



ST ANTHONY'S
PARISH

THE GOOD OIL

17 MARCH 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B

1st Reading **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

Psalm **Ps 50:3-4, 12-15**
**Create a clean heart in me,
O God**

2nd Reading **Hebrews 5:7-9**

Gospel Accl. **If you serve me, follow
me, says the Lord; and where I am,
my servant will also be.**

Gospel **John 12:20-33**

Masses This Week

Sat 6pm	Vigil Mass
Sun 9am & 6pm	Mass
Mon 9am	Liturgy of the Word
Tue-Fri 9am	Mass

Parish Staff & Contacts

Pastor **Greg Walsh cm**

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St Anthony's Catholic Primary

Principal **Kevin Turner**

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In today's Gospel, some Greeks...approach Philip, saying:

Sir, we wish to see Jesus.

Philip tells Andrew and they both go with the request to Jesus. We are not told if those men ever did see Jesus, but we do know what seems at first sight the rather strange response that Jesus gave to his disciples:

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit.

The grain does not actually die, but is totally transformed into something completely new: roots, leaves and fruit. Similarly, a caterpillar lets go of being a caterpillar to become transformed into something altogether different and often much more beautiful — a moth or a butterfly.

Seeing Jesus

To see Jesus is not just to look at him, which is what those Greeks presumably wanted. To see Jesus is to enter totally into his way of thinking, to understand why he had to suffer and die and rise again.

Like the grain of wheat, Jesus has to let go of everything, including his own life, in order to bring new life to himself and those who believe in him. In the process, both he and we will be transformed. If we cannot see this as the core of Jesus' life, we have not really seen him.

But Jesus goes further and says we must have the same way of thinking:

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

And, if we want to be close to Jesus, we have to walk his Way: *Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.*

It means walking with Jesus and with Mary all the way to Calvary, wherever that happens to be for each of us.

Ready to let go and let God

Are we ready for that? Are we afraid to let everything go?

READ THE FULL COMMENTARY: livingspace.sacredspace.ie/LB051/
USED WITH PERMISSION. *livingspace* is part of sacredspace.com

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE FOOD BANK invites all of us, in the spirit of Lent, to support refugees and people seeking asylum, by donating small gifts that make a big difference. JRS Australia now supports 150 families a week, and demand is growing. The families helped are not eligible for Centrelink or Medicare and many don't have work or study rights. These are suggested donations during the six weeks of Lent:

- **1st Sunday 18 Feb: Basmati rice**
- **2nd Sunday 25 Feb: Cooking or olive oil**
- **3rd Sunday 3 March: Dried red lentils (375g, 500g or 1kg)**
- **4th Sunday 10 March: Dishwashing detergent**
- **5th Sunday 17 March: Laundry detergent**
- **Palm Sunday, 24 March: Long life milk**

Items can be put in the special container in the church. For more information, please search for "JRS Foodbank" or see aus.jrs.net/en/foodbank/. - Fr Greg.



**WEEK 3 & WEEK 4:
3 MAR & 10 MAR 2024**

Over the past two weeks, Edwina and Luke helped us deliver 103 packets of lentils, 103 bottles of dish washing detergent, more than 27 kilograms of rice, 21 bottles of cooking oil, 8 cans of tuna, 5 cans of chickpeas, assorted pasta, a pack of muesli bars, a pack of dishwasher tablets (and a fruit cake!) from our parish for the Jesuit Refugee Service's Lenten Appeal.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THOSE IN NEED!

CHRISM MASS. This year the Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral on **Thu 28 March** at 10.30am. Archbishop Anthony Fisher will be the celebrant and everyone is invited.

PLAY GROUP

FROM BABIES TO PRE-KINDY

at ST ANTHONY'S PARISH HALL, THURSDAYS 9am-10.15am during the school term. Contact annette.leahy@syd.catholic.edu.au for more info.

REPORT TO PARISH – SYDNEY CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES (SCECS)



As reported previously the Development Application for the construction of the Child Care development on the existing Tennis Court site was lodged with Ryde Council in September 2023.

As expected in a project of this nature, there have been some issues to be addressed between SCECS & Council regarding technical aspects of the development however, it is anticipated that Approvals for the development may issue around April this year.



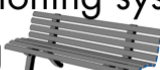
Once approved, the project, which is being fully supported by the Sydney Archdiocese, will be put out to tender, with building work actually commencing in the last quarter of 2024, and the Centre Opening at the start of school term 2026.



The important aspect of the whole development from the perspective of the Parish is that ALL costs associated with the project are being met by SCECS.

Archbishop Fisher has supported the project from the outset and from the initial negotiations the Archdiocesan team allocated to work with the Parish have ensured that the Parish will NOT be required to contribute to any of the costs associated with the applications, building works, remediation, registration and operation of the facility.

Despite the lengthy lead time for the project the Parish has taken steps to be ready for works to begin with minimum disruption to day to day Parish life.

The new toilet facilities  installed last year is one step in that preparation, and thanks to the enterprise of one of our parishioners, Rosanne Gallo, who facilitated the application, the cost of those facilities was met almost totally by state government grant. We extend our gratitude to Rosanne, who was also instrumental in securing grants for the full cost of the air conditioning systems  in the Church and the construction of the 'new' outdoor seating  around the perimeter of the Church.

Each of these improvements to the Parish facilities has enhanced the experience of Church for all parishioners, in circumstances where the Parish finances would not otherwise have been able to pay for them.

The commencement of operation of the child Care Centre in 2026 will similarly 'future proof' St Anthony's Parish by creating a long term indexed income stream, which will alleviate the pressure on the Parish finances and facilitate the commencement of the significant infrastructure repairs & maintenance that needs to be addressed to maintain the fabric of the Parish facilities.

We sincerely extend our thanks to all our Planned Giving contributors for their continuing generous support, and invite anyone who wishes to join the program to contact the office for further details .

If you have questions about any of these matters, feel free to speak to Fr Greg or one of the Finance Committee. - *With thanks from Fr Greg & the Parish Finance Committee.*



**PROJECT
COMPASSION** 
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
9 & 10 March**



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, ***for all future generations***.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

**PLEASE RETURN ALL YOUR PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND
ENVELOPES AT THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER ON
HOLY THURSDAY, 28 MARCH, 7.30PM**





**PROJECT
COMPASSION** 
FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

**Fifth Sunday of Lent
16 & 17 March**

Partnership in action



The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

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Photo: Richard Wainwright / Caritas Australia

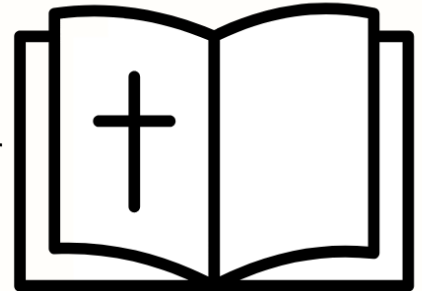
HOW TO PRAY BY PUTTING YOURSELF IN A GOSPEL SCENE



St. Ignatius of Loyola believed that God gave us our imaginations and could use this gift to speak to us. One method of praying in the tradition called Ignatian Contemplation, by putting yourself in a gospel scene and to see where that leads you.

Pick a scene

Almost any gospel can be used for this method. This is a beautiful way to prepare for Sunday mass. Just pick the gospel for the day and pray with your imagination.



Who will you be?

The easiest way to begin is to pick a person from the gospel and become that person. Don't start with the main characters. It might be easier to be a bystander than St. Peter.

Once you have chosen a character, think about how you are dressed. Who is with you? What do you hear? What do you smell? How do you feel?

Don't rush through the Scene

Then go through the gospel one or two sentences at a time. Continue to use your imagination and "senses" to experience it. Let your imagination run pretty free. It might take you somewhere you don't expect.

If you do end up somewhere unexpected, delve into that a little more. What might God be trying to say to you? Do you see a familiar gospel in a new way?



Follow through

If you are moved to do so, commit to change the way you are doing something or perhaps the way you see someone. This prayer method can lead you into unfamiliar territory. Be open to what the Holy Spirit might be saying to you.

COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY. The annual collection for the support of the Church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday. This collection promotes the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land by providing welfare assistance to local Christians in areas such as health, education, employment, housing, Parishes, and orphanages. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. Due to the ongoing war, the Church and people of the Holy Land are still struggling with reduced income due to fewer pilgrims and lower church attendance around the world. In 2023 Australian Catholics were once again extremely generous and we were able to send to the Holy Land nearly \$1.4 million [\$1.4 million (2022), \$1,126,098 (2021), \$406,023 (2020) and \$1.3 million (2019)]. The reality for the Holy Land mission is that they will continue to face challenges financial and spiritual and so we again ask Catholics around the world again to be as generous as possible, with their financial and spiritual support. Please remember the Christians of the Holy Land on Good Friday. Thank you.

PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY 24 MAR. If you have palms you can donate, please leave them at the church doors before 9am on Sat 23 March or a day or two earlier. Some will be used to decorate the church and others will be cut up for use during the Palm Sunday Masses. **PREPARING THE PALMS, SAT 23 MAR 9AM:** If you are able to help, bring along your secateurs if you have one.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COURSE, 20-21 JULY, PARISH HALL. The Rotary Club of Macquarie Park plans to run a two-day Mental Health First Aid Course, with an experienced facilitator teaching it. The highly-subsidised cost is \$50. It would be very suitable for Carers. Numbers are quite limited. Please contact Roseanna Gallo (roseanna@rgmusic.com.au) if you are interested.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, 7 APRIL, ST THERESE'S, DENISTONE. Starts at 2 pm with Reconciliation & Devotion. Followed by Mass at 3pm. All welcome.

WOMEN OF THE WELL WEEKEND RETREAT, 19-21 APRIL 2024, St Josephs Spirituality and Education Centre, Kincumber South, at a ONE-OFF SUBSIDISED RATE of \$125. A deposit of \$50 will secure your booking. Come and share in our mission to 'create sacred space to share story, listening for the Spirit's whisper in our lives.' Queries, please email tricia@womenofthewell.com.au or ring Tricia on 0417216917.

PARISH COLLECTIONS

1st collection: supports the Parish Priest, presbytery upkeep, food, utilities, support of the Archdiocese, care of elderly priests.

2nd collection: maintenance & upkeep of Parish buildings & grounds, pastoral works, Parish administration, insurance, utilities, salaries, priest car expenses & Charitable Works Fund shortfall.

THE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is available at the church doors. Please put \$2 in the Poor Box.

PRAYER MINISTRY PLEASE KEEP IN PRAYER:

Those who are sick

Bee Ho, Angelica Owczarek,
Moonki Nam, Margaret Cusack,
Barbaro family, Maria Younis,
Michael Brincat, Lim Siew Ching,
Susan Lim Hui Siang, Jac Smits,
Ambrosio "Jing" Feleo,
Lim Liang Chin, Victoria Cook,
Marienoelle Permal,
Sr Monica Simmons RSM

The recently deceased

Ferdinand Fernandez
(Uncle and uncle-in-law of
Gerard Miranda & Pauline
Jasudason)

Those with anniversaries around this time

Rosa Carlino
(20th Anniversary 18 March)

Graciela Knox

Giovanna Poli
(2nd Anniversary 12 March)

Due to privacy laws, if you would like the name of a family member or friend printed in the Good Oil, please contact the Parish Office.

ST KEVIN'S, EASTWOOD
Tuesday 19 March, 6pm

ST THERESE'S, DENISTONE
Wednesday 20 March, 7.30pm

ST ANTHONY'S, MARSFIELD
Thursday 21 March, 7.30pm

ST MARY'S, NORTH SYDNEY
Monday 25 March, 7pm

ST MICHAEL'S, MEADOWBANK
Tuesday 26 March, 7pm

HOLY SPIRIT, NORTH RYDE
Tuesday 26 March, 7pm

HOLY NAME OF MARY, HUNTERS HILL
Tuesday 26 March, 7.30pm

ST CHARLES BORROMEO, RYDE
Wednesday 27 March, 7.30pm

2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION Easter 2024



Created by nakals
from Noun Project

PASTORAL SESSIONS • Mon: Rosary (Italian) 7pm | Tue: Cenacle 2.30pm | Wed: Adoration 9.30am |
Wed: Meditation 10am | Fri: Stations of the Cross after 9am Mass | Fri: Adoration 5pm |
Saturdays (or by appointment): Reconciliation 5.30-5.50pm

CAPTAINS, PLEASE REMIND YOUR TEAM: COUNTERS ROSTER MAR/APR

17/3-Team 7; 24/3-Team 8; 31/3-Team 9; 7/4-Team 10; 14/4-Team 1

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, contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or at (02) 9390 5810. 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. **Archdiocesan Safeguarding Policy Overview:** sydneycatholic.org/casys/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Overview-of-the-Policy.pdf