

We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 10th March 2024

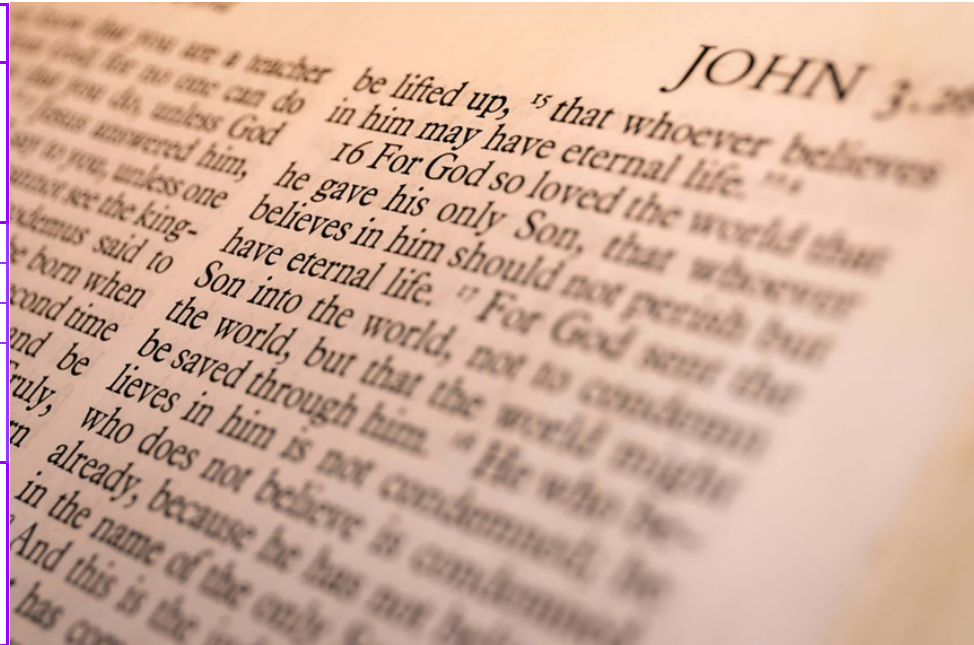
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Times This Week

Sat 10/02	6pm	Our Lady of Mercy
Sun 11/02	9am	Our Lady of Mercy
Sun 11/02	9:30am	St James the Less (LWHC)
Sun 11/02	10:45am	The Good Shepherd
Tue 12/03	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Wed 13/03	12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 14/03	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 15/03	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 15/03	12noon	Murray Bridge
Fri 15/03	7.00pm	St James the Less

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is available Tuesday morning after Mass and Friday 11am-12noon at Murray Bridge.

Reconciliation is available Tuesday during and after Exposition, Saturday 5-5:30pm at Our Lady of Mercy, and by appointment.



Avarice is a sickness of the heart

Avarice is a kind of “attachment to money that prevents man from generosity,” Pope Francis said at his 24th January General Audience. Continuing his series of catecheses on the vices and virtues, the Pope explained that avarice is not about how much wealth a person has but is a sin that affects us in a variety of ways. “It is a sickness of the heart,” he said, “not of the wallet.”

Even the Desert Fathers, monks who renounced enormous wealth, could find themselves clinging to objects of little value. “Those objects became for them a sort of fetish from which they could not detach themselves,” said the Pope. This reveals “a disordered relationship with reality, which can result in forms of compulsive hoarding and pathological accumulation.” To fight this, Pope Francis said, “the monks proposed a drastic but highly effective method: meditation on death.” He reminded the faithful that, however much money we might make in this life, we retain nothing after death. Death reminds us that “we are not masters of the world” and “we move about it like strangers and pilgrims.” This reflection, he continued, also shows us the reason for avarice, which is an attempt “to exorcise the fear of death.” But Christ shows us, in the parable of the foolish man who laid up an abundant harvest, that death can come at any moment.

Pope Francis warned that, although it’s possible to be “masters of the goods we possess,” often those possessions can end up controlling us. We can become anxious about always accumulating more and keeping what we have, but all our possessions “can disappear in a moment.” Too often, the Pope said, we “forget the Gospel preaching, which does not claim that riches are a sin in themselves, but they are certainly a liability.” This, he added, “is what the miser does not understand: he could have been a source of blessing to many, but instead has slipped into a blind alley of wretchedness.” So, Pope Francis concluded, “Let us be attentive, and let us be generous: generous with everyone and generous with those who need us most.”

Fr Philip Marshall
philipfxmarshall@gmail.com
Fr Ian Wilson
Assisting Priest
St Francis de Sales College, Ph 8393 1000

Our Lady of Mercy Church
5 Mann Street, Mount Barker
The Good Shepherd Church
2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn
St James the Less Church
24 Luck Street, Macclesfield

Parish Office
7 Mann Street, Mt Barker SA 5251
Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary
Wed & Fri 9am-3pm Ph 8391 1053
mbstparish@adam.com.au
www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Ministry Coordinator, Strath
Sue Eckert Ph 0408 362 258
Child Safe Contact Persons
Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053
Teena Cobiack Ph 0499 172 740
Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78

Please Pray For...

Sick

Henk Daams, Alida van Dijk, Blossom (Teresa) Ferrarese, Jack Ballinger, Brian Fiora, Geoff Gogler, Andrew Harms, Rosalie Jenner, John Knobben, Ashlee Lloyd, Helen Malin, Helene Meijer, Froilan Milan, David Neville, David Post, Ailbe Sheehy, Gertrude Stolarski, Alwyne & Mary Patricia Williams.

Recently Deceased

Maria Belperio, Daphne Clark, Mieke (AnnaMarie) Jordans, Patricia Marriott, Morris (Brian) Smith, Rose Carr.

Anniversaries

Irmengard Bachmayer, Mary Centofanti, Merawyn (Mem) Corin, Joy Cutting, Ann D'Mello, Wally Finch, Teresa Dامتو, Mary Gillespie, Hugh Greenslade, Patricia Hynes, Kiseli family, Matkovic family, Betty Phillips, Potnar family, Barry McGeough, Elva Mahar, Hartley Weckert, Tony McNamara, Carmen Suter, Doreen Tarca, Richard Myles White, Arthur Wagenknecht, John Walsh.

Anniversaries from Saturday 9th to Friday 15th March.

Parish Pastoral Council

Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Chair: Neil McGoran (neil.mcgoran@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

Ex Officio: Fr Philip Marshall, Fr Ian Wilson, Andrew Baker.

Members: Stewart Chilcott, Teena Cobiack, Joanna Falkland, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry, Lijo Kurian, Sandra Lloyd, Jo Manalo, Leo Sexton, Jan Sobotta.

Parish Finance Council

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Chair: Julie Moran. **Ex Officio:** Father Philip Marshall.

Treasurer: John Barton. **Members:** Jacinda Jansen-Roberts, Michelle Muller, Peter Schaefer.

Collections Last Week

1st Collection (supporting our priests) \$ 973.75

2nd Collection (supporting the parish)

Envelopes \$ 1,049.00

Online and direct debit \$ 1,090.00

Loose plate \$ 402.00

Total second collection \$ 2,541.00

Thank you for supporting our priests and parish.

To give to our parish first and second collection, scan this QR code or log onto:

adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/parish/mbs.



Diary Dates This Week

Mon	11/03	9:45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Tue	12/03	7:00pm	Lenten Reflection	OLOM Foyer
Wed	13/03	11:00am	Lenten Reflection	OLOM Foyer
Wed	13/03	1:00pm	Legion of Mary	OLOM
Wed	13/03	7:00pm	Knights Southern Cross	OLOM Foyer
Thu	14/03	10:30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu	14/03	4:00pm	Catechesis of the GS	Parish House
Fri	15/03	12:30pm	Catechesis of the GS	Parish House
Sat	16/03	9:30am	OLOM Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat	16/03	5:45pm	Vigil Choir	OLOM
Sun	17/03	10:15am	Sunday Readings	Strath Hall



Reflection

on the Scripture Readings

There is often a time in a long journey when we find the going hard. The enthusiasm with which we set out has faded, and there is still a long way to go. At this stage in our Lenten journey we may be inclined to identify with Nicodemus of today's gospel – not daring, as a well known

Pharisee, to consult Jesus openly, he came 'by night', weighed down in his heart, no doubt, by an interior darkness of confusion and embarrassment.

In our disappointment with our lives, the darkness seems so real and overwhelming. The first reading, telling the story of old Israel – a story of unfaithfulness, stubborn selfishness, destruction and exile – reminds us how often human history has been filled with darkness, right down to our own day. In the second reading from the letter to the Ephesians, Paul confidently confronts this darkness: for him reliance upon false and selfish securities is to embrace 'death'.

If we are inclined to feel demoralised at this point in our Lenten journey, we are invited by today's readings to find again the source of new energy and encouragement. In the midst of the deepest darkness the true Light shines! Old Israel finds that God's designs will not be frustrated by their foolishness and selfishness – the conqueror of the Babylonians sends them back to rebuild the temple. Paul announces to those who are in danger of losing their way the astounding truth at the centre of our faith – God's free gift to a lost world of new life in Christ: our redeemed humanity is God's 'work of art', we each have our part to play in the realisation of God's great designs.

But it is especially in climax of today's readings, the words spoken to Nicodemus, by Jesus – the Light of the World – that all our darkness is dispelled! These words are perhaps the most quoted of the Gospels. Let us not take them for granted, but take them to heart and rejoice in the new life they bring: 'God loved the world so much that he gave his own Son, so that everyone who believes in him ... may have eternal life'. A world weighed down by the darkness of failure and selfishness must know, Jesus says, that he came from the Father, not 'to condemn' but to bring reconciliation and life.

As we take our bearings in the middle of a long journey, we often find new purpose and energy. Reflecting at this point in our journey of Lent, on the burdens we carry, can bring us to find again, in a more personal way, the essential truth of our Christian faith, the great truth we are celebrate at the end of our journey.

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

Question of the Week

Jesus said to Nicodemus, 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.' (John 3: 17)

Adults: Do you see the world basically evil, or as good? What difference does this make in the way you live?

Young People: Do you have any sinful habits that are slowly condemning you? (If so, talk to God this week about finding help to break them.)

Children: Where do you see goodness in God's world?

Bring a Friend Weekend

Welcome to all those who have joined us as part of Bring a Friend Weekend. We hope that you have a joyful and peace-filled time with us today and we look forward to getting to know you a little more.



Parish Get-Together

You are invited to attend an afternoon of wood oven pizzas at the Caruana's at 12pm on March 24, 2024, 34 Bald Hills Rd, Blakiston. Cost: \$10 per adult, \$5 children under 10. BYO drinks and chairs. This is a wonderful opportunity to socialise with other parishioners and meet new friends! For catering purposes please RSVP Ann-marie on 0417 173 157 with name, numbers and any dietary requirements by **March 17**.

ACRATH – Indulge Responsibly

ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking Humans) is committed to working towards the elimination of human trafficking in Australia, Asia, the Pacific and internationally. This year ACRATH has an awareness campaign focusing on chocolate Easter Eggs titled 'Indulge responsibly'. This campaign asks that we support brands who are committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain. Please look for the following logos when purchasing your chocolate eggs. Treat yourself and your loved ones with responsibly sourced chocolate eggs this Easter.



Free Training for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Tuesdays, April 9 - May 14th, Australian Catholic University's online training program for EMHCs is one of the most comprehensive online liturgical ministry training programs for Catholic communities in Australia. It presents high-quality, doctrinally sound content and enables all communities to access rich and engaging formation easily. Further details and enrolment via ACU website [Pastoral training programs - ACU](https://www.acu.edu.au/pastoral-training-programs) and worship@adelaide.catholic.org.au

Joy-Filled Sacraments of Initiation

Unpack the current realities facing families, catechists and sacramental programs. Using current Diocesan documents, participants will share their experiences with others and explore future initiatives, including how 'Drawn into the Joy of the Gospel' inspires and nourishes our work with children and their families. Bring along a photo or item of significance from your own sacramental journey to share. Session begins with a shared meal provided by the Formation Team, modelling hospitality to all. Presented by Deacon Andrew Kirkbride and Kelly Spencer, 12.30-4.30pm, Tuesday March 19th at Catholic Education Office Conference Centre, Room 8, 116 George Street, Thebarton, <https://forms.office.com/r/WcXv4RNL7>

Towards 2024 Synod Public Gathering

Thursday March 14, 7pm. An opportunity to provide feedback to both the Synthesis Report from the First Synod and respond to the questions outlined in the 'Towards 2024' document. Festival Function Centre, 292 Findon Road, Findon RSVP <https://www.trybooking.com/CPCNQ>

Fringe 2024 Pipe Organ Recitals

Fringe Festival Organ Recital at St Francis Xavier Cathedral - 1pm March 17, Young Organists.

Mission: Transform Lives

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Learn More: Join our two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together. Contact: 02 9560 5333. palms@palms.org.au

Young Adults Sevenhill Retreat

Sevenhill invites young adults to join a silent, live-in retreat from Friday March 15 to Sunday March 17. Information and bookings: Fr Robin Koning SJ at rkoning@sjas.org.au

Children's Liturgy

Children are invited to join Children's Liturgy in the 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy during school term. Our catechists read the Gospel from the Children's Lectionary and lead a discussion about what it means to us in our daily lives. There is usually a short craft-based activity that helps young people to reflect on the discussion in their own way. **Parents are welcome to accompany their children to help them feel comfortable and secure.**

All Children's Liturgy volunteers hold a current Working with Children Check. We believe that children and young people have a right to be safe, feel safe and be encouraged to speak if they feel uncomfortable. Please contact one of our Child Safe Contact Officers, Michelle Muller 8391 1053 or Teena Cobiack 0499 172 740, if you have any queries.

Discernment Group

"Follow me": A time of prayer, reflection and discussion for young men discerning a call to the priesthood. Saturday March 16 at 10am in the Sacristy of the Cathedral of St Francis Xavier, Wakefield St. For further enquiries contact Fr Dean Marin, Director of Vocations on 82108122 or at vocations@adelaide.catholic.org.au

"Leaving the boat and their father, they followed him" Mt 4.22

Lenten Reflection Groups

Our Lenten Reflection groups meet on **Tuesdays, 6.45pm for 7pm** and **Wednesdays 11am**, both in Our Lady of Mercy foyer. Please feel welcome to join us for a cuppa and sharing.



Project Compassion

Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi, Memory enrolled at a technical college where she learnt carpentry with subsidised tuition and boarding fees. Today she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she provides financial support to her family. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413. Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia



Sunday Readings

FIRST READING 2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 136

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung up our harps. **R.**

For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' **R.**

O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! **R.**

O let my tongue
cleave my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! **R.**



SECOND READING EPHESIANS 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL JOHN 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.
Yes, God loved the world so much
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost
but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world
not to condemn the world,
but so that through him the world might be saved.
No one who believes in him will be condemned;
but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,
because he has refused to believe
in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced:
that though the light has come into the world
men have shown they prefer
darkness to the light
because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong
hates the light and avoids it,
for fear his actions should be exposed;
but the man who lives by the truth
comes out into the light,
so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in
God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Next Week: March 17, 5th Lent, Year B, *If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.*

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm: 50:3-4, 12-15, Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9, Gospel: John 12:20-30.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia & Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from
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