- Monthly Men's Prayer Breakfast** - The next gathering will be on Sat 2nd Mar at 7am in the Haseler Centre (parish hall). Enquiries 0400 303 733. All men welcomed.
- St Kevin's Men's Choir** - is rostered to sing at the following Masses each month: Sat 5:30pm 1st Week, Sun 9:30am 2nd Week, Sun 6pm 4th Week. Interested in singing or playing an instrument with the Men's Choir? Contact 0400 303 733.

SEASON OF LENT 2024:



• **Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 5pm Mass.**

• **Join our Parish Lenten Group every Thursday at 6pm in the Church.**

Parishioners are welcome to join any time or form their own groups. 'Take home a Project Compassion Box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia. For info or to donate online: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion. Project Compassion Boxes will be collected during Holy Week.

• **A Resurrected Life, Daily Reflections for Lent' book still available in our sacristy**



for only \$6. This pocket-sized companion is easy to carry & read, at home or while commuting. Includes a short text of scripture from the day's Gospel and reflections.



- Lenten Retreat Day with the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia:** Sat 16 Mar, 10am-4pm, at St Mary's Cathedral Hall. Cost \$20. Morning tea & lunch included. See poster for details.
- QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY (QMHR) JAMAICAN APPEAL:** While grocery shopping please consider buying extra items that can be donated to the **Missionaries of the Poor Lenten Appeal in Jamaica**. The Missionaries of the Poor have dedicated their lives to care for disabled & abandoned children, adults & elderly. See poster in the church foyer for details. Last day to collect donations from the church foyer will be on 30th April 2024. Thank you!

OTHER NEWS:

- JOB VACANCY: Permanent P/T Secretary – St Therese, Denistone.** See noticeboard for details.
- YOUTH LEADERS IMMERSION WEEKEND, 2-3 March at Peter Canisius House, Pymble:** A great opportunity for anyone 18-30yo and is interested in deepening their faith and/or has a desire to get into youth ministry. For info and registration visit: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPDCV> See poster in the church foyer. Spots are limited so register now!
- ST KEVIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN DAY:** Wed 6th Mar 4-6pm, Mar 7 & 8 - 9:30am-10:30am
- MARIST COLLEGE EASTWOOD OPEN DAY:** Wed 6th March 3:30pm-6:30pm
- World Day of Prayer** service will be at Uniting Church (14-16 Lakeside Rd), Fri 1st Mar 10am.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, contact Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office E: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or (02) 9390 5810. You may also speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support & guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to police.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL:



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do you, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.