

Ministry Roster Third Sunday of Lent, W/E 6/7th March, 2021.

Ministry	5:00 PM	8:00AM	9:00 AM.
<u>Acolyte:</u>	P Speter.	P Doherty	P Doherty
<u>Commentator:</u>	T Burgheim.	Volunteer.	Volunteer.
<u>Reader:</u>	T O'Donnell.	C Van Gelderen.	K Powell.
<u>Flowers:</u>	J West.		
<u>Cleaning:</u>	L Beaman.		

Information about the preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation and Reconciliation is available on the 2021 **Sacramental Preparation Brochure** which can be viewed on our electronic Bulletin online.

Our first preparation program will be for First Communion commencing on 22nd April.

For further information about this program and any of the other programs please ring Maureen Ryan 0403 931 782 or contact by email olon254@gmail.com

Project Compassion 2021: "Be More"

Support Caritas Australia this Lenten season by taking home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes. Through your generosity, you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Glenbrook Parish Lenten Biblical Studies.

Parish Priest Fr Joseph Lam will be running Lenten Biblical studies on the Passion of Jesus Christ in the Gospel of Mark at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook. The sessions will be held on:

The Trial of Jesus – 23 February at 7.30pm;
The Death of Jesus – 9 March at 7.30pm;
The Resurrection of Jesus – 23 March at 7.30pm

Due to COVID restrictions, places are limited. To register, please contact secretary@stfinbars.org.au or call the parish office on (02) 4739 8928.

Baptisms at Our Lady of the Nativity Catholic Community.

Recently we have had the joy and privilege of welcoming Baby Dean and little Dominic into our faith community through the Sacrament of Baptism and we have more Baptisms coming up. This follows a drought of Baptisms as a result of the Corona Virus restrictions which effects every part of our lives.

The **preparation for Baptism** includes a visit to the parents by the sacramental co-ordinator where we "unpack" the various symbols which reflect the process of Initiation into the family of Jesus. It is the most complex and symbol laden of all the Sacraments with no less than 10 tangible symbols representing the reality of this new life in Christ.

So Last week we welcomed baby **Dean**, son of Christopher and Melissa Murray and also little **Dominic**, son of Christopher and Lorena Szybiak.

We congratulate these families and thank God's Holy Spirit for the presence of God's love in their lives .

***Our Lady of Nativity Parish Bulletin .***

254 Great Western Highway, Lawson, NSW 2783. **PO BOX 44, Lawson, 2783.**

Phone: 4759 1034 or 0418 214 548.

Email: olon3@bigpond.com / lawson@parracatholic.org

Parish Website: www.lawsoncatholicchurch.org.au

Parish Priest: Fr Paul Slyney - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0418 461 316.

Assistant Priest: Fr Shinto Francis - 4754 1052. **Emergency:** 0415 077 969.

Parish Office Hours: Thursdays & Fridays 9.30 am - 3.30 pm.

The Church will be open for private prayer during office hours.

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:00 PM. Sunday 8:00 AM & 9:00 AM.

Weekday Mass: 5:00PM Tuesday and Wednesday and 9:00 AM Thursday.

48 people only at each Mass. Call the parish office or 0418 214 548 before 5:00PM on

Fridays to confirm your attendance at the Mass of your choice or you MAY be denied entry.

Covid-19 and social distancing restrictions apply to all Masses.

Baptisms: **First & Third Saturdays.** By appointment, call the parish office.

Reconciliation: By appointment .Call the parish office.

Weddings: By appointment six months notice. Call the parish office.

Funerals: By appointment. Call the parish office.

A More Just Society.

In the midst of our suffering and hardship, we must keep sight of the "light at the end of the tunnel." We know that Jesus is that light and that we must trust in that light the way Abraham trusted in God.

We are suffering voluntarily in our Lenten fast. We are also acutely aware in this season of the suffering caused by our sinfulness. Easter, however, awaits us, the hope of resurrection, because "God is for us."

Many in our world are suffering involuntarily. They are the poor, the hungry, the homeless, the victims of oppression and war and other injustices. Is there "light at the end of the tunnel" for them? When will Easter come to them? Who is for them besides God?

Christians cannot allow the magnitude of social evils to overwhelm them. They must always live by the light of Christ and the hope of resurrection.

Christian hope is strong and resilient, for it is rooted in a faith that knows that the fullness of life comes to those who follow Christ in the way of the Cross.

In pursuit of concrete solutions, all members of the Christian community are called to an ever finer discernment of the hurts and opportunities in the world around them, in order to respond to the most pressing needs and thus build up a more just society.

U.S. Bishops, [Economic Justice for All](#), 1986:126

Gerald Darring.



Recently Deceased: Bishop Bede Heather, First Bishop of Parramatta.

Anniversaries: Phillina Ven der Donk, John O'Keeffe & Val Atkins.

Sick: Fr Theo Arrivoli, Rob Nickl, Tochillo Brown. Maurice Rooney, Lan Franco Matteucci, Raymond Plumridge, Mark Geerligns, Rita D'Amico, John McInerney, Andrew Frater, David Paton and all Private Intentions. *Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

This Week. First Reading.

Genesis 22:1-2,9a,10-13,15-18

Abraham obeyed God and prepared to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116:10,15,16-17,18-19

A prayer of faithfulness to God

Second Reading

Romans 8:31b-34

God's faithfulness is shown in his offering of his own Son for our salvation.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James, and John.

Background on the Gospel Reading.

On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event.

The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship. In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death.

OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY SCHOOL

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4753 2200. Email:

oln@parra.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Mrs Lisa Samojlowicz

STAMPS FOR THE MISSIONS:

Are you saving your used postage stamps??

All saved stamps can be left in the "Used Stamp Box" in the Church foyer.

Please remember to leave a 5mm (1/4" or 1/2cm) border

2021 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

On **Friday, 5th March**, Christians around the world will be praying for Vanuatu. The Christian women of Vanuatu have put together a brief service of prayers and readings for us to follow. The **mid mountains service is being hosted by the Anglican Church, Honour Avenue, Lawson, from 11am.**

A **collection** will be taken up during the service. This is **forwarded to the Australian Bible Society** to share with communities in need in Vanuatu. **The service will be followed by a light luncheon in the Anglican church hall provided by their community.**

I would like to invite you to attend this year's service representing our parish community. It would be most helpful if you could add your name to the list in the church foyer or alternately, phone the parish office on 4759 1034 or email lawson@parracatholic.org **prior to Thursday, 4th March** so that our parish's numbers can be forward to the organiser for the purpose of setting up the venue. ***It has also been mentioned to me that if you have not been able to add your name to our list prior to 4th March, you will still be able to attend as the restriction on numbers has recently changed.***

Thanking you for your time and consideration.

Paula Currie.

