



17 March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

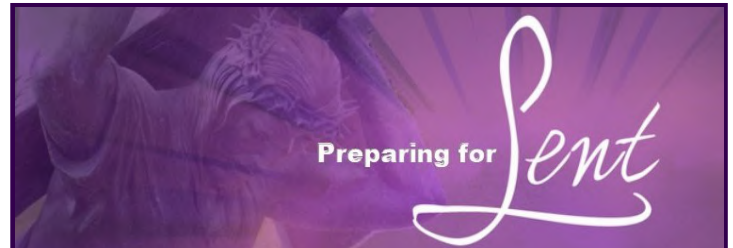


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**MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL:** To meet someone important we sometimes have to go through protocol, speak to a secretary, make an appointment, confirm the appointment, and turn up on time. This can even be to see the dentist! As in the Gospel this week to get to Jesus, the Greeks who want to see him, they seem to go through a succession of people. When they get there, they meet Jesus, there is a teaching moment about who Jesus is, what he has come to do and their relationship with him.

Jesus uses figurative images to teach them, wheat falling to the ground and dying to produce life, losing one's life to find it, being a servant, about glorification, judgment, being 'lifted up' and the manner of his death. This must have been a lot to take in for the enquiring Greeks. In our journey of Lent, we move through contemplation of suffering, the death of Jesus, which leads to the glory of the Resurrection. In our journey of life and our relationship with Jesus we need to be introduced to Jesus, we must get to know him and build up a relationship with him and come to a level of trust and respect. The next few weeks lead us on a journey of discovery and a deepening relationship with God through the contemplation, prayerful attention to the Word of God, the events of the Passion of the Lord and the experience of the Liturgy of the Church.

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, so I encourage you to enter into the mystery of the Lord's Death and glorious Resurrection to enter the Easter Season renewed in faith. To meet Jesus, we need to give ourselves the time and opportunity. Yours, in the Lord Jesus Christ, Fr Michael



Preparing for

Lent

Lent being a time that calls for a continual repentance through fasting, almsgiving and prayer, to move towards a renewal of our baptismal promises which we celebrate at Easter, it therefore also makes the Sacrament of Reconciliation an integral part.

This confession is necessitated for performing one's "Easter duty", before the reception of Communion at least once during the Easter season.

**FRIDAY 22 March: 1st Rite Sacrament of Penance**

Friday at Twilight Candlelight Reflection 7:00pm - 8:00pm

**SATURDAY 23 March: 1st Rite Sacrament of Penance**

Saturday from 11:00am - 11:55am

**TUESDAY 26 March: 2nd Rite Sacrament of Penance**

The 2nd Rite combines a common preparation with individual confession and absolution. 7:00pm St Mark's Church  
Several Priests will be available.

Italian Stations of the Cross



VIA CRUCIS IN ITALIANO

Giovedì 21 Marzo 2024 alle 14:00

Tutti benvenuti

ITALIAN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Thursday 21 March 2024 at 2:00pm

All Welcome

**A Lenten Conversation**  
Looking in depth into the scriptures of Lent will help to renew your conversation with God.

Following 9:00am Mass today gather upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available. Join Fr Michael in conversation.



Collect from the Church foyer your

Easter at St Mark's

With Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Times. We invite you to join us as we commemorate these Sacred Liturgies.

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 42:1-2

**(All)** Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

### First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

A from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

*The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and remember their sin no more.*

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 51:1-2, 10-11, 12-13 (R.10)

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

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**
2. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. **(R.)**
3. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

*Christ learned obedience & became the source of eternal salvation for all.*

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

### Gospel Acclamation

John 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

John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*If a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it bears much fruit.*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

### 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:** As we draw closer to Holy Week, let us bring our prayers and petitions before the Lord who hears and answers the cries of his people.

**Reader:** We pray for the Church, that she enters more deeply into God's covenant of love and life. *(pause)* **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray that you may grant us wisdom to care for the earth and preserve natural resources for future generations. *(pause)* **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for all who go out of their way to bring God's love to others, especially to those most in need, may our support for Project Compassion reach these places. *(pause)* **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray that our community, will serve Christ by our Lenten prayer, fasting and good works. *(pause)* **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** We pray for those who have died, may they be raised to eternal life. *(pause)* **Lord hear us:**

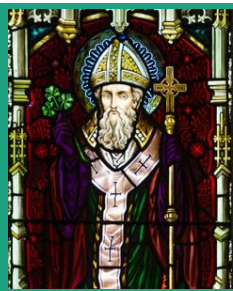
**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord, you told Philip and Andrew that you have to plant a seed in order for it to grow and become many seeds. Help us to be the seeds for all those who need to grow. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **All: Amen.**

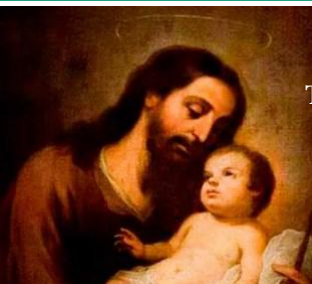
### Communion Antiphon

John 12: 24

**(All)** Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.



St Patrick  
Mass of Solemnity  
Monday 18 March 2024  
At 8:00am  
Prayer of the Church  
at 7:45am



St Joseph,  
Mass of Solemnity  
Tuesday 19th March 2024  
at 9:30am

**ST. JOSEPH**

March 19th

## St Mark's Lenten Schedule

### † 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.

### † Wednesday 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.

### † 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

### † Thursday 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.  
7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

### † Friday 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 22 March

#### Stations of the Cross

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

### † Saturday 23 March

#### The Sacrament of Penance

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

### † 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.



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

**1st Rite:** Friday at Twilight Candlelight Reflection

7:00pm - 8:00pm

**1st Rite:** Saturday from 11:00am - 11:55am

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

# PROJECT COMPASSION

## FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



The word 'heart' occurs almost a thousand times in the Bible, more than three times as often as the word 'soul.' Perhaps this is just another item of trivia but surely it gives us a clue about Christianity. It is a religion of the heart. It gets our blood pumping.

As we approach the climax of our Lenten journey, this week's readings ask questions about our hearts. The psalm begs 'a pure heart create for me, O God.' Those words invite the Lord to come right inside us, into the very core of our being. The prophet Jeremiah quotes the Lord as saying, 'deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts.' In other words, we won't find God's most intimate whisperings to us just in books or lectures. We will find it when we are genuinely in touch with our core, our most intimate space. God's love is inscribed on our hearts.

In his letter Fratelli Tutti, Pope Francis speaks against 'a culture of walls.' He asks us to treasure the hope found in every heart: Hope 'speaks to us of something deeply rooted in every human heart, independently of our circumstances and historical conditioning. Hope speaks to us of a thirst, an aspiration, a longing for a life of fulfillment, a desire to achieve great things, things that fill our heart and lift our spirit to lofty realities like truth, goodness and beauty, justice and love... Hope is bold.'

The word 'caritas' means love. The work of Caritas Australia is a heartfelt response to the needs of the world, one that gives expression to our shared hope. Caritas always works in partnership with others. During Lent, as we have listened to the experience of people we have helped through our support of Project Compassion, we will have noticed that life-giving partnerships with groups on the ground in many countries make this possible.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of the grain of wheat that must die to create a rich harvest. Of course, he is referring to his own passion. But there is a message here for us all. 'Anyone who loves their life will lose it.' We are called to wear our hearts on our sleeves. To be led by love for others. © Michael McGirr Project Compassion 2024



Jen (centre), teacher at Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), teaches a class of students as part of the Alternative Learning System (ALS).  
Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia.



# St Mark's Parish Holy Week & Easter

## EASTER 2024

To assist in welcoming all to the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of Christ, we are asking you to support us in the welcoming of all to our Easter Celebrations:

### Holy Thursday 7:00pm

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

### Good Friday 10:00am Stations of the Cross

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

### Good Friday 3:00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

### Easter Vigil 7:30pm

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

### Easter Sunday

### 8:00am and 10:00am and 6:00pm Masses

Welcomers | Ushers | Collectors

As a parishioner we invite you to be included in our celebrations and to offer your assistance, speak with Fr Michael, Fr Denis, or contact the Parish Office.

Thank you.



"I invite you to join us as we commemorate the saving Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, celebrated in the sacred Liturgies of Holy Week."

Fr Michael McLean

## PALM SUNDAY: 23 & 24 March 2024

5:30pm Vigil Mass & Blessing of the Palms

9:00am Mass, Blessing of the Palms & Procession

6:00pm Mass & Blessing of the Palms

## HOLY THURSDAY: 28 March 2024

9:00am Morning Prayer (*Lauds*)

*No Morning Mass*

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with Adoration  
Visitation of the Seven Churches devotion until 12am

## GOOD FRIDAY: 29 March 2024

9:30am Morning Prayer (*Lauds*)

10:00am Stations of the Cross

3:00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

## HOLY SATURDAY: 30 March 2024

9:30am Morning Prayer (*Blessing of the Baskets*)

*No Morning Mass*

## EASTER VIGIL: 30 March 2024

7:30pm Easter Vigil

## EASTER SUNDAY: 31 March 2024

8:00am Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

10:00am Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord

6:00pm Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord



INVITE YOU TO THE

## HOLY THURSDAY VISITATION OF THE 7 CHURCHES

Be a friend to Christ and walk alongside him on the night of His betrayal by visiting seven participating churches on Holy Thursday night.

With each visit, trace His journey as He was taken from one location to another, and immerse yourself in the profound events of that sacred night.

Parishioners are invited to prepare for the Jubilee Year in 2025 with prayer. One way of entering into prayer during Holy Week is to visit an altar of repose after the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The devotion of visiting 7 Churches is a centuries old tradition in keeping with this liturgical practice. Families are invited to tailor their pilgrimage with a resource that will list Churches that will be open across the Archdiocese and provide reflections to meditate. St Mark's Church will be open until Midnight following, Mass of the Lord's Supper. Pilgrimage details will be available to collect from Palm Sunday.

## REPENT AND BELIEVE

*Be Filled with the Love of God*



Sessions at 7:00pm Wednesday and Thursday evening upstairs in the Parish Centre  
All Welcome

### The Stations of the Cross



FRIDAY

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.

**HOLY WATER** Bring your own bottle to our 3 Easter services to receive your take home Holy Water



**Bottle is to be small, clean with a tight lid.**

### PALM SUNDAY & PROJECT COMPASSION



Next Sunday is **Palm Sunday**, please bring your palms or branches to be blessed at all Masses. **Project Compassion** boxes and envelopes are to be returned by Palm Sunday.



### PALMS FOR PALM SUNDAY

If a parishioner has any Palms for Palm Sunday, please deliver them to the Parish by Friday 22nd March 2024  
Thank you.

#### † Sunday 17 March - A Lenten Conversation

An opportunity to go deeper with the readings and enable us to reflect together on the scriptures following 9:00am Mass.

#### † Sunday 17 March - Australian Catholic Historical Society.

A talk on Our Catholic heritage. St Patrick's Cemetery. Sunday afternoons at 2.00pm in the Crypt of St Patrick's at Church Hill Grosvenor Street, The Rocks. Guest Speaker: Judith Dunn OAM Vice-president, Friends of St Patrick's Cemetery. Attendance is free but a gold coin donation for afternoon tea is 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.

#### † Wednesday 20 March - International Day of Happiness

Dear God, Creator of us all, on this International Day of Happiness we pray for the things that you desire for all people of every nation and of every race that they might live fulfilling and contented lives.

#### † Friday 22 March - World Water Day

This day celebrated annually to raise awareness about the importance of water and its sustainable management. This day serves as a reminder that water is a precious resource that is essential for life.

#### † Friday 22 March - CWL Meeting

Join us at the Parish Centre for our CWL meeting. Bring your lunch to share from 11:30am with our meeting at 1:00pm. All parishioners and friends welcome.  
**NOTE:** Due to Good Friday this meeting is one week earlier.

#### † Saturday | Sunday 23rd & 24th March - Palm Sunday

The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem. The blessing of the palms and procession. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

#### † Sunday 7th April - Daylight Saving Ends

Clocks will go back 1 hour at 2am this Sunday morning.

### 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.*



# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

Margaret Dawes-Smith, Alison Whitlock, Rosemary Brooker, Nawal Boulos, Pat Crowe, Joanna McGill, Margaret Smith, Pat Kenna, Dante Ferzoco, Looi Im Heok, Christiane Biady, Anne Johnson, Lucie Betteto, Isobel Bocalatte, Fay O'Halloran, Santa Iacono, Bishop Peter Ingham, Wendy Madden, Rocco Zoccali, Lina Giannandrea, Patricia Ryan, Patricia Ficarra, Milly Di Blasio, Immaculata Di Palma and Giuseppina Pinto.

*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.**

Rocchina Ciampa, Shirley Hofman, Mary Hofman, Giuseppe Ziino, Rita Rota, Norma Cornford, Guistina Russo, Giuseppe, Gennaro, Michele, Giacomo and Umberto Ferraro.

**Recently Deceased.** Brian Gallagher, Paul Williams, Egidio Ettore, Archbishop Francis Carroll, Beres Bowry and Don Fitzpatrick. *May all the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

**Pray Pope Francis Intention for the month March**

*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 Martyrs of our Day, Witnesses to Christ.**

*"Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive" Amen.*

## 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.

## St Mark's Liturgical Ministers

You are invited to a retreat day for liturgical ministers serving in the Archdiocese.

The retreat will be run by the Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia in Australia.

All liturgical ministers are invited, Ushers, Greeters, Collectors, Ministers of the Word (Readers), Acolytes, Adult Servers, Cantors and Music Ministry, Sacristans and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

**Save the Date and Register**



*Behold, I make all things new.*  
(Rev. 21:5)

A EUCHARISTIC RETREAT DAY  
for those involved in Liturgical Ministries

**11 May 2024, 10AM - 4PM**

St Martha's, Leichhardt



LITURGY OFFICE  
Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF  
*Saint Cecilia*  
Founded in 1860 - Nashville

Register using **Trybooking.com**

Questions: sydneyeop-tn.org



## Prayer and the Mission to Proclaim Jesus

YEAR OF PRAYER 2024

**18 MARCH**

Monday | 7:30-9PM | St Martha's

38 Renwick Street Leichhardt | RSVP 15 March



gornakedisciples.org.au/cas-events

parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org



**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

**LIVESTREAM:**

<https://youtube.com/live/AwKkGIA4vak?feature=share>

St Mark's Catholic Parish

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047

Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: [admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](http://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  
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

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

17 March 2024

**Gospel Reflection:** This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, '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.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

**Gospel Focus – Love of life:** Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

**Have you thought? Why Greeks?** The gospel reading begins with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. Why is it significant that they were Greeks? The Jews were very clear about the distinction between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). Regardless of their intentions and goodwill, a Gentile was simply not a Jew. Greeks, who worshipped an entire pantheon of gods, were regarded as almost as far from Jewish belief in one God as was possible. Yet Jesus made clear that his message was for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike. His death and resurrection would bring a 'rich harvest' of belief among Gentiles as well as Jews.

**Scriptural context – The Final Days:** Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

#### Questions?

Q. How does the Jeremiah image of God's Law 'written on our hearts' challenge you?

Q. What experiences in your own life prove the truth of the image of the grain of wheat that must die?

Q. What do you need to 'let go of' in your life to really flourish and 'produce a harvest'?

**Learning moments:** Construct a 'road of life' and identify times when you have had to experience a 'death' of some sort but eventually great good has come of it. © Greg Sunter



Fifth Sunday of Lent  
16 & 17 March



**Partnership in action:** The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind the scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities. Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program.

Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are to be returned by Palm Sunday (next Sunday)

THE Catholic Weekly



\* Sydney parishes take up their Cross for Lent.

\* Surf's up for young Bondi Catholics.

\* Archbishop counsels student leaders to avoid polarised politics.

\$2

Available in the Church foyer

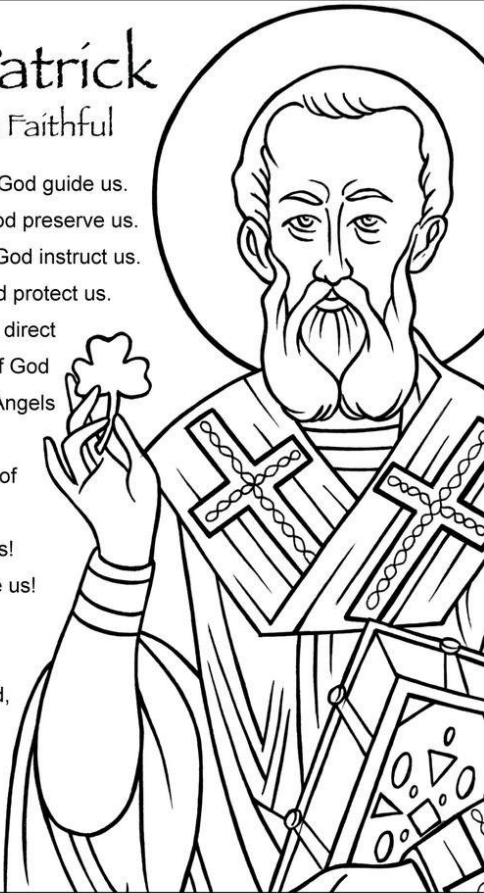
# The grain that dies gives much wheat

5th Sunday of Lent, Year B

## Saint Patrick

### Prayer for the Faithful

May the Strength of God guide us.  
 May the Power of God preserve us.  
 May the Wisdom of God instruct us.  
 May the Hand of God protect us.  
 May the Way of God direct us.  
 May the Shield of God defend us.  
 May the Angels of God guard us.  
 - Against the snares of the evil one.  
 May Christ be with us!  
 May Christ be before us!  
 May Christ be in us,  
 Christ be over all!  
 May Thy Grace, Lord, Always be ours,  
 This day, O Lord, and forevermore.  
 Amen.



Saint Patrick - Prayer for the Faithful - © TheCatholicKid.com



## ST MARK'S PLAYGROUP

JOIN IN THE FUN!  
 EVERY FRIDAY 9.00-10.30am  
 Children from 0-5 years and parents please meet us in the school hall

**ALL WELCOME!**

For further information call the school office: (02) 9181 3042

**ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024 & 2025**



**St Mark's**  
 CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 DRUMMOYNE

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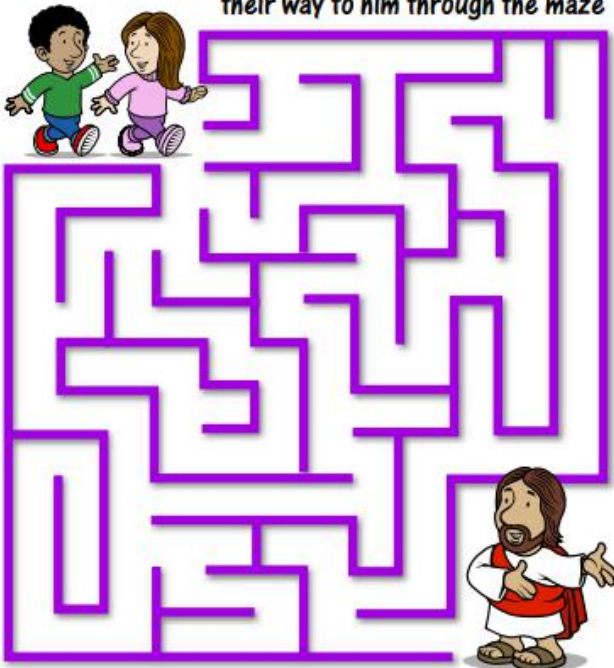
## Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- certain
- disciples
- fall
- Father
- grain
- ground
- lose
- love
- more
- one
- servant
- wheat

These children want to follow Jesus. Help them find their way to him through the maze



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

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**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@sydnecatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydnecatholic.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](http://Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection)