

The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

10 March 2024

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

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 them 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."'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

*(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I 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

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

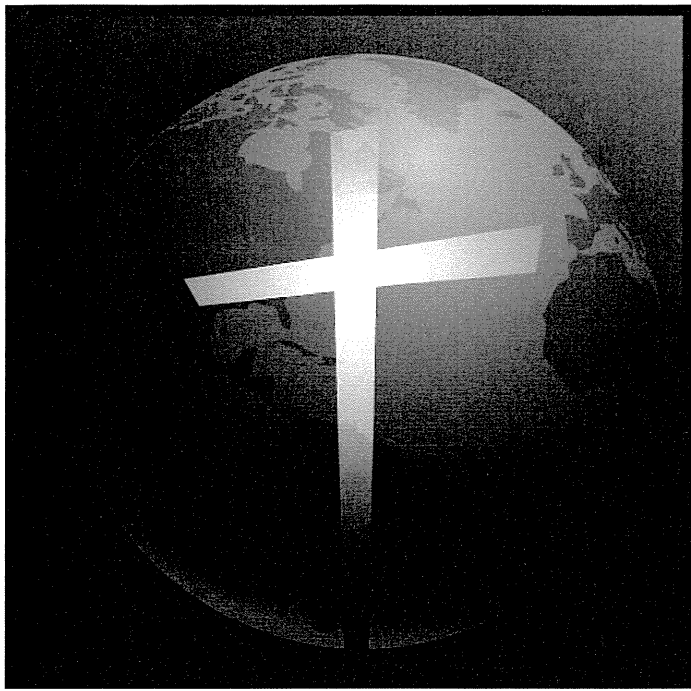
God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

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 had meant us to live it.

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

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.'

Reflection by Greg Sunter

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

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HOLY TRINITY

CATHOLIC PARISH

Incorporating the Mass centres and communities of

Holy Family	Our Lady Star of the Sea	Holy Trinity
101 Hitchcock Av	68 John Dory Drive	34 Stevens St
Barwon Heads	Ocean Grove	Queenscliff

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wathaurong people. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully in the land.

We are committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Fr Darien J Sticklen

Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutura

Safeguarding & Admin Support: Ms Jennie Ryan

Parish Mission Ambassador: Ms Josephine Barnes

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Sr Nola Morrissy RSM

For all parish ministries, including Holy Communion to the Sick, RCIA, Baptism & Sacramental Program, Men Alive, Faith Development & Spirituality Group, St Vincent de Paul local Conference, Trinity Aid for Refugees, etc., please visit:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au

PARISH OFFICE & PRESBYTERY

34 Stevens Street, Queenscliff 3225

Telephone: (03) 5258 1673

Email: queenscliff@cam.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00am to 1:00pm (closed public holidays)

PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St. Aloysius, Queenscliff

Principal: Ms. Miriam Leahy, Tel: 5258 1736

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Principal: Ms. Kerry Sells, Tel: 5255 4308

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

BARWON HEADS: Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

OCEAN GROVE: Sunday 9:00am

QUEENSCLIFF: Sunday 11:00am

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Please see below: Liturgy in our Parish this week

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

is available prior to each weekend Mass, and before or after weekday Masses if needed.

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS

Visit our website for all information or contact Parish office

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/

COLUMBARIUM

Please visit www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/about-us/parish-columbarium/

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN ATTENDING NON-CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Please visit our website for all information:

<https://www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/sacraments/sacramental-program-2/>

Please send in bulletin notices by 1pm on Thursdays

PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THEIR BULLETINS
HOME AFTER MASS

Laetare (Rejoice!) Sunday, Year B

Recently Deceased: Ian Rossiter, Ron Macpherson and Jeanette Stevens.

Anniversaries 10th March to 16th March: Ian Neville, Jennifer Jones, Banda Hallal, Patrick Barry, John King, Johanna 'Janni' Strzelcyck, John Hannebery, Theo Verheyen, Joan Butcher and Geraldine Patricia Williams.

Please pray for those who are Sick: Elly Anwyl, Naomi Bianco, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Ron & Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Jack Davin, Pat Dickeson, Michael Dowling, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Gloria Forbes, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Martin & Mary Grundy, Justin Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Susan Hardy, Peter Harrington, Jeannette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Robert Hurley, Melissa Keogh, Gary Kingsbury, Hilda Koerntjes, Margaret Lomas, Toni Lukauskas, Patrick Magennis, Brendan Merriman, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Frank Nelson, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Piec, Mavourneen Ray, Margaret Renwick (Snr), Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Mary Sullivan, Pam Sullivan, Kevin Teasdale, Deanne Warren, Cathy Williams, Michelle Williams, Peter Williams and Shirley Woodruff.

ROSTERS

If you are unable to meet your commitment on your day, please arrange a substitute. Thank you!

COMMENTATOR (C), LECTOR (L), SPECIAL MINISTER (SM),
WELCOMERS (W), PROJECTIONIST (P)

OCEAN GROVE: 17th March at 9:00am:

(C) Anthony Dowling (L) Luci Quinn (SM) Janine Fitzpatrick, Dan O'Meara (W) Remo & Naomi Bianco.

QUEENSCLIFF: 17th March at 11:00am:

(C) Adrian Scott (L) Diana Scott (SM) Sr Nola Morrissy (W) Welcomer required.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 12th March at 10:00am:

Judy Compton & Faye Neville.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

If you need Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office. Mobile number for emergencies is on the recorded message.

For all Safeguarding updates, please visit the parish website:

www.holytrinityqueenscliff.org.au/safeguarding/parish-child-safe/

We appreciate your understanding and support as we work together to comply with our legal requirements. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

The Sacrament of Healing – Anointing of the Sick
will be offered at all weekend Masses on the 4th Sunday of Lent,
that is, *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday.

Project Compassion: a kind reminder that we're halfway through Project Compassion for 2024. Please continue to 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.

Marilyn Brown will lead choir practice for Holy Week this
Sunday, 10th March, at 4:00pm at Holy Trinity Church.

St Vincent de Paul Society meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th March** after 9:15am Mass at Ocean Grove.

St Patrick's Day Sausage Sizzle at Holy Trinity: celebrate St Patrick's Day on **Sunday 17th March** with a sausage sizzle at Queenscliff following Mass. All welcome. More details to follow.

Parish Ladies Social Group will meet on **Wednesday 20th March** at 10:00am at Ocean Grove Church for morning tea. The ladies will then prepare the Easter Vigil Candles. These candles will be lit from the new Paschal Candle at the Great Vigil in the Holy Night (Saturday 30th March at 8:00pm).

Trinity Aid for Refugees (TAR): if you wish to continue support you can donate directly to Wesley Church Welcome Place: BSB 633 000, Account 160 305 066. Website: www.queenscliff.org.

Each Church in our Parish has a **TAP & GO** terminal. These have helped increase financial support for our Parish. Easy to use – please avail yourself of this way to support us. Thank you.

Geelong Catholic Diners Club: You are warmly invited to join us for a social get-together for food & friendship. **Date:** Tuesday 12th March. **Time:** 6:00pm. **Venue:** The Bistro, Belmont Hotel (High St, Belmont). **Cost:** Purchase meals & drinks at your own cost. **RSVP:** via phone or text to Joan 0429 215 111 or Michael 0431 959 584 by 8th March.

Faith and Light Geelong gathering RESCHEDULED. Due to the extreme heat forecast for this Saturday, the Friends of Faith & Light Geelong gathering for people with Disability and friends has been rescheduled for the following Saturday, **16th March**. Time: 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm. Venue: Hibernian Room (ground floor) at 150 Yarra Street, Geelong. Share your Lenten journey with the Gospel, prayer, activities and afternoon tea. RSVP or for any enquires contact Tricia, mobile: 0414 672 267, or Kevin, email: Kevin@stmarysgeelong.com.au. For further information see: www.stmarysgeelong.com.au/faithandlight.

“Save with CDF Community Fund – it’s in everyone’s best interest”: By opening an account, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of accounts, including 5.55% p.a.* on a 12-month Term Investment, it’s a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit:

www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer or email Anton Pan-Cassin apancassin@melbcdf.org.au or Bernard Docherty bdocherty@melbcdf.org.au. *Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

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LITURGY IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday 11th March – Monday of the 4th week of Lent

Tuesday 12th March – Tuesday of the 4th week of Lent

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Wednesday 13th March – Wednesday of the 4th week of Lent

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

11:00am Mass with anointing at Arcare, Point Lonsdale

Thursday 14th March – Thursday of the 4th week of Lent

9:15am Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

10:15am St Aloysius Preparation for First Reconciliation

Friday 15th March – Friday of the 4th week of Lent

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

12:00pm Our Lady Star of the Sea Whole School Mass

at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

2:00pm Funeral Service of Ron Macpherson at Kings Chapel, Newcomb

Saturday 16th March – Saturday of the 4th week of Lent

Sunday 17th March – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

12:30pm Baptism Service at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

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Thought for the Week:

Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming of it.

- Helen Keller.

+ + +

+ + +



Anthony & Letitia Dowling
with the friendly team you know and trust.

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Email: info@oceaneyes.com.au

Visit: www.oceaneyes.com.au



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Vinnies No Interest Loan Scheme (“NILS”)

Geelong Vinnies NILS provides people on pensions & low incomes with loans up to \$1500 for essentials such as whitegoods, TVs, computers, medical & dental services, car repairs, etc... with absolutely no interest or fees! For further information, contact Vinnies NILS Tel 5229 8829 or email enquiries.nils@vinniesnils.org.au.

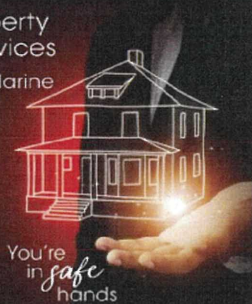
NPTS

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Looking to buy, sell
or transfer property?

Contact Frank Nelson

0413 017 053
bellarine@npts.com.au



CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, gardening, cleaning and tiling. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas. Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.