



We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 17th March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Mass Times This Week

Sat 16/03	6pm	Our Lady of Mercy
Sun 17/03	9am	Our Lady of Mercy
Sun 17/03	9:30am	St James the Less (LWHC)
Sun 17/03	10:45am	The Good Shepherd
Tue 19/03	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wed 20/03	12 noon	Our Lady of Mercy
Thu 21/03	8.00am	St Francis de Sales College
Fri 22/03	9.30am	Our Lady of Mercy
Fri 22/03	12noon	Murray Bridge
Fri 22/03	7.00pm	St James the Less

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is available Tuesday morning after Mass.

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



At times of sadness, draw comfort from Jesus' Resurrection

Continuing his catechesis on virtues and vices, Pope Francis focused on the sin of excessive sadness (acedia vel tristitia, in Latin), recalling that there are two types of sadness. The first, he explained, is "a sorrow that is appropriate to Christian life, and that with God's grace can be changed into joy." This form of sorrow, he said, "must not be rejected and forms part of the path of conversion." It is the experience, he recalled, of the Prodigal Son, who, when he "reaches the depths of his degeneracy," feels "great bitterness," which "prompts him to come to his senses and to decide to return home to his father." This form of sorrow is "a grace," which possesses the ability "to lament over one's own sins, remember the state of grace from which we have fallen, and weep because we have lost the purity in which God dreamed of us."

The second kind of sadness, he said, "must be fought resolutely and with every strength, because it comes from the evil one." This "ailment of the soul," he said, "arises in the human heart when a desire or hope vanishes." St. Paul, Pope Francis recalled, offered the distinction between the two types when he wrote to the Corinthians: "Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death" (2 Cor 7:10).

The dynamic of sadness is linked to the experience of loss, which is often accompanied by discouragement, weakness of the spirit, depression, and anguish. "We all go through ordeals that generate sorrow in us, because life makes us conceive dreams that are then shattered," he acknowledged. After our internal turmoil, some people are unable to get beyond melancholy and sadness, whereas others are able to be regenerated in hope. Pope Francis exhorted those who may be lulled into excessive sadness to be comforted by faith and Jesus' closeness. "Certain protracted griefs, where a person continues to expand the void of one who is no longer there, are not proper to life in the Spirit," the Pope said, noting it isn't healthy and is not proper to our Christian identity. While he admitted there is something in everyone's past that needs to be healed and that sadness is natural, he warned it can turn into something devious and dangerous. However, it "can be combatted easily, keeping in mind the thought of the Resurrection of Christ." "However full life may be of contradictions, defeated desires, unrealized dreams, and lost friendships, thanks to Jesus' Resurrection, we can believe that all will be saved." "Jesus rose again not only for Himself, but also for us, to redeem all the happiness that has remained unfulfilled in our lives." "Faith casts out fear, and the Resurrection of Christ removes sadness like the stone from the tomb."

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, Gertrude Stolarski, Helene Meijer, Froilan Milan, David Post, David Neville, Ailbe Sheehy, Alwyne & Mary Patricia Williams.

Recently Deceased

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

Anniversaries

Marjorie Walston-Leo, Alma Marshall, Bernice Schebella, John Haimes, Jesusa Linares, Alice Thomas, Margaret Slater, Marie Synnott, Guiseppina Belperio and Salvatore De Ionno.

Anniversaries from Saturday 16th to Friday 22nd 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) \$ 901.25

2nd Collection (supporting the parish)

Envelopes \$ 598.10

Online and direct debit \$ 690.00

Loose plate \$ 549.80

Total second collection \$ 1,837.90

*Thank you for supporting
our parish and our priests.*

To give to our parish first and second collection, scan this QR code or log onto:
adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/parish/mbs.

Kind and respectful behaviour is required in the Parish Office.



Diary Dates This Week

Mon 18/03 9:45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Tue 19/03 6:15pm	Parish Finance Council	OLOM Foyer
Tue 19/03 7:15pm	Parish Pastoral Council	OLOM Foyer
Tue 19/03 7:00pm	Lenten Reflection	OLOM Foyer
Wed 20/03 11:00am	Lenten Reflection	OLOM Foyer
Thu 21/03 10:30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu 21/03 4:00pm	Catechesis of the GS	Parish House
Thu 21/03 7:30pm	Vigil Choir Practice	OLOM
Fri 22/03 12:30pm	Catechesis of the GS	Parish House
Sat 23/03 9:30am	OLOM Choir Practice	OLOM
Sun 24/03 10:15am	Sunday Readings	Strath Hall
Sun 24/03 10:30am	Legion of Mary	Parish House

Reflection

on the Scripture Readings

As our destination draws near, at the end of an important journey, we may well have mixed feelings. We look forward to



arrival; but we may be uncertain and anxious about the outcome. As we face the challenge of entering deeply into the climax of the Church's year of faith - the commemoration of the Saviour's PASCAL MYSTERY - it is as if the liturgy of this last Sunday of our journey anticipates our mood and reassures us. The readings bring us some of the greatest texts of the Scriptures, texts which - as we stand among the

Greek pilgrims who wanted to 'see Jesus' - help us, in the words of the gospel, to come to terms with 'the kind of death Jesus was to die'.

The horror of the Saviour's Cross is plainly stated: his 'obedience' to the Father's will, according the letter to the Hebrews, is made with 'prayer and entreaty, with loud cries and tears'. And John's gospel tells us, 'his soul was troubled', as his fateful 'hour' approached - in which he was to give all, like 'a wheat grain' which 'falls on the ground and dies'.

If he invites us to share this fate with him - 'wherever I am, my servant will be there too' - he also helps us to trust in his Father, as we face the ordeals of our personal lives. His prayer is 'heard', and through the sufferings which have been a sharing in the destructiveness and darkness of our world, he enters into a new and final existence. In the words of the letter to the Hebrews, he is 'made perfect'; as John's gospel puts it, he is 'glorified'. This is a powerful statement in biblical language - God's 'glory' is the incomparable divine greatness. Having 'emptied himself' to become one with us, the manhood he shares with us is now filled with divine greatness - and the grain which falls to the ground 'yields a rich harvest', transforming the whole of creation.

The outcome is certain, therefore, and beyond all humanity's imagining. It is the inauguration of the 'new covenant written in our hearts', foretold by Jeremiah, and sealed with the Saviour's blood. The Crucified One will become 'a source of eternal salvation' for all who become his followers (Hebrews). Having been 'lifted up from the earth', he will 'draw all people to himself', that they may share in his new existence (John).

The Church's liturgy prepares us well for what lies at the end of our journey. May it prove a faith-filled meeting with the generosity of our God, for each one of us.

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

Question of the Week

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. (John 12: 25)

Adults: When and in what way have you seen life come from death?

Young People: How does fear sometimes limit young disciples from living the Gospel?

Children: When have you felt stronger because you sacrificed something for a friend or member of your family?

Presentations for Baptism

We welcome parents Anthony and Claire Jones who are presenting their daughter to us in preparation for her baptism, and we welcome parents Samuel and Chloe Arjona who are presenting their son to us in preparation for his baptism.

The presentations are on Sunday in the 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy, Mount Barker. We ask God to bless the Jones and Arjona families as they prepare for this important occasion.

Holy Week and Easter Masses

Palm Sunday Masses:

at the usual times of 6.00pm, 9.00am and 10.45am

Holy Thursday Mass:

Good Shepherd Strathalbyn at 7.30pm

Good Friday Stations of the Cross:

Good Shepherd Strathalbyn at 10.50am

Good Friday Commemoration of the Passion,

Our Lady of Mercy Mount Barker at 3.00pm

Easter Vigil Mass:

Our Lady of Mercy Mount Barker at 7.30pm

Easter Sunday Masses:

Our Lady of Mercy Mount Barker 9.00am

Good Shepherd Strathalbyn at 10.45am

The Way of the Cross

A Combined Churches Community Service accompanying Jesus on the Way of the Cross and relating his journey to the world's suffering today.

Davenport Square, Macclesfield

Good Friday, 29th March, 11.00am

This year's service will be led by Macclesfield Catholic Church. Hot cross bun morning tea follows.



Project Compassion

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 to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs many programs including house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a weekly clinic with a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Samoa assists 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. The Catholic Development Commission in Malawi, through 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.

caritas.org.au/project-compassion ph 1800 024 413. Photo: Richard Wainwright / Caritas Australia



Fringe 2024 Pipe Organ Recitals

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



Parish Get-Together RSVP!

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**.

Parish Census

On your pew this weekend you will find a 'My Contact Details' leaflet. If you have not filled in one of these leaflets in a while, you might like to take one today. The information you provide is entered into PADRE, a secure parish program that helps us to take care of you during times of need and when you are seeking further information, such as a copy of your child's baptism certificate. You can also use the form to request that the bulletin is emailed to you each week, usually on a Friday.

Indulge Responsibly

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking Humans is committed to working towards the elimination of human trafficking in Australia, Asia and internationally. This year ACRATH has an awareness campaign focusing on chocolate Easter Eggs titled 'Indulge responsibly'. We ask that you 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.



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/WcXv4RNLa7>

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](http://Pastoral%20training%20programs%20-%20ACU) and worship@adelaide.catholic.org.au

Chrism Mass

We welcome all to celebrate Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25 in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 6pm. Please note **NO** onsite car parking will be available. If you would like more information regarding this event, please contact the Events Office on 8210 8220.

Fifth Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING JEREMIAH 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 50:3-4, 12-15

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

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **R.**

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **R.**

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

SECOND READING HEBREWS 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 12:20-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

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

'Now the hour has come
for the Son of Man to be glorified.

I tell you, most solemnly,
unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies,
it remains only a single grain;
but if it dies,
it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it;
anyone who hates his life in this world
will keep it for the eternal life.

If a man serves me, he must follow me,
wherever I am, my servant will be there too.
If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him.

Now my soul is troubled.

What shall I say:

Father, save me from this hour?

But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour.

Father, glorify your name!'

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

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

'Now sentence is being passed on this world;
now the prince of this world is to be overthrown.

And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw all men to myself.'

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Next Week: March 24, Palm Sunday, Year B, Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7, Psalm: 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24, Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11, Gospel: Mark 14:1 - 15:47.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia & Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from
Lectionary for Mass© 1969,1981, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.