

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Year B

25 February 2024

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

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 bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham 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 your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial 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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:31-34

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.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Mark 9:2-10

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 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 from 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.

REFLECTION See Page 3



ST PATRICK'S PARISH

142 Princes Hwy, Pakenham

Parish Office: 5941 7315, Parish Website: www.stpatrickspakenham.com.au

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Parish Office hours: Monday to Friday: 9.00 am to 3.00 pm

Parish Team

Fr. Janeesh Jose (Parish Priest)

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Helen Staindl, (Principal)

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Meg Escalante (Principal)

St Patrick's Primary School, 5943 9000

Vincent J. Feeny, (Principal), **SFX College**, 9707 3111

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

St. Patrick's Catholic Parish acknowledges the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of this land, who have walked upon and cared for it for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

CHURCH RENOVATION FUNDRAISING

Thank you for your kind support and generous donations. Fund Raising brochures are available in the church foyer.



As at 25/01/2024	Sponsored Already	Pledged	Money Paid
Pews	31	46,500.00	40,761.60
Stations of the cross	10	40,000.00	28,600.00
Bricks	54	13,750.00	14,152.40
Gold Sponsors	8	80,000.00	60,000.00
General Donation e.g, dinner, sausage sizzle, plants etc		112,255.54	112,255.54
Community Raffle		15,314.00	15,314.00
		307,819.54	271,083.54

Mass Times

Monday	9.30 am (Liturgy of the Word & Communion)
Tuesday	6.00 pm
Wednesday	9.30am
Thursday	9.30 am
Friday	9.30 am
Saturday	9.30 am (Mass followed by Reconciliation and Exposition) and 6.00 pm
Sunday	9.00 am & 10.30 & 5.00 pm

OUR OFFERINGS TO OUR PARISH

Stewardship envelope (1st Collection) \$1351.00 and cash: \$1526.85 Presbytery (2nd collection+Baptism) \$1130.25
If you would like to donate online:

St Patrick's Parish Pakenham – Donations

Bank: National Australia Bank, BSB: 083-879

Account Number: 75 577 0740

Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Flower Arrangement Roster

No Flowers During Lent

Children's Liturgy

Every 2nd and 4th weekend

Andrea & Chandima 6.00pm Sat 24th

Trent & Sarah 9.00am Sun 25th

SPECIAL MINISTERS AND READERS ROSTER

24th/25th Feb	Special Ministers	Readers
6.00pm	Kathy S	Rishen P Charlotte M
9.00am	Dot R Johanna S Gloria T	Chrismeen & Prymani F
10.30am	Wanguui G Marie H Paisami S	Christine P Joean S
5.00pm	Anne B	Kimberley I Liz R
2nd/3rd Mar	Special Ministers	Readers
6.00pm	Larry V	Tresa A John F
9.00am	Liz R Maria W Nicky W	Gladys A Gloria T
10.30am	Jane E Christina F Sili F	Anna R Annette T
5.00pm	Matthew F	Nisha G Lawrismis G

SAFEGUARDING: Our Parish is committed to the safety, well-being and dignity of all children, young people and adults at risk.

Parish News & Events

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Rodney D'Monte, Ben Wiegerink, Antonette Pauguy, Angelina Lazaris, Nimal Ponweera, Samantha Banks, Naureen Norico, Margaret Gudgeon, Christian Dela Cruz, and Evie Minnis.

Death Anniversaries: Michael William Houlihan and Tony Raos

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."



BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Fox & Poppy Long, Anna Estrellado, Dylan Dollente & Arna Chandraratne and parents Timothy Long & Emily Woods, Jose Estrellado & Lour Tian, Alan Dollente & Dianne Galang and Rukshan Chandraratne & Kasuni Sirisena. **Parents who would like to have their children baptised are required to attend baptism preparation. The next one is on Thursday 7th March, 2024 in the church at 6.00 pm. Please enrol through the parish website/contact Andrea at 5941 7315 in the parish office.**

PARISH MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

PADDY'S KITCHEN: Serves dinner and dessert as take away every Sunday between 4-4.45pm. Contact Tresa Andrews on 0421 931 888 or email on stpatrickspaddys@gmail.com.

MARTHA AND MARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP: Rosary at 10.00 am on Tuesdays followed by cuppa in the Hall.

LEGION OF MARY: All are welcome to join every Friday at 10.15 am. Contact Jilsa at 0450 070 262 or Winnie at 0422 179 999.

SERVANT COMMUNITY CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Every Thursdays at 7.00 pm—Praise, Worship and Healing Mass on first Thursdays of the month. For details: Jean-Claude at 0410 126 415.

D'VINE KIDS: CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM: Year 3-6 kids from 7—8.30 pm **Mar 8, Apr 12, & May 10.**

THE VINE YOUTH GROUP: Years 7-12 from 7-8.45 pm — **Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16, & Sep 20**

HEARTS ON FIRE- YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Ages 18-40. For details contact the parish office on 5941 7315 or email heartsonfire@stpatrickspakenham.com.au

SERAPHS OF ST PAT'S MENS GROUP: Every Sunday at 6:00 p.m., we gather for music, fellowship, talks, and more. Additionally, our choir performs on the **first and third Sunday** of every month during the 5:00 p.m. mass. For further details, contact Dominic Thomas at 0425 742 254

ST PATRICK'S LUNCHEON GROUP: Meets for lunch every first Wednesday of the month. Contact Kathy at 0418 679 616.

ST PATRICK'S GIFT SHOP: Open before and after weekend Masses or by appointment through the parish office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY: Meets every 2nd Tuesday at 1.30pm in the Parish—Help Line is 1300 305 330.

SEWING GROUP: Meets every Thursday at 10.00am Contact Cheryl through Parish office.

MARY'S INTERCESSORY MINISTRY: Rosary and Chaplet of Mercy before the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday morning at 10am interceding for families, our church, priests and the world. Contact Rochelle 0401 017 752

CONTACT DETAILS OF VARIOUS SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Call 1800 Respect / 1800 737 732,

SAFE STEPS: 1800 015 188

NO TO VIOLENCE: MEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE: 1 800 766 491 Mon-Fri: 8am-9pm; Sat-Sun: 9am-6pm

MULTI-CULTURAL CENTRE AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE: 1800 755 988

WAYS EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION: 9703 0044, **Lifeline** 13 11 14, **BEYOND BLUE** 1300 22 4636

KIDS HELPLINE: 1800 55 1800 or kidshelpline.com.au (Concerned adults can call for advice)

CATHOLIC CARE: Counselling services 1800 522 076, Or visit 1 Rogers Street, Pakenham.



REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

'We too are called to climb up the mountain,' says Pope Francis, like the chosen disciples. But, as he points out, we are also called to bring our experience back down the mountain.

In our own lives, one way of understanding this is to contemplate our personal spiritual behaviours. The Pope takes the opportunity of this Gospel to remind us to beware of the risk of 'spiritual laziness'. Are we tempted to 'remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own'? Do we risk taking too much private and possessive comfort from 'our prayers and liturgies'?

As the Pope points out, we cannot stay on the mountain. 'Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life.' There is work to be done. It is not enough to come to Mass and posture and pray in a way that is cut off from life. The Church should never become a means of escaping reality or responsibility.

'We', the Pope proclaims, 'are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere.' Called up the mountain, we are sent down the mountain to go forth and take the mystery of the Transfigured One with us wherever we may go. We cannot do that if we keep our heads stuck in tents of our own making.

Parish News & Events

YOUTH CHOIR CONDUCTED PASSION OF CHRIST ON GOOD FRIDAY: We are looking for children, adolescents and young adults to come forward to join in our 'Passion of Christ' play which is enacted on good Friday. It is a motivating, gratifying, liberating and spiritual experience. Also meeting new people and making new friends. If you are interested in joining, or just want more information before participating, please contact Maria 0433 640 828 or Auxillia 0405 844 557.



SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION: The final preparation for the First Sacrament of Reconciliation will be on the Wednesday the 28th February 2024 at 4.30pm in the Church Foyer. A Parent Workshop will be held on Thursday the 29th February at 7.00pm. Commitment Mass for all children receiving their Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday the 2 March 2024 at the 6.00pm Mass. The Celebrations of the First Reconciliation will be held on the 5th and 6th March 2024 at 7.00pm. Please keep these children in your prayers.

ST PATRICK'S LUNCHEON GROUP: last month we had a great turn up to our lunch. It was great to see a few new faces too. Our March Lunch will be on Wednesday the 6th of March at the Railway Hotel (in Main Street now the railway line) at 12 noon. If you can come contact Kathy 0418 679 616.

SAVE THE DATE - PRAYING WITH THE BOOK OF PSALMS: JESUS is inviting YOU to begin the Holy Week by spending an hour/ night with Him... Mat26:40-41So, could you not stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Servant Community welcomes you to a night vigil... a time to pray, listen in silence or gaze at the Blessed Sacrament on **23rd March** (begins with mass at 6 pm and ends with mass at 9 am, 24 March). Pope Paul VI said that Adoration influences not only the individual adorer but touches their families, homes, parish community and beyond... Come and be blessed! (More details and a sign up sheet coming soon...)

CHOIR PRACTICES for Easter will be on the 28th February and March 4th (Monday) 13th and 20th at 7.30pm to 9pm All are welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS on Fridays during lent at 7.00pm in the church.

LENTEN REFLECTION: Every Tuesday during Lent in the Welcome room after the Tuesday 6.00 pm evening Mass. **If any groups in the parish would like to convene a Lenten reflection programme any other time, we are happy to provide the resources.** Please contact the Parish Office.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER— PALESTINE: will be held at 10.15am with Morning Tea and Prayer Service starting at 10.45 am on the Friday the 1st of March 2024 at Uniting Church in Pakenham. All are welcome.



The Fifth Station
Simon Helps Jesus



Second Sunday of Lent 24 & 25 February



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old **Ronita** was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

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.

LENT 2024 WITH THE CATHOLIC GUY, BRUCE DOWNES: Lent is a time when we can grow closer to God and prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed. Be renewed! For 40 days you will receive a short, practical and inspiring video in your inbox every morning to help you make this Lenten journey more powerful and prayerful. This program is FREE and you can sign up here: <https://BruceDownes.org/Lent> Go to BruceDownes.org for more information.