

Prayers of the Faithful

Presider: 'This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him.' We have heard God's Word and been nourished by its teaching. We now reflect on what we need in our faith journey and present our needs to our God.

Leader: For faith to live as God wants. *(pause)*
Abraham left his country and all that was familiar to go to the land promised by God. May we grow in faith each day trusting in God's goodness and God's purposes for our lives. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.

Leader: For faith in time of doubt. *(pause)*
Paul commands us to rely on God's power in time of trouble. May the transfiguration renew our faith in God's promises and give us courage to believe the good news revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.

Leader: For faith in Jesus, Son of God. *(pause)*
Jesus is God's Son, the beloved. May we be open to his Word in this time of Lent, listening to his teaching and eager to renew our confidence in the one who enjoys God's favour. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.

Leader: For faith in God's kindness. *(pause)*
Jesus commands us: 'Do not be afraid'. May we grow in understanding God's goodness and kindness and may we overcome fear in our lives recalling the resurrection of God's Son and his triumph over evil and death.

Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.

Leader: That those who have entered eternal life will be seated with the risen Christ. Including Robert Rose and Sr Annette Brown OSC. Lord hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our prayer.

Presider: God of our ancestors, you are faithful in every age. Grant what we need to be your faithful people. 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.



My God and My All

St Francis of Assisi Paddington & St Joseph Edgecliff Parish Newsletter

25th February 2024 – Second 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

They discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean!

The story of Abraham and Isaac would not be included in scripture if Isaac was sacrificed. The point is God is unlike other gods. There is no need to offer child or animal sacrifice to appease God or to maintain social order like some other ancient cultures. Child sacrifice was closely intertwined with the religious history of the ancient Near East and the wider Mediterranean world. Artwork, textual traditions, and archaeological contexts reveal evidence of this practice.

Child sacrifice was practiced in desperate situations and during times of crisis- such as famine, drought or plagues - to placate gods. These sentiments demonstrate our projection of the best or worst of human beings. Supernatural beings are thought to behave like us, anger and revenge are attributed to gods too, and sacrifices are seen as means to keep them happy.

Choice of words is important in religious language. Even in the modern world when we go through difficult times, we think that God is punishing us. In desperate situations decisions are made to preserve oneself, sometimes selfishly. Today's readings invite us to reflect on transformation. Our faith calls to aspire to personal transformation. In Abraham's case we see the desire for children and land. Faith helped him to move from a possible future to a future in God. Instead of being a possessive or protective father Abraham is now recognised

as a father of faith. Sacrifice is about transformation of the person.

Alexei Navalny had paid with his life for resisting "oppression", he was only 47. Leaving behind his wife and two children, his family too made a huge sacrifice, he could have remained in Germany after recovering from poisoning or settled into another country. Paul's letter to the Romans echoes this idea, "Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all". Sacrifices are about transformation, inspiring people to aspire for a future with God.

The experience of transfiguration leads us to believe in the resurrection. Peter, James and John were privileged to experience the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain. When they came down Jesus warned them not to tell anyone. Yet among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

Sacrifice, in this context, is about letting go of dreams that are a stumbling block to the journey and development of our faith. We learn from Jesus and from each other how to embrace, more fully, God's future. Our transformation is key to being an effective witness for God. Lent is about sacrifice and transformation of individuals and collectively as people of faith. Resurrection is about new life in God.

Fr Anthony Selvaraj

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

St Francis of Assisi 9.30 am ✠ St Joseph 5.10pm

Lenten Reflection Group at 11am on Wednesday St Joseph Parish Hall

Michael Scarf will facilitate the reflection.

Parish Feast of St Joseph and St Patrick March 17th

Father Anthoni is hoping to gather with you in celebration for the feasts of St Joseph and St Patrick. If you can help organise refreshments after masses please email the office or let Father Anthoni know.

Consultation of First Assembly Report at Synod

Thanks to everyone who has expressed an interest in our proposed parish-based Synod conversations. Our first session is being held this weekend, with ten participants; we will give you some feedback in the following week's Bulletin. The second session is scheduled for **Saturday 2 March, 10.30am-noon**, concluding with a light lunch, in the parish meeting room (friary). All welcome!

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

Weekly St Francis Play Group for Babies Toddlers and Preschoolers

On Tuesdays: 9 - 10.30am Location: St Francis of Assisi Hall.

Contact Family Educator—Bernice.wong@syd.catholic.edu.au

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: Michelle Hegarty, Sr Annette Brown OSC, Robert Rose, 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 Memoriam: John Lagudi, 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: Katharina Lemech, Manfred Lemech, 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*. 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



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

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.

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. May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. 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 2ND 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: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord, 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 17: 5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.

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

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

LISTEN TO HIM. Jesus revealed his oneness with sinful humanity by his baptism in the river Jordan. On the mount of transfiguration he revealed his oneness with God who proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' It takes faith to listen to Jesus, who teaches that the path of life leads along the way of the cross. But, as Abraham learned, if we put our faith in God our reward will be great.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 26: 8-9

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

GREETING

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

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

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

R. Amen.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. 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 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

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.**

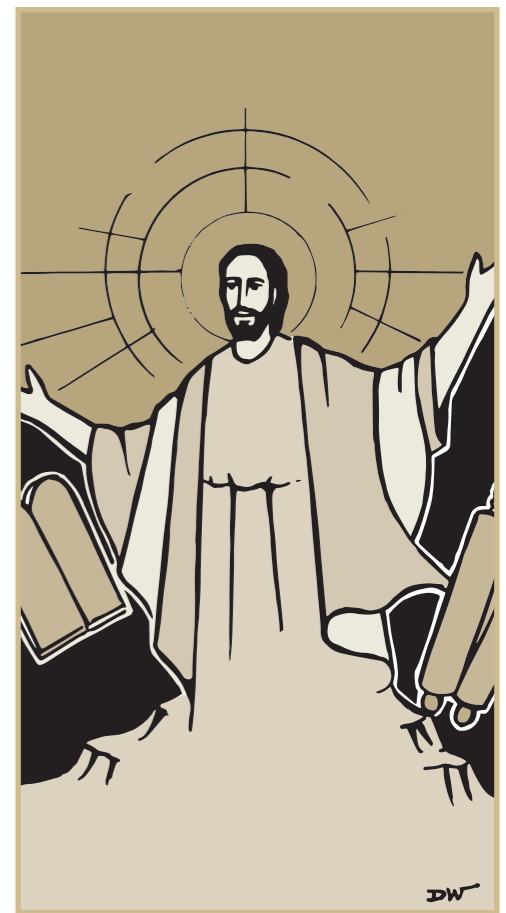
SECOND READING

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.

R. Thanks be to God

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

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.

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