

## Prayers of the Faithful

**Presider:** 'The time has come! God's reign is at hand!' Strengthened by God's Word we turn to our Creator for courage and perseverance in our observance of Lent.

**Leader:** For an understanding of God's covenant with the world. (pause)  
Recalling God's covenant with Noah and the promise made to the world through the sign of the rainbow, may we grow in our understanding of God's love for the world and all its people.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For a desire to live by the gospel. (pause)  
Noah was saved by water and we too are reborn in the waters of Baptism. May our observance of Lent renew in us our baptismal commitment to live by the gospel of Jesus. Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For a desire to resist temptation in life. (pause)  
Jesus was tempted to abandon the life God had chosen for him. May we resist sin in our lives and by lives of integrity and justice proclaim the good news from God.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** For an eagerness to proclaim the gospel. (pause)  
May we be alert to the signs of the times, looking for ways to proclaim the message of God's reign to all the world by lives that are faithful to God's teaching and values that reflect God's Word.  
Lord, hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** That those who have entered eternal life will be seated with the risen Christ. Lord hear us.  
**ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.**

**Presider:** God of all consolation, you sent your angels to comfort Jesus and strengthen his desire to do your will. Help us to be faithful followers of his teaching; and grant what we need, through Christ our Lord. Amen.  
**ALL: Amen.**

### CATECHISTS NEEDED! Training is Provided.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a Catechist please contact the Parish Office.

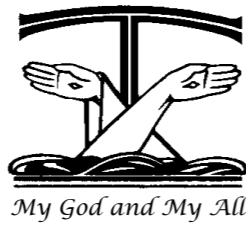
**RCIA** is a program for those seeking to find out more about the Catholic faith. It takes place within the parish, local faith community. It also offers opportunity to grow in knowledge of Jesus Christ accompanied by others on a similar journey. We welcome all inquiries, and there is no pressure or obligation. Each one has their own special story. We invite you to contact the parish priest if you:  
– Have been baptised but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation or were baptised in another church.  
– Have children over the age of five or teenagers (who will be supported through adapted form of the Rite).

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic please contact the parish office on 9331 4043.

**(We are looking for parishioners to be part of the RCIA team)**

We invite you to contact the parish priest if you have been baptised but have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation.

*Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.*



## **St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff Parish Newsletter** **18th February 2024 – First Sunday of Lent—Year B**

**St Francis of Assisi Church** 463 Oxford St Paddington **St Joseph Church** 12 Albert St Edgecliff  
*In the care of the Franciscans since 1879*  
**Parish Office:** 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 **Tel:** 02 9331 4043  
**Email:** office@stf-stj.com **Website:** www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com

### **Desert Experience – Living with little so as to recognise what is important.**

Repent and believe in the Gospel, are words that I say to those who come to receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. This year I deliberately chose, "Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return." I find these words both confronting and liberating at the same time. Confronting because we are reminded, we are finite beings. Liberating because are we not masters of our own destiny.

Ash Wednesday reminds us of our nothingness. The pace of change and inevitable reality of a new world emerging is everywhere. Personally, the diminishment of religious life and the changes in church made me aware what is superficial, unnecessary and non-important have to give way to things that matter. We learn and meditate, work on things that are life giving and nourishes the soul.

What may be trendy today in a few decades becomes dated. New generations come up with new ideas and create a world of their own. Some things about human beings don't change. The book of genesis shows the dysfunction that we see in family and life. It is futile to hold on personal views thinking that we are the ones to achieve great things. The readings tell us it is God who achieves great things for us. Penance makes us aware of our dependence on God. God is always faithful. Each reading illustrates the different conflict faced by humans

between right and wrong, obedience and betrayal. We are tested too; we can emerge victorious if we heed God's word and follow the example of Jesus.

The readings reiterate what we already experienced in life that God saves the world from the chaos. God is always faithful to the covenant. We rediscover the God of faith and love in times of crises. Natural disaster, war or personal tragedy, upheaval and discord in society, or dysfunction in family, depression and loneliness, we turn to God our salvation. Baptism is good news of salvation and promise of a new life in Christ.

As a parish, People of God, we are God's presence and journey together. Communication and sharing of ideas, help discernment. The Synod is intended to be a process. The aim of this synodal process is not to provide a temporary or one-time experience of synodality, but rather to provide an opportunity for the entire People of God to discern together how to move forward on the path towards being a more synodal Church in the long-term. Sr Margaret Beirne, rsc has offered to help the parish participate in the next stage of the Synod. I hope and encourage you to consider joining Sr Margaret in this initiative and contribute to the ongoing discussion and discernment on the future of the Church.

Fr Anthoni Selvaraj OFM

### **Stations of the Cross on Fridays 16th Feb—22nd March**

St Francis of Assisi 9.30 am ☩ St Joseph 5.10pm

### **Lenten Reflection Group**

Michael Scarf has offered to facilitate the Lenten Reflection Group.

**11am on Wednesdays at St Joseph's Parish Hall.** RSVP by Tuesday. Any queries, speak to Fr Anthoni.

### **Parish Consultation of First Assembly Report at Synod**

We are planning a series of conversations in respond to the invitation of Archbishop Timothy Costelloe of Perth, President of the ACBC. At the initial gathering, we will plan together the best dates, times and arrangements for further conversations during the year.

**Saturday 24 February 10.30 to 12pm**

**Parish Friary Meeting Room** and followed by a light lunch.

Please RSVP by Wednesday 22 February to Sr Margaret on: [margaret.beirne@rscoffice.com](mailto:margaret.beirne@rscoffice.com). If you are unable to make it for the first conversation, please let her know.

Please put your mass intentions in with the collection or the office to ensure that it is published in a timely manner. Please indicate the most relevant. i.e. recently deceased, significant anniversary, health etc.

**WELCOME**  
New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass to introduce yourself and find out more about our community. We also welcome you to contact our Parish Office.

### **OUR PARISH**

**Parish Administrator:** Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm  
**Franciscan community:** Fr Peter Clifford ofm, Br John Lourey ofm  
**Parish Secretary:** Enza Sinapi, Cate Stivala  
**Catechist Co-ordinator/Safeguarding Support:** Enza Sinapi  
**Cantor, Edgecliff:** Tanith Bryce  
**Music Dir. & Organist, Paddington:** Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne  
**Cantor, Paddington:** Nicole Smeulders  
**Principal, St Francis of Assisi School:** Nicole Hudson

### **MASS TIMES (During Lent)**

**St Joseph, Edgecliff**

**Sunday:** 9am, 10.30am & 5.30pm

**Monday, Thursday & Friday:** 5.30pm

**Liturgy of the Word/Communion: Tuesday/ Wednesday: 5.30pm**  
(\*Reconciliation: prior to Thursday evening Mass - from 5pm)

**Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 11.45am**

**St Francis of Assisi, Paddington**

**Saturday Vigil\*:** 5.30pm

**Sunday:** 8.30am, 10am with choir

**Monday, Thursday & Friday:** 9am

**Liturgy of the Word/Communion: Tuesday/ Wednesday: 9am**  
(\*Reconciliation: prior to Saturday Vigil Mass - from 5pm)

**Baptisms: 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11.45am**

**Children's Liturgy**  
**2nd & 4th Sundays during 8.30 mass.**  
Parents and Children Welcome

### **WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER AND MASSES**

**Baptisms:** Benjamin Hadi Reynolds, Shai Ziggy Maxwell Wiczorkowski

**Prayer Intentions –** for the sick, the elderly in aged care facilities and homebound, children preparing for confirmation and peace in Holy Land.

**Recently Deceased:** Geoffrey Damian Hughes, Michael Duncan, Gabrielle McDonagh, Michael Egan, Mario Zanatta, Sr Paulina Pilkington, Sr Anne Crowley, Sr Patricia Heenan, Tim Campbell, William 'Billy' O'Riordan, Fr Arul Mariadass OFM, Patricia Mary Agnes Smith, John Connolly, James Patrick Gooley, Sr Colette Jones OSC.

**In Memorium:** Annette Mary Lunney, Ian Stewart, Joan and Gus Maloney, Frank, Lena and Ann Kaine, David Roderick, Sr Mary Hereward, Woo Kam Shu, Francesco Lagudi, Tony Ponte, Jack and Maureen Brett, Patricia Brett, Concorcia Apostol, Jose' Luis Herrera, Joseph Tabone, Maria Catherine Slater, Rex Stephen Porter, Carmelo Raco, George Farah, Peter Herro, Herbert Odillo Maher & Family, Ellen and Mathie Gilligan, Pamela Rex, Frank, Shane, Patricia and Frankie Jr (McAlary Family), Margaret Mary Kiernan, Elizabeth Considine Conley.

**Health and Family:** Luke Curran, Patricia Dainer, David Crees.

**Mass Intentions:** Hector Destro, Domenico & Nita Casamento, David Crees, Giuliano Family, Sarah Tabone, Kevin De Souza, The Silva Family, Jill N, David and Josie White, Mila Svehla, Eva Khun, Giuliano Family, Kelly Family, Anne Conlon, Frank Kaine.

### **Overview of the Archdiocese's Safeguarding Policy**

<https://www.sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf>

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, You can contact the *Safeguarding Ministerial Integrity Office: on 9390 5180 or* [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.**



Archdiocese  
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney  
Franciscan Friars Australia



Franciscan friars

@OZFranciscan



Parish  
Archdiocese  
Franciscan friars

www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com  
www.sydneycatholic.org  
www.franciscans.org.au

**GOSPEL**

Mk 1: 12-15

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.***He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.*

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.****HOMILY****PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.***I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.****PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL****LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:***R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.****PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

P. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.****THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.****PREFACE OF THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT***After the Preface, we sing or say:***All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.****Heaven and earth are full of your glory.****Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he****who comes in the name of the Lord.****Hosanna in the highest.****THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.****COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace***LAMB OF GOD****All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.****INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy****that you should enter under my roof,****but only say the word****and my soul shall be healed.****COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Mt 4: 4

**One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.****THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R. Thanks be to God.****BREAKING OPEN THE WORD****LENT: SPRINGTIME FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION**

In the southern hemisphere we miss the signs of nature linked in the northern hemisphere to Lent, namely the coming of spring. The word "Lent," is derived from the Old English "lenctern" meaning spring. This poses a challenge for us in Australia's autumn, as we seek to unfold the springtime in our soul. In our scriptural journey into Lent, we are greeted with the sign of God's covenant with Noah: a rainbow. This covenant is not just with Noah and all descendants but with every living creature, everything that lives on the earth. A rainbow may well grace our southern skies in autumn, enabling us to experience ourselves in the embrace of God's covenant with the whole ecological world in which we live.

In the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for forty days along with the wild beasts. Satan the tempter, and the angels who minister to Jesus. These ministering angels, like the rainbow, are a sign of God's ever-presence. As Jesus emerges from his forty days, we hear him begin his ministry in Galilee with "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near." Evocatively we have entered our forty days of Lent in a wilderness of ecological crisis. Unseasonal extremes of temperature, floods, fires and all manner of tempests call for us to take heed of the earth in which we dwell. In this time, we can reflect, ecologically and spiritually, to change our hearts and believe the Good News, knowing well God's promise through the rainbow and through the gift of his son.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2024. No 649. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 FEBRUARY 2024

DRIVEN INTO THE WILDERNESS. The Spirit of God, who descended on Jesus at his baptism, drove him into the wilderness. In the Jewish Scriptures the wilderness is both the place where Israel meets God and the place where it is tempted to worship idols made of stone. The season of Lent is a good time to examine whether we are responding to the Spirit of God in our lives or succumbing to the allurements of false idols.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES****ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 90: 15-16**When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.****GREETING**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.****PENITENTIAL ACT**P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. **All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.***The Gloria is not said during Lent.***COLLECT**

P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.****LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING**

Gen 9: 8-15

**A reading from the book of Genesis.***I will recall the covenant between myself and you ... the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

**The word of the Lord.****R. Thanks be to God.****RESP PSALM**

Ps 24: 4-9. R. cf. v. 10

**R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**3. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.****SECOND READING**

1 Pet 3: 18-22

**A reading from the first letter of St Peter.***The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.*

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

**The word of the Lord.****R. Thanks be to God.****GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Mt 4: 4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!****No one lives on bread alone,****but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.****Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**