

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

23 March 2025

First Reading Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.



Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:17

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Lk 13:1-9

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."' "

Reflection by Greg Sunter

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

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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

Parish Priest: Fr Linh Pham

Parish Secretary: Mrs Daniella Sutera

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-1/>

Please send in bulletin notices by 1:00pm on Thursdays
If you would like a deceased loved one(s) prayed for on their anniversary, please contact the parish office on 5258 1673 or queenscliff@cam.org.au by 1:00pm on Thursdays.

PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THEIR BULLETINS HOME AFTER MASS

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

Please pray for those who are Sick: Naomi Bianco, Frances Blaine, Jacqueline Blake, Matthew Blake, Mary Blonk, Peter Bourke, Helen Carter, Sam Caruana, Sue Casey, Ian Downing, Robert Drummond & Patti Semler, Nell Fraigneux, Kay Freyne, Ross Gilham, Margaret Gladstone, Mary Gladwin, Martin & Mary Grundy, Justin Hanan, Stephen Hanan, Susan Hardy, Peter Harrington, Jeanette Hodgkinson, Gregory Holien, Robert & Lyne Horner, Melissa Keogh, Hilda Koerntjes, Margaret Lomas, Michelle Mahoney, Belinda Monterosso, Christine Naulty, Helen Pearce, Cecilia Pic, Mavourneen Ray, Geraldine Richards, Betty Rushton, Kevin Teasdale, Deanne Warren and Cathy Williams.

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: 30th March at 9:00am:

(C) Gerry Rainey (L) Peter Dickinson (SM) Dan O'Meara, Luci Quinn (W) Dawn Dalton, Catherine Hayes.

QUEENSCLIFF: 30th March at 11:00am:

(C) Sam Sammut (L) Maria Sammut (SM) Maria Sammut (W) Sam Caruana.

COUNTERS: Tuesday 25th March at 10:00am:

Fay Neville and Daniella Sutera.

** NEWS & EVENTS **

If you need Pastoral care & support, or you are aware of others who may need assistance, please phone our Parish office.

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.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE FROM PARISH OFFICE

Over the next several weeks, volunteers who need update/renew their Working With Children Check, National Police Check, Safeguarding Essentials Training and/or Parish Code of Conduct, will be notified via email. Please check your Junk Folder. We thank you for volunteering in the parish and we appreciate your cooperation.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Interested in becoming a Special Minister for Communion?

All three churches are calling for special ministers. If you are interested in becoming a special minister, please contact the parish office via phone or email. No special requirements needed. Training and support will be provided – we are aiming before Easter. Safeguarding volunteer requirements apply. *We are all called to serve.*

Together we pray for the students of St Aloysius Primary School receiving the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

Faith and Light Geelong

Christian Community for those with Disability and their families. Next monthly meeting: Tuesday 25th March 2:00-4:00pm. Chat, prayer, songs and afternoon tea. At St Mary's Parish (Geelong) Hibernian Room. RSVP to Tricia 0414 672 267. All welcome.

"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 apanassin@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 24th March – Monday of the 3rd week of Lent

11:00am Funeral Requiem Mass for Mr Peter Williams at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Ocean Grove

Live Webcast Link (if unable to attend in person):

<https://cpconceptevents.com.au/the-late-peter-williams/>

Tuesday 25th March – The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (Solemnity)

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

11:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Sea View Manor, Ocean Grove

11:30am St Aloysius Year 3 First Reconciliation Service at St Aloysius School

Wednesday 26th March – Wednesday of the 3rd week of Lent

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff, followed by Exposition (until 11:00am)

11:00am Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at Arcare, Point Lonsdale

Thursday 27th March – Thursday of the 3rd week of Lent

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

Friday 28th March – Friday of the 3rd week of Lent

9:15am Mass at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff, followed by Confession after Mass and Exposition (until 11:00am)

3:00pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction at Holy Trinity, Queenscliff

Saturday 29th March – Saturday of the 3rd week of Lent

Sunday 30th March – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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Thought for the Week:

All human wisdom is summed up in two words: wait and hope.

-Alexandre Dumas.

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EASTER 2025

All our Sacred Paschal Triduum celebrations, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil will be celebrated at Our Lady Star of the Sea, in Ocean Grove.

WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL

7:00pm SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION - Ocean Grove

HOLY THURSDAY, 17 APRIL

6:00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - Ocean Grove

GOOD FRIDAY, 18 APRIL

10:00am STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Ocean Grove

3:00pm THE PASSION OF THE LORD - Ocean Grove

HOLY SATURDAY, 19 APRIL

7:00pm EASTER VIGIL - Ocean Grove

EASTER SUNDAY, 20 APRIL

9:00am - BARWON HEADS

9:00am - OCEAN GROVE

11:00am - QUEENSCLIFF

Please note:

1. The Queenscliff community will look after the Holy Thursday Mass of The Lord's Passion liturgy.
2. The Barwon Heads will look after Good Friday – Passion of the Lord liturgy.
3. The Ocean Grove community will look after the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil liturgy.

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

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Visit: www.oceaneyes.com.au



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CHARLIE'S MAINTENANCE CO

General maintenance, handyman, gardening, and cleaning. Servicing the Bellarine and Geelong areas.

Contact Charlie on 0413 609 170 or email

charlie.sutera76@gmail.com.