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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT C - 20TH MARCH 2022

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

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.)**

Lenten Song.....

**Return to God with all your heart,
the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

Return To God, Marty Haugen, GIA, Used with permission.
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SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

Matthew 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

Luke 13:1-9

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."



One major theme emerges from today's readings: incomprehensibility of God. We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives. Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.

In the midst of this ambiguity we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.

These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.

Reflection by Sr Dianne Bergant CSA



Making the most of Lent.....



JOIN A LENTEN PROGRAM GROUP Lent is a tie of prayer and refocusing on God in our life. Join one of the following groups for prayer and sharing based on the Gospels as we journey through Lent to Easter: **Mondays: 10.30am or 7.30pm; Thursdays: 10.30am at the Pastoral Centre.**

ADORATION, PRAYER AND REFLECTION from 5.30pm - 6.30pm each Friday of Lent in the Church of the Apostles. Make this a time to reflect on the scriptures and the call to repentance and renewal of faith during Lent.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Church, Newstead on the Fridays of Lent. Make this a focus for your Lenten prayer and renewal.

PROJECT COMPASSION is a way to make your Lenten efforts practical in assisting those most in need. Make sure every home has one of the boxes or a set of envelopes.

MASS FOR UKRAINE IN TIME OF WAR

5.00pm Tuesday 22nd March

**St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church,
399 West Tamar Highway, Riverside.**

Please come to pray for the people of Ukraine.

**A collection will be taken up for the Caritas
Ukraine Crisis Appeal.**



Never war!
Think first about the children,
about those who are deprived
of the hope for a dignified life:
dead or wounded children,
orphans, children who play
with the remnants of war...
In the name of God, stop!

Franciscus
#PrayTogether #Ukraine



YOU ARE ASKED TO PRAY

FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTISED especially **Tolek Hoy** (Joshua and Felicity) who celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism within our parish this weekend.

FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED Congratulations, prayers and encouragement to **Jenna Di Giammarino and Hamish Fraser** who celebrate their Marriage in our parish this weekend.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Fr Brian Nichols, Fr Terry Yard, Archivaldo Pechon, Sharon Manzone, Suzy Fenton, Elizabeth Nettlefold, Elizabeth Roberts, Shirley Ambrose, Annette Poropat, Helen Wright, Qian Zhang-Allchin, Carole Cleary, Philip Carroll, Scott Bailey, Ralf Roston, Bev Callahan, Tony Long, Kristel Latham, Nanette Gunton, Joan Keefe, Lyn Butt, Maureen Symons, Alfred Weeding, Jennifer Dowell, Maureen Saunders, Andrew Campbell, Pat and Bill Lewis, Vincent Burke, Eduardo Bilanes, Brian Hudson, Mary Morgan, Brian Beardwood, Denise Austin, Jane Gillard, Joel Wilkinson, Jesse Moore, Elaine Blake, John Walsh, Clare Maddox, William Siegrist, Anne Harris, Jane Savaro, Mary Carter, Amelia Eckert, Allison Thambugala, Ava Woolley, David Lewis, Christian Barrett, Marion Winterson-Jowett, Xavier Banks, George Donovan, Max Jamieson, Jan McClean, John Bennett, and Peter Marshall.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Mary Meredith and Charles Stocks who have died recently, Tony Schouten, Niki Iezzi, Donald Wright, Zofia Cibik, Patirica Bingley, Kathleen Phillips, Beatrice Nelson, all victims of COVID-19 virus and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY: During the COVID-19 crisis with its restrictions on our lives we remember each other in prayer. We pray in a special way for all those involved in frontline services. May we all keep safe and stay well during this time. We pray for the gift of peace, especially for those who are ill and for their families.

Our mission is to love and serve our God, each other and the wider community

PARISH ACTIVITIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS

LECTORS This is an early request to all Lectors to please notify the Parish Office of your availability to read at the following Masses over Easter: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. Please email or phone the office. Thank you.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY will be celebrated on **Sunday 24th April** at 2.30pm in Church of the Apostles

ROSARY: is recited each and every Monday at 7:30pm in the comfort of your own home. We pray our Blessed Mother will watch over us all at this time of uncertainty and sadness. Enquiries: Jan (0409 175 940) or Adrian & Liz (0407 074 693)

THE CARMEL SHOP: 7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston is now open on Wednesdays between 11.00am - 4.00pm. Enquiries: Helen 6344 6382 or email: carmelshop@yahoo.com

Copies of the latest edition of Australian Catholics are available for collection in the Church and the foyer of the Pastoral Centre



Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive.

For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday	6.00pm Vigil	Sacred Heart, Newstead
Sunday	7.30am	Carmel
	9.00am	St Finn Barr's, Invermay
	10.00am	St Patrick's Chapel
	10.30am	Apostles
	6.30pm	Apostles

WEEKDAY MASSES - 21st— 26th March

Monday:	7.30am	Carmel
Tuesday:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Newstead
Wednesday	5.30pm	Apostles
Thursday:	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Invermay
Friday :	7.30am	Carmel
	12noon	Apostles
Saturday:	9.00am	Carmel

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays:	10.00am - 11.00am	Apostles
	5.15pm - 5.45pm	Newstead

A VOCATION VIEW

After the transfiguration, Peter, John and James wanted to stay up the mountain. But Jesus said, "Move," with the knowledge that ships are safe

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March

A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA

UKRAINE EMERGENCY APPEAL

You can help Caritas Australia working directly with Caritas Ukraine and its local partner Caritas Spes to support Ukrainian families with emergency food, hygiene kits, clean water, psychological support, and emergency shelter to displaced families. **To donate go to: www.caritas.org.au/ukraine/ or phone 1800 024 413 or leave an envelope marked "Ukraine" in the baskets at Church.**

MASS LIVE-STREAMED

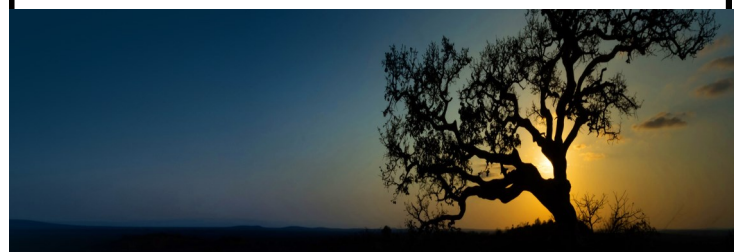
Each and every Sunday at 10.00am

On Facebook @catholicparishlaunceston

if you don't have a Facebook account go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/CatholicParishLaunceston/videos/>

Sunday Mass is also televised every Sunday Morning on WIN and WIN HD, 6.00am - 6.30am.



PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



*My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN..*

PRAYER FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE IN UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart
and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life,
not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength
to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Australian Catholic
Bishops Conference

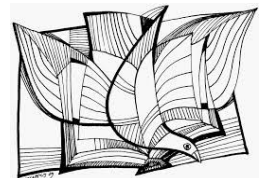
GOSPELS FOR THE COMING WEEK:

Monday 21st:	Luke 4:24-30
Tuesday 22nd:	Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday 23rd:	Matthew 5:17-19
Thursday 24th:	Luke 11: 14-23
Friday 25th:	Luke 1:26-38
Saturday 26th:	Luke 18: 9-14

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5: 9-12
Psalm 33: 2-7, R.v9
2 Corinthians 5: 17-21
Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32



Ponder and pray the living Word of God

Luke 13:6-9

• **"Sir . . . I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year fine! If not, then cut it down."**

Children's Corner

Jesus told his followers the story of a fig tree that would not bear fruit. The gardener said he would try hard for one more year to help it grow. God wants us to try hard so that we too can grow, and 'bear fruit'. What are four things you can do during Lent that help you be a better Christian and bring you closer to Jesus?



HIDDEN THINGS - A reflection day for women

Saturday 2nd April, 10am - 3pm

St Brendan Shaw College Chapel, Devonport

A day of prayer, reflection and discovery based on Luke 7:38. **Facilitators:** Maureen O'Halloran and Belinda Chapman. **Cost:** \$30 (BYO Lunch) **Please book before 30th March:** email: belindachapman.sd@gmail.com or phone: 0418 141 171.