



unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.
Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.
If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.
Now my soul is troubled.
What shall I say:
Father, save me from this hour?
But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.
Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.'

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.
And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I can observe a baby, but the parents 'see' their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response.

This Gospel passage begins with a request from some Greeks 'to see Jesus', surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response.

And there was a response full of allusions to the future.

Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground.

Our Lord says of that scene: 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.' How were people drawn to this scene?

People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life.

We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

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The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

17 March 2024

First Reading Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

Gospel Jn 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly,



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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
(Michaelite Fathers)



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Michaelite Community: Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm;
Filipino Mass monthly 4th Sunday at 12:15pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Mondays - Church open for private prayer
Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday - Saturday 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday to Friday - 9:00am to 3:00pm

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Next week Passion/Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 - 15:47.

Fr Stan writes ...

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world. Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.



Tuesday 26 March	Reconciliation from 7:00pm to 8:00pm (Please note that Mass will be at 8:30am)	
Holy Thursday 28 March	7:30pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday 29 March	10:00am 3:00pm	Stations of the Cross The Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday 30 March	10:00am 7:00pm	Blessing of Easter Food Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday 31 March	Mass Times 8:30am; 10:00am; 5:00pm	
Easter Monday 1 April	Mass 8:30am	

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during weekdays in Lent will take place after daily Mass, Tuesday to Saturday for half an hour. Stations of the Cross during Lent, each Friday at 7pm

A PRACTICE for ACOLYTES and ALTAR SERVERS to prepare for the Easter Ceremonies, will take place on Saturday afternoon, 23rd March at 1:00pm for Holy Thursday; 1:30pm for Good Friday; 2:00pm for Easter Vigil. The smooth running of the ceremonies creates a prayerful atmosphere, so a **practice is essential** for all who serve at these liturgies.



PLEASE NOTE!! Palm Sunday 24th March

Please be aware that the parish will not accept donations of palms. This means **NO PALMS WILL BE PROVIDED** for Palm Sunday. Please be sure to bring along your own palm or green branch as they will be blessed in the usual way at the beginning of Mass.

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School Enrolling Now

Our parish primary school is an authentically Catholic school where students receive a high quality education in a nurturing, faith-filled environment. The school's students consistently achieve strong academic results and are fortunate to learn and play in a modern environment with outstanding playground spaces. Enrolment applications are now being accepted for positions in Kindergarten 2025. This year all parents are asked to enrol via an online form which is available on our school website: <https://www.hsnryde.catholic.edu.au/>.



To ensure that your child does not miss out, parents are encouraged to submit the application ASAP. If you have friends or relatives thinking about our school for next year, please encourage them to check out the school website or to call the school office. After clicking the "enrol now" button, there are videos and step-by-step guides to complete the application.

If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to call the school office: 9878 2848.



Rocky Road on sale this weekend!

As we no longer have our Chocolate Paschal Lambs, this is a great way to keep supporting the PNG Missions.

All proceeds to the missions.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING: Vianney Brown, Denis O'Neill, Greg Forrester, Joseph Papandrea, Vic & Avonia Moran, Michael Maglunog, Jenny Scully Callaghan, Andrew Chan.

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Betty Artz, Antonio Lo Surdo, Tomasz Bielecki, Helene Kroll recently deceased.

Also, *Giuseppe Petrolo, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Angelo & Carmela & Angelo Scicluna, Albert Khoshaba, George Maiolo, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale & Teresa Papandrea, Tony Bietola, Giovanni & Santina Bietola, John & Robyne Bietola, Sam Tedesco, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrissi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Gianni & Angelina Gualdi, Antonino, Tindara & Vincenzo Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Fr Kevin O'Grady, Stefano & Giuseppina Zappia, Natividad & Aurora Dumlaog, Bob Brown, Renee O'Connor, Fr Thomas Vailatt SDB, Adrian Gould, Vincent Mascolo, Anna Pelosi, Maria Arena, Pompeo Totino, Consorcia Francisco, Francis Francisco, Manuel Francisco, Milagros P. Acosta, Joyce Lukas, Michael Ellis, Dean Davids, Margaret Clifford, Robert (Bob) Jones, and the deceased members of the Machnio, Maciejczyk families.*

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney: Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes 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 9390 5810/ 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.