



Second Sunday of Lent ~ The Transfiguration

25 February 2024

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MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

The event on the mountain of the Transfiguration is a momentous event in the lives of the disciples. The line between the human and divine is crossed. They see the transfigured Jesus, hear the voice of God in the privileged presence of Moses and Elijah both who have heard the voice of God in their lives and are suddenly brought back to the earthly sphere and come down the mountain.

I have had the privilege of visiting the site where these events took place and celebrated Mass in a small chapel at this site. We have all had peak experiences in our lives and we have all had to come down the mountain to the ordinariness of daily life. The glimpse of experience of the sacred helps us to live in the present moment with the hope of the glory that awaits us in the fullness of our Christian lives.

The moment of glory does not take away from the challenge and difficulty of the cross and passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, but this leads to the Son of God being raised from the dead. May we live as signs of hope in a broken world that longs for healing and restoration.

Yours, in the Lord Jesus Christ, Fr Michael

WELCOME TO OUR YEAR 1 STUDENTS & THEIR FAMILIES

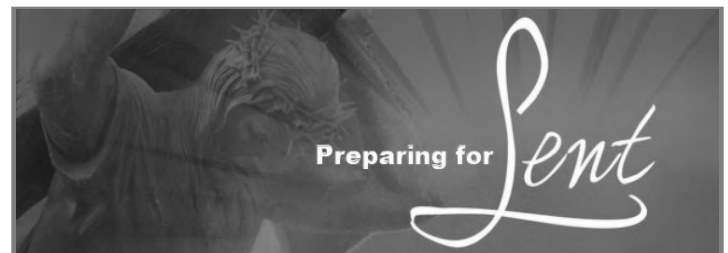


O Mary,
loving Mother of Jesus,
and our Mother,
pray to Jesus for our family,
for all the families of the world,
to guard the cradle of the newborn,
the schools of the young and their
vocations.

Blessed Saint Joseph,
holy guardian of Jesus and Mary,
assist us by your prayers in all the
necessities of life.

St Mark Pray for us

Following Mass, you are all invited to join us
for morning tea.



WEDNESDAY LENTEN GROUP:

Repent & Believe Lenten Group

Hosted by Lyn 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre,

enter by the side door and a lift is available.

Session 28 February

THURSDAY LENTEN GROUP:

Repent & Believe Lenten Group

Hosted by Matthew 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre.

Session 29 February

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday following 8:00am Mass at St Mark's Church.

FRIDAY TWILIGHT CANDLELIGHT REFLECTION

Prayer and Silent Reflection with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance. Every Friday during Lent 7:00pm



FRIDAY

Mass at 8:00am

&

Twilight Reflection

with the opportunity for the
Sacrament of Penance

7:00pm - 8:00pm



FRIDAY 1 MARCH Autumn Ember Day

This is a special day of Prayer and Penance.

The Australian Bishops Conference recommends penitential practices such as Prayer, self denial and helping others.

The practice of the Church is to offer prayers to the Lord for the needs of all people, and for the productivity of the earth and to seek God's blessing for favourable weather and a fruitful harvest. Ember days focus on the environment, climate change and our stewardship of the world's resources. Doing penance reminds us that sustainable use of our resources will cost us in our attitudes and lifestyle.



Second Sunday of Lent

Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 26:8-9

(All) Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

First Reading

Genesis 22.1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abraham, our father in faith, was ready for sacrifice.

God tested Abraham. God said to him, "Abraham!" And Abraham said, "Here I am." God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." When Abraham and Isaac came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he replied, "Here I am." The angel said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 116.10+15, 16-17, 18-19 (R.9)

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.
2. O Lord, I am your servant; You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord. **(R.)**
3. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8.31b-35, 37++

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

God did not withhold his own Son.

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? Is it God who justifies? Who is to condemn? Is it Christ Jesus, who died, and indeed, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who intercedes for us? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Gospel Acclamation

See Luke 9.35

Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glorify and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Mark 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 apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Let us now call upon the Lord, for God is merciful to those in need.

Reader: We pray that God's goodness will be a source of peace and justice for all nations. *(pause)*. **Lord hear us:**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for women everywhere, that through their initiative for World Day of Prayer, they will inspire us to build our lives on Christ. *(pause)*. **Lord hear us:**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all who are vulnerable to the impact of poverty and violence, that through our support of Project Compassion we embrace those in great need. *(pause)*.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Let us pray for those that are sick, that they will be shown the care of this community. *(pause)*. **Lord hear us:**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our Year 1 children and their families as they commence a new year of learning. May their hearts be filled with the love of God. *(pause)*. **Lord hear us:**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all who have died, that they will live forever with the Father of light in his eternal kingdom.

(pause). **Lord hear us:**

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, as you transfigured your Son in glory, please transfigure us and our world as we wait in faith and hope for our needs to be heard.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

Matthew 17:5

(All) This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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St Mark's Lenten Schedule

† Wednesday 28 February | 6, 13 & 20 March

Repent & Believe Lenten Group

Hosted by Lyn Put aside some time to gather with family and reflect the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection. 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available. Come to 1 or all 5

† Thursday 29 February | 7, 14 & 21 March

Repent & Believe Lenten Group

Hosted by Matthew Bring a friend and be filled with the love of God when you gather and reflect the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection. Come to 1 or all 5 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

† Friday 1, 8, 15 & 22 March

Twilight Candlelight Reflection

Begin with Evening Prayer and Adoration, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Silent Reflection, with the Sacrament of Penance available, ending with Prayer of the Night. 7:00pm - 8:00pm St Mark's Church

† Friday 1, 8, 15 & 22 March

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent following the 8:00am Mass.

† Friday 1 March - World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries. This year hosting the Inner West Community is **Five Dock Drummoyne Uniting Church, Garfield Street, Prayer service at 10:00am**, followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome to join parishioners from all Churches in the area.

† Friday 1 March - Autumn Ember Day

This is a special day of prayer and Penance. On this day Australian Bishops recommend penitential practices such as prayer, self-denial and helping others. Mass at 8:00am Candlelight Reflection at 7:00pm

† Saturday 2, 9, 16 & 23 March

The Sacrament of Penance

Confession | Reconciliation will be offered on Saturdays from 11:00am - 11:55am prior to 12 noon Mass.

† Sunday 17 March 2024

A Lenten Conversation

Looking in depth into the scriptures of Lent will help to renew your conversation with God. Following 9:00am Mass upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

† Thursday 21 March - Italian Stations of the Cross

Via Crucis in Italiano Giovedì 21 Marzo 2024 alle 14:00 Tutti benvenuti - St Mark's Church Thursday 21 March 2024 at 2:00pm All Welcome

† Tuesday 26 March - 2nd Rite

The Sacrament of Penance "second rite" combines a common preparation with individual confession and absolution. 7:00pm St Mark's Church

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



When Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain, they experienced something quite extraordinary. The transfiguration gave them a glimpse of what it meant for Jesus to be the son of God. It is hardly surprising that Peter said, 'it is wonderful for us to be here.' The Gospel also tells us that Jesus' friends were frightened, and this is also easy to understand. They were overwhelmed. Nevertheless, it's not long before Jesus reminds them that he is destined to die. His friends must come down from the mountain and walk with Jesus through all the ordinary and arduous days and weeks that lie ahead.

We can all say 'it is wonderful for us to be here' no matter where that happens to be. Life is full of wonder. That doesn't mean it is always easy. We live in the arms of a very deep mystery. God's love enfolds us.

Throughout Lent, we are called to support Project Compassion, an initiative of Caritas Australia. This year, Project Compassion celebrates 60 years of partnership with some of the most marginal communities in the world. With your help, we have walked alongside literally millions of people in dozens of countries.

This week we encounter the story of Ronita who lives in Quezon City, part of metro Manila in the Philippines. Becoming a mother at a young age meant that her schooling was cut short. Her husband, Lean, leaves for work at 3am and returns at 9pm, earning less than \$US10 per day in a demanding job in waste disposal. On such a small income, Ronita and Lean, along with two young children, are able to rent a room of about 10 square metres.

With your help through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia has been able to support the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to run the Alternative Learning System program. This program has meant that Ronita has been able to continue her education. The FCJ sisters provide a safe space for many young people such as Ronita to finish school and find better jobs. Ronita has had the opportunity to change her life.

Caritas Australia believes that the world can be transfigured to become more like the kingdom of God of which Jesus spoke. We can encounter people whom others choose to ignore. When we do so, we discover that here too are children of God. We are asked to listen to them.

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2024 Time for God- Lenten Program

As we approach the sacred season of Lent, we invite you to embark on a transformative journey with our "Women at the Well" Lenten Series. This year, we delve into the pages of "Time for God" by Jacques Philippe—a book that promises to uncover the transformative power of seeking God's presence daily.

This Lenten series isn't just a book study; uncover the beauty of your own spiritual journey and the collective strength that comes from gathering with fellow Women at the Well.

This series will provide:

- 📖 A thought-provoking book study of "Time for God" by Jacques Philippe.
- 🗣️ Inspiring discussions tailored to the experiences of women.
- 🤝 A supportive and uplifting community of like-minded women.
- 🕯️ Practical insights to deepen your Lenten spiritual practices.

When: Each Monday in Lent at 7-9pm (19th February - 25th March)

Where: All Saints Parish in Loreto Place

Who: All women aged 18+

Cost: \$30 donation for the whole program (includes the book and all resources used; payment can be made at the first meeting)

For more information please call Ania at 0417432667

St Mark's Parish Community Journey through Lent



Take the Lenten Challenge by Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from anger and be filled with patience
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness and fill our hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from unfair prejudice and be inclusive
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

LENT
WALKING WITH CHRIST



I'm going green for Lent
40 days toward a better planet

Australian Religious Response to Climate Change

How did the World Day of Prayer International representing 170 countries come into existence?

World Day of Prayer has deep roots in the Ecumenical Women's Missionary Movement of the 19th and beginning 20th century. World Day of Prayer and the first WDP was celebrated around the world in 1927, Christian women had understood: We are now equal partners in a worldwide sisterhood of prayer, sharing our sorrows and joys.

The vision of the women had persisted through a global economic collapse in the 1930s and two world wars. There were many intermediate steps, setbacks, frustrations, oppositions, constraints caused by limited financial resources, and sexism in society. However, the women of WDP showed that their faith in Jesus Christ, expressed in prayer that was conducted in public worship and linked to action carried them through to the formation of an international committee. When we remember them, we find strength to continue in our efforts and hope to find fresh expression of our legacy each year into the future.

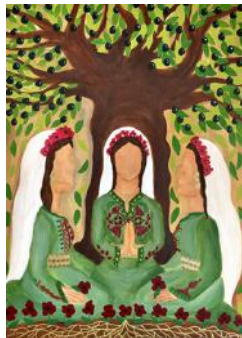
World Day of Prayer Service is celebrated on the First Friday in March and in NSW in approximately 225 Churches and centres.

Hosting the Inner West Community of Drummoyne | Five Dock is on

FRIDAY 1 MARCH - PRAYER SERVICE AT 10:00AM
Five Dock Drummoyne Uniting Church, Garfield Street.
Service followed by morning tea. All Welcome.



World Day of Prayer
AUSTRALIA



Celebrating Reconciliation

Reconciliation is what God does. Receiving it and celebrating it is what we do. For those of us who are Catholics, the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God's reconciliation. We used to think of this sacrament as only about "confession" - that it was like a dumping ground for my sins, where I got forgiven, and I had to "pay a toll." One of the great recoveries in our Christian history is to re-discover the meaning of this sacrament.

It is God who forgives sins. And God forgives us the very moment that we come to the experience that we need forgiveness (which itself comes through God's grace). At that moment, I feel sorrow and a desire for forgiveness and healing. In that moment, I am reconciled with God. The reunion, the bond, the connection, the joy are all there. Three more things remain: to receive it deep within my heart, to celebrate it, and to participate in the healing process.

When I experience God's forgiveness and love, I am invited to savour it and let it touch me deeply. Experiencing compassion, patience, understanding, and forgiveness is itself transforming. If I fail to appreciate what I have just received - freely and undeserved - then I will take it for granted and risk moving on without a real healing happening.

Then, I need to celebrate the reconciliation I have received. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation - individually or in common - I have the wonderful opportunity to ritualise that celebration. In the Sacrament, my personal journey is joined with the mystery of God's saving love, as seen in the scriptures, and in God's desire to save us all. There, in ritual form (even if it is just me and the priest) I "step forward" and admit that I am a sinner, express my sorrow, and I name the places in my life where God is shining a Light into what I have done and what I have failed to do. Then, God's forgiveness is proclaimed "out loud" - for me to hear and rejoice in: "May God grant you pardon and fill you with God's peace."

An integral part of the reconciliation involves the healing process. Part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is to practice a "remedy" for the healing I desire. Often that will simply be prayer. Expressing my gratitude to God is one of the most important steps on the road to recovery from my independence from God. © creighton



**The Sacrament of Penance
(Confession | Reconciliation)**

During Lent:

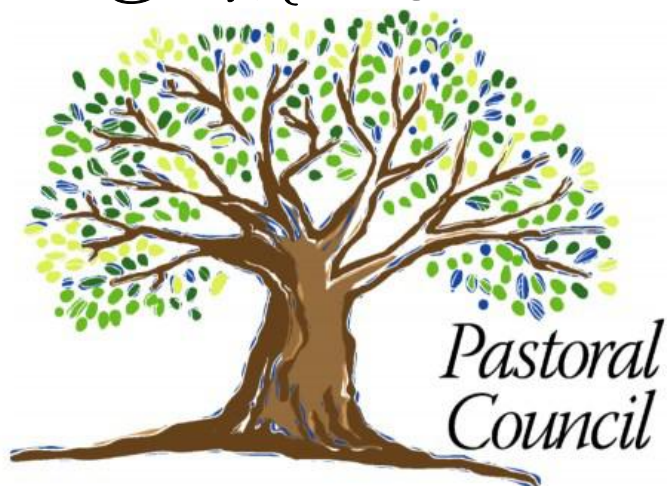
1st Rite: Fridays at Twilight Candlelight Reflection
7:00pm - 8:00pm

1st Rite: Saturdays from 11:00am - 11:55am

2nd Rite: Tuesday 26 March at 7:00pm



St Mark's Parish



A Parish Pastoral Council promotes and supports the evangelising mission and ministry of a Parish, working in collaboration with the Parish Priest to foster the spiritual and pastoral life of all the Christian faithful.

The Parish Pastoral Council enables the members of the Parish community to fulfil their baptismal calling to share in Christ's mission and ministry to connect their needs and their strengths with the Parish's plans for the future.

St Mark's Parish Pastoral Council 2024

Members of the Council are:

Danny Moiso

You may notice Danny as a Minister of the Word usually at our 6:00pm Sunday Mass. Danny and his wife Maria have been members of our Parish for many years and Danny has been a member of our Parish Finance Committee.

Marella Gouvernet

Marella is a Minister of the Word and a member of our Drummoyne Vinnies Conference. Marella recently hosted our Summer (first) Potluck Dinner and has now taken on a potluck dinner every season.

Stay tuned for our Autumn Dinner details.

Bernie Armistead

Bernie last year led our Rosary evenings and he arranged for our senior parishioners to attend in the Parish Centre our Be Connected digital skills training. Bernie connects and attends many of the Archdiocese of Sydney outreach events that encounters people to bring faith and good works to others.

Julian and Ashley D'Onofrio

Attending Mass with their daughters each week, they married at St Mark's and are members of the parish community.

Julian is always helping Fr Michael and Fr Denis with odd jobs especially moving furniture!

Celine Cheng

Celine our Parish Pastoral Chair has guided the Parish through COVID and supported Fr Michael and Fr Denis when needed with liturgical and pastoral events. Celine's term on the PPC as Chair is ending on 31 March and we thank her for her support and offer her every blessing. Celine will still remain a member of our Music Ministry at Mass.

Lynette Brown

Lynette is a long term parishioner of St Mark's who oversees the Parish Finance Committee and supports the PPC.

All Parish Mission and Ministry events will be advertised in the Parish Bulletin so look out and introduce yourself to our members as they welcome your support.

The next PPC meeting will be held on 29 February.

† **Friday 1 March - Autumn Ember Day**

This is a special day of prayer and Penance the Australian Bishops recommends penitential practices such as prayer, self-denial and helping others.

† **Friday 1 March - World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year hosting the Inner West Community is **Five Dock Drummoyne Uniting Church, Garfield Street, Prayer service at 10:00am**, followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome to join parishioners from all Churches in the area.

† **Sunday 10 March - Kindergarten Family Mass**

St Mark's community invites all our new Kindergarten families to celebrate 9:00am Mass followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome.

† **Sunday 10 March - Laetare Sunday Rejoice Sunday**

Celebrate mid way through Lent by wearing Rose or Pink to Mass and following our 9:00am Mass, gather with your family for morning tea. All Welcome

† **Saturday 16 March - St Mark's Primary School Easter Fete**

St Mark's community are invited to come and enjoy rides stalls and food at our annual Easter fete. All Welcome.

† **Monday 18 March - St Patrick**

O God, who choose the Bishop Saint Patrick to preach your glory to the peoples of Ireland, grant, through his merits and intercession, that those who glory in the name of Christian, may never cease to proclaim your wondrous deeds to all. Mass at 8:00am



† **Tuesday 19 March - St Joseph**

The Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. Mass at 9:30am

Join us for the **SYDNEY CATHOLIC YOUTH**

PURPOSE LEADERS

2-3 March

IMMERSION WEEKEND

Are you the Youth Minister at your Parish?
Are you currently leading or hoping to lead a youth group?

Immerse yourself in a weekend retreat experience of formative workshops, engaging keynotes and leadership networking!

Peter Canisius House
102 Mona Vale Road,
Pymble NSW

REGISTRATION - \$95
(SCY has subsidised over 50% of the cost)

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!



In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our St Mark's community:

Margaret Smith, Brian Gallagher, Dante Ferzoco, Egidio Ettorre, Looi Im Heok, Christiane Biady, Anne Johnson, Lucie Betteto, Isobel Bocalatte, Pat Crowe, Fay O'Halloran, Santa Iacono,

Bishop Peter Ingham, Pat Kenna, Wendy Madden, Lina Giannandrea, Patricia Ryan, Patricia Ficarra, Milly Di Blasio, Immaculata Di Palma, Giuseppina Pinto and Rocco Zoccali.

God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. ~Amen~



Remembering those who have gone before us.

Norma Cornford, Isidoro D'Urso, Guistina Russo, Giuseppe, Gennaro, Michele, Giacomo & Umberto Ferraro, Giuseppe Ziino, Fr Terence Purcell, Giuseppe (Pino) Lorizio, Annie Nicholson, Cecilia Chye, Michele and Margherita Maldarella.

Recently Deceased. Dr Catriona Ann Orlando (Paterson), Laurence Paul Hoolahan, Ken Short and Peter Tunchon. *May all the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

Pray Pope Francis Intention for the month February

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this monthly intention.

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment. Amen.



The Stations of the Cross

FRIDAYS DURING LENT
Following 8:00am Mass

This Lenten devotion offers witness to Jesus' Passion and Death, at each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection, and to experience the visual images to reflect on Christ's love for us.



BISHOP TERRY BRADY
AUXILIARY BISHOP EMERITUS
warmly invites you to

St Patrick's Feast Day Mass
Monday 18 March 2024
10.00am

St Mary's Cathedral
2 St Mary's Rd, Sydney

St Mark's Drummoyne Masses

Monday & Friday 8:00am
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am
Wednesday 7:30am



Saturday 12 noon
Saturday Reconciliation 11:30am - 11:55am

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.

Liturgy and Life:

St. Teresa of Avila can serve as inspiration for Lent. She trusted in God despite years of spiritual desolation and was canonised almost 500 years ago. In your prayers this week, ask for her intercession as you strive to place greater trust in God.

St Mark's Parish

*United in Baptism,
Nourished by the Eucharist,
Guided by the Holy Spirit,
We Form a Vibrant and Caring Community,
Living and Proclaiming the Gospel,
Reaching Out to Those in Need,
Journeying Together,
Growing in Faith.*



**TWILIGHT CANDLELIGHT
LENT REFLECTION**
Friday's during Lent - 7:00pm - 8:00pm
St Mark's Church

Evening Prayer
Adoration
Silent Reflection
The Sacrament of Penance
is available
Prayer of the Night

Stillness and motion during the weeks of Lent offers us rich moments to strengthen our commitment and our faith.

ALL WELCOME
Friday 1, 8, 15 & 22 March

St Mark's Catholic Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047
Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au
Parish Website: www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au



St Mark's Church Hearing Loop installed

Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on the pew for others to pick up.

Parish Priest: Fr Michael McLean PP
Priest in Residence: Fr Denis Minns OP
Pastoral Associate: Sr Antonia Nedu ISR
Chair Parish Pastoral Council: Ms Celine Cheng
School Principal: Mrs Melissa Lentini

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone during the Mass.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



The Living Word

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B

25 February 2024

Gospel Reflection: Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition, one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy.

Scriptural context – Not quite: Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer's message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus' purpose and presence. They still haven't fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

Have you thought? Mountaintop Moments: Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week's first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about 'peak experiences' – moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain 'in the moment' rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

Gospel Focus – A new vision: Part of Peter's mistake is to see the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us.

Questions?

Q. Why is this transfiguration event regarded with such importance in the Church?

Q. Can you recall an experience of God that occurred to you at a mountaintop location?

Q. Why is this reading chosen for use in the season of Lent?

Learning moments: Write a journal entry for one of the disciples after the events of the mountaintop transfiguration. © Greg Sunter



Second Sunday of Lent
24 & 25 February



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma.

With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

THE Catholic Weekly



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- * PNG excited for papal visit, but is Pope Francis coming?

\$2

Available in the Church foyer



2nd Sunday of Lent, Year B

This is my Son



THE SEASON OF LENT - OUR FAMILY COMMITMENT

The disciples thought perhaps they should stay on the mountain and worship Jesus, but Jesus took them back down. Our faith life is mostly lived on the ground, among people who need us to show God's love. What can your family do to reach out in love this week?

Draw a line from each of the following statements to either Moses or Elijah.



Moses

- God's law was revealed to him
- He challenged King Ahab for worshipping a false god
- A great prophet mentioned in the first book of Kings
- He rescued God's people from Egypt
- Elisha became his successor
- He became the leader of the Israelites



Elijah



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- | | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| alone | high | shelters |
| clothes | Moses | Son |
| cloud | mountain | teacher |
| frightened | Peter | three |

P G L F K J I J Z X Z P H V E T Z
D I K N U N M L Z H J S N B O Q V
R G M H X R X O M S D H O M W N O
E Y Q M X D C A S U X E S M H N I
H V Y L R D U L R E X L F N C V E
T K T H R E E O M U S T A D I C J
Y K N N I A T N U O M E I A L I E
C Y O E O J H E S N Y R X D P F Q
H L C K N F T M U V Z S E X D K A
G F O E Y Z D Y M E A N N Y C L C
I K P N F P K A M U E N J K L R L
H H R V H A M Y U T T D Q U E S O
B D E W Q R S E H T O L C H S P U
I B R E T E P G C W N T C P T O D
T L R K F F I R Y S R A O N W Z L
L X K H T R I M S Z E O V Q Z M Z
R J A E F X P I X T N R G O E V F

Sydney Catholic Schools Week

OPEN DAYS

Tuesday 5 March
8.30am-11.00am

Wednesday 6 March
2.00pm-5.00pm

Thursday 7 March
2.00pm-3.00pm

Friday 8 March
8.30am-11.00am

ST MARK'S PRIMARY

16.03 2024

EAS ST MARK'S TIER FETE

SATURDAY
16TH MARCH
9AM-3PM

MAKE SURE YOU
HOP ALONG

ALL DAY RIDES • BBQ AND CAFE
 BARISTA COFFEE • MULTIPLE STALLS
 STAGE PERFORMANCES • RAFFLE
 SILENT AUCTION • LIVE MUSIC
 FLOWER STALL • CAKE STALLS

31 TRANMERE STREET
DRUMMOYNE



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 and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 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. **Website:** Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection