

Prayers of the Faithful

Presider: 'The Son lifted up on the cross is the measure of God's love for the world.' On our journey through Lent, we bring before the Lord our fears, our hopes, our concerns and our needs.

Leader: For a deeper faith in God's activity in the world. (pause)

God inspired Cyrus, King of Persia, to console the Jewish people in their time of exile. May we renew our faith in God's saving presence in our world. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our Prayer

Leader: For a greater awareness of God's generous love. (pause)

We hope in God because God is faithful and we trust in God's generous love that has saved us, in Christ. May we show forth God's goodness in how we live and what we value. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our Prayer

Leader: For a spirit of self giving. (pause)

Jesus gave himself for all of us when he was lifted up on the cross. May we share his spirit of self giving, overcoming the darkness of greed by the light of our concern. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our Prayer

Leader: For an eagerness to walk in the light. (pause)

May we be a people who walk in the light of Christ, avoiding the darkness of sin and death; and may we grow in faith in Jesus, filled with the light that comes from God and living by the truth revealed in Christ. Lord, hear us.

ALL: Lord Hear our Prayer

Leader: For our deceased relatives and friends, especially Captain Edmund Ip, Bp Austen Crapp ofm, Francesca Yii, Mary-Joan Yii, Phillip Ryan, Dianne Corrie and Peter Starr. (pause) That they may realize the hope of the gospel. Lord hear us. **All: Lord hear our prayer.**

Presider: God of light, you command us to choose light over darkness. Help us to overcome sin in our lives to live by the truth of the gospel. We ask this 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

10th March 2024 – Fourth 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

The person who lives by the truth.

The religious world which I have been part of for many years is coming to an end of its cycle. As most of the elderly religious men and women die, the world and culture of religious life is diminished and secular culture is becoming dominant. Australian society is experiencing changes in many levels. We have reached a point where we are a minority rather than a mainstream belief. Many in society now have no affiliation with any religion and the lack of belief will make it harder for individuals to reach, or live, integrated lives.

We are complicated beings with many relationship challenges. We have multiple sides to us with conflicting desires, wants and fears. The outside world is also confusing and contradictory. If we don't have a healthy sense of awareness we risk dissociating from people and world. It is easy to follow the latest idea. Becoming whatever the crowd needs at a given moment. The external forces can tear us apart and often lead to self-inflicted suffering.

Consider the actions we take to impress other people or obligations that we accept out of vanity and ignorance. We underestimate some capabilities and overestimate others. Lack of self-awareness, makes it harder to honestly discern

our emotions and beliefs.

The readings today invite us to reflect on God's mercy. God used Cyrus - even though he was not a believer- to deliver Israelites. This action of God demonstrates that God can use any one, by any means, to show mercy and love to all. This mercy is experienced in Christ Jesus, even though we are dead in sin, dispossessed people are given another chance.

From despair we are raised to new hope through the mercy of God. God's mercy and love raises people from hopelessness and gives grace that they might live in truth.

During lent we are encouraged to practise almsgiving, fasting and prayer. They are means to support internal journey of renewal. Mirroring dying and resurrection-moderation or eating simple meals as self-control assists in assessment of emotions and belief. It can move people from living in fantasy bubble to embrace their true nature. Almsgiving helps in developing social justice consciousness, our responsibility to care for the weak in society. In prayer God helps us to integrate and lead us to wholeness of life. "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."

Fr Anthoni Selvaraj ofm

Children's Stations of the Cross St Joseph's

Good Friday 9.30am. (29th March) All children welcome with parents and grandparents.

*Children over 7 who want to be a part of the process, are invited to a practice at St Josephs Parish Centre on Wednesday of Holy Week (27th March), 5.30 to 6.30 and will be provided with pizza dinner.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays until 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, at each church. Please email the office or let Father Anthoni know.

Holy Week and Triduum

Please let us know if you are available to help out during Easter weekend for both parishes, except Sunday evening as there will be no mass. The Holy Week details are now on the website.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

We are pleased to announce the details for 2024. Parents wishing to have their children participate in

- First Reconciliation (children Year 2 and above)
- First Holy Communion (children Year 3 and above)
- Confirmation (children Year 6 and above and over 11 years of age)

Please download the Sacramental Registration Form at from our website at

<https://stfrancis-stjoseph.com/sacraments/2022-sacramental-program/>
For any enquiries, please contact the parish office.

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.



St Patrick's Feast Day Mass

Bishop Terry Brady, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus warmly invites you to the attend this celebration at **St Mary's Cathedral Monday 18th March 2024 at 10:00am**

St Francis of Assisi Regional Catholic Primary School - OPEN DAYS.

Tuesday 12 March 9.15am-11.00am

- Explore our classrooms and facilities
- meet our school community and
- get a glimpse into what makes our school so unique.

To register Click or QR Code, or go <https://stfpaddington.syd.catholic.edu.au/enrolment/visit-our-school>.

Holdsworth Seniors Festival 2024: 11-15 Mar.

Find out what's on at the various venues. www.holdsworth.org.au or (02) 9302 3600

Parish Conversations on the Vatican Synod Assembly

Our conversations continued last Saturday 2 March. Our topic was "Church is Mission," chapter 8 of the on the Synod Synthesis Report.

Third session: **Saturday 9 March, 10.30-12noon, on Chapter 9, "Women in the Life and Mission of the Church",** followed by lunch, again in the parish meeting room (Paddington friary). RSVP to Sr Margaret Beirne on margaret.beirne@rscoffice.com.

Project Compassion continues.

Donation via Project Compassion boxes and envelopes.

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

Wedding: Igshan Woods & Maria Hernandez

Prayer Intentions – for the sick, the elderly in aged care facilities and homebound, and peace in the Holy Land and in the Ukraine.

Recently Deceased: Captain Edmund Ip, Bp Austen Crapp ofm, Francesca Yii, Mary-Joan Yii, Phillip Ryan, Dianne Corrie, Peter Starr, 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 McLoughlin, Osbert De Rosario, Eva Curran (1yr), James Yii, Souls of Tico, Galan, Salcedo and Gania Families, 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, Maria Catherine Slater, Rex Stephen Porter.

Health and Family: Members of the Salcedo Family, Rachel Lynch, Luke Curran, Patricia Dainer, David Crees.

Mass Intentions: Kevin De Souza, Shirley O'Shea, 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
Archdiocese
Franciscan friars

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

“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.”

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. We place before you with joy these offerings, which bring eternal remedy, O Lord, praying that we may both faithfully revere them and present them to you, as is fitting, for the salvation of all the world. 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 I AND II 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 cf. Ps 121: 3-4

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,

to praise the name of the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world, illuminate our hearts, we pray, with the splendour of your grace, that we may always ponder what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty and love you in all sincerity. 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

GOD’S LOVE, GIFT AND GRACE

On this *Laetare* Sunday (so called for the first word of the liturgy is “rejoice”) we find in the Letter to the Ephesians: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (2:8). To contemplate this statement is to begin to understand the generous mercy and love of God for each of us.

This reading follows 2 Chronicles that recounts the fall of Jerusalem, despite the compassion of God for the people, but then King Cyrus of Persia liberating the exiles. So as the passage begins in Ephesians we see the continuity with God, who is rich in mercy. Three times “grace” is repeated: “by grace you have been saved,” “the immeasurable riches of God’s grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” and “for by grace you have been saved through faith.” This reiteration accentuates the love of God and invites us to know that “we are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works.”

John’s Gospel reminds us “God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (3:16). With his clear illumination of light and darkness, John affirms that “those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

How will we respond to God’s love, gift and grace?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / B

10 MARCH 2024

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH. During the season of Lent we humbly acknowledge the ways in which we have failed to respond to our Christian vocation. We do this before a God who is infinitely rich in mercy and grace, who sent the Son into the world not to condemn it but to be its saviour. Acknowledging our failings and accepting healing and forgiveness from Christ prepares us to celebrate the feast of Easter with great joy.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Isa 66: 10-11

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

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.

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 through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. 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 2 Chron 36: 14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles.

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,



SECOND READING

Eph 2: 4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

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 has meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

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

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit

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

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

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.”’

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 136. R. v. 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever 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.