

First Reading

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

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.'



Responsorial Psalm

(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

Rom. 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

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.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Mk 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

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 around, 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.

What am I doing for Lent this year?

Reflection by Mary Coloe

Last Sunday's Gospel described Jesus' entry into the wilderness and I suggested that this is a time of encountering God. In today's Gospel, while the setting is different, we glimpse such a moment of encounter. It is described as a moment of transformation, or transfiguration. An encounter with God changes us. In the Gospel, this is depicted as the outer change in Jesus' appearance, but for most of us, the experience of God brings about an inner change, a change of heart. Jesus knows himself in this moment to be God's beloved one. When I have listened to people speak of their moments of experiencing God, they too speak of knowing themselves as God's beloved. Sometimes things get in the way of our knowing this about ourselves.

Some have grown up with harsh images of God, some may look on life events and see themselves as unlovable but the Gospel insists on another truth. 'God so loved the world he gave his son.' God so loves me he gives his son! Wow! Can I believe this? Dare I believe God loves me?

If we seriously enter into the journey of Lent, there can be times of discouragement when our weakness can undermine our resolutions. The gospel encourages us to know that God is still present to us, still calling us, 'My Beloved One.'



Safeguarding: Child sexual abuse is a crime. If you are aware of any abuse please contact the police. Guidance can be also be offered by your parish priest or Safeguarding Office: 93905810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org

Supporting our Parish: (1) Offering envelopes or the Planned Giving Program (2) Online Donations via the website (3) Cashless tap devices (4) Collection - the 1st collection is for Archdiocesan priests and the 2nd collection is for parish expenses.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Sick: Bourke Gibbons, Christina Apolinari, Daniel Matesic, Daniel Clarke, David Sanders, Eileen Ellery, Heather Graham, Irma Buoro, John Sanders, Kerry Gibbons, Margaret Ward, Marie Reic, Mary Strambio, Paul Roughley, Phillip Nehme, Romela Onkowiedjaja, Rosa Agostino, Tamara Kalass, Tony Strambio, Vic Ryan, Warren Clarke.

Recently Deceased: Bishop Bede Heather, George Voss, Fr Isidip Wilson, Arthur Hodson

Anniversaries: Maria Pham Thi Tri, Rodney Lawler, Margaret Boyle, Barbara Gross, Steve Folke, Fay Keegan, Robert McAfee, Michael Hayek, Ted Faulkner, Francis Joseph Neville, Mahala Hepples, Elisabeth Laumann, Lisa Anthony, Norm Karam, Tom Atkins, Bruna Matosovic (2015), Giuseppina Caliguiri, Robyn Mathieson, John Neville, John Lozinski, Rosa Cocolo, Jeanette Trevor, Edmond Ashkar, Desmond Eisenhuth, Mabel Cathro, Peter Bahri, Marie Josephe, Lise Goetz, Carlo Antonio Pianta, Eddie Tannous, Flor Diethelm, Giuseppe Fabris, Len Kelly, Eugenia Kosabudsky, Desmond James Armbruster

*Eternal rest grant unto them
O Lord and let perpetual light shine
upon them. May all the souls of all the
faithful departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Quote of the Week: "Listen to Jesus and follow him. That's the message of the Transfiguration" ~ Pope Francis

Everyday Transfiguration Events

"God is in our very midst, transfigurations don't just happen on mountains, they happen every day. It happened one day that I was making my way back from the airport in a crowded train at peak hour. There was no seat and a young man with a healthy number of tattoos, pierced body parts and spiked hair, got up and gave me his seat. When I left the train, I turned and mouthed 'thank you', his gracious smile answered me. At that moment there were only two people at Wolli Creek Station, this young unnamed man and me. The whole train was transfigured and I have never forgotten. Transfigurations so often happen, as they did in the Gospel, within the context of God's finest creations, us, we, the community in which we live, pray and are challenged. There God awaits us, there we will see Him, and there we will become witnesses to that which we will never forget."
~ Mother Hilda Scott OSM
Adapted from the 2021 *A Lenten Companion*.



Congratulations to Wayne & Veronica Dening on their 40th Wedding Anniversary. God bless you both.

Youth Group: Ephesus

Sunday fortnight 6pm - 7.30pm. Contact: Grace Mokdassi: gracemokdassi@gmail.com
Instagram: @smghephesus
A huge thank you to everyone who joined us last week as we began our Lenten series! Our next night will be on the 7th of March. Bring a friend or two! *Thinking of becoming an Ephesus leader? Join us to find out more!*

St Mary's Primary School

Ph: 9727 0000
Principal: Monica Palmer
www.stmgeorgeshall.catholic.edu.au

This week we celebrated Wellbeing Week; we engaged in activities focused on resilience and held a superhero day.



St Mary Queen of Heaven, Georges Hall



2nd Sunday of Lent | Year B | Sun 28th February 2021



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Facebook: fb.me/smgh2
Mass Streaming: <https://cutt.ly/StMarys>

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 8am, 10am, 5pm

Vietnamese Masses:

Sat. Vigil: 6.30pm & Sunday: 3pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday: 6pm
(Preceded by Holy Hour at 5pm)
Wednesday - Saturday: 9am
(Preceded by the Rosary at 8.45am)

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4pm or by appointment

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, a traditional Lenten prayer form, will be prayed each Friday of Lent at 7pm in the Church.



Lenten Reflections

The Archdiocese's Go Make Disciples Lenten Companion hosts a weekly online Lenten group and provides a Lenten Companion resource to accompany you through your Lenten Journey, to access both: www.gomakedisciples.org.au.

Project Compassion

This year, the theme of Project Compassion is "Be More." It challenges us to venture into a new experience of compassion, to "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." Please collect Project Compassion boxes or envelopes and return them to the back of the Church at Easter.

A Prayer for Lenten Simplicity

Free me, Lord Jesus, from anything that obstructs my way to you. Clear away the clutter of petty grudges. Remove smudges of resentment and bitterness. Cleanse me of thoughts filled with anger, envy or self-pity. Create space in my life for more kindness, and less spitefulness, greater generosity and compassion. Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognise the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me. In your sacred name, I pray. Amen
~ Anonymous

Communion to the Sick

Anyone intending to take Holy Communion to the sick, please speak to Father Laurie prior to Mass.