



St Mary's Cathedral
SYDNEY

CATHEDRAL BULLETIN



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

2024

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH
INCLUDING
ST COLUMBKILLE'S CHURCH,
MCELHONE STREET, WOOLLOOMOOLOO

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



FIRST READING *Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18*

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps 115:10, 15-19*

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

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful. **R.**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

SECOND READING *Romans 8:31-34*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *cf Matthew 17:5*

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL *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 where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

WORD FROM THE ACTING DEAN



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In case you are struggling with temptations this Lent, I thought we would look at the question of whether it was befitting for the Christ to be tempted?

St Thomas Aquinas considers this question and gives us the following insights into the life of Jesus that will help us to live out these days with him in Lent.

He answers that Jesus wanted to be tempted/tested for the following four reasons:

1. That he might strengthen us against temptation.

- Just as by his death, which we are preparing to enter in Holy Week, Jesus has conquered our death, so too Jesus wants us to know that by his temptations he would conquer our temptations.

2. That we might be warned.

- Jesus wants us to recognise that none of us, however holy, should think ourselves free from any temptation.

3. To give us an example.

- He teaches us how to overcome the temptations of the devil

- Fasting is a way to equip ourselves against the trials of the enemy but it also doesn't make us invincible to temptation.

- Christ allowed himself to be tempted specifically after fasting so that we could see how the devil can be conquered according to the flesh of Jesus (by Man), united with Divine Will.

4. He wants to fill us with confidence, especially in God's mercy.

- "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15)

Jesus' victory over the tempter in the desert anticipates his victory at the Passion, the supreme act of obedience of his filial love for the Father.

Jesus goes into the desert to be tempted, to share in the temptations of his people and of the world, to bear our misery, to conquer the foe, and so to open the way for us to the Promised Land.

Remember to keep your focus on where we are going.





The transfiguration is a glimpse of the glory to help us along the way.

God bless,

Fr Lewi Barakat, Administrator and Acting Dean.

UPCOMING LITURGIES AND EVENTS

February – March 2024

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">LENT</h2>			24 <i>Saturday</i>	25 <i>Sunday</i> Second Sunday of Lent 2pm Sunday Public Tour	26 <i>Monday</i>	27 <i>Tuesday</i>
28 <i>Wednesday</i> 6:30pm RCIA <small>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</small>	29 <i>Thursday</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	1 <i>Friday</i> AUTUMN EMBER DAY 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	2 <i>Saturday</i>	3 <i>Sunday</i> Third Sunday of Lent 2pm Sunday Public Tour	4 <i>Monday</i>	5 <i>Tuesday</i>
6 <i>Wednesday</i> 6:30pm RCIA <small>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</small>	7 <i>Thursday</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	8 <i>Friday</i> 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	9 <i>Saturday</i>	10 <i>Sunday</i> Fourth Sunday of Lent 2pm Sunday Public Tour	11 <i>Monday</i>	12 <i>Tuesday</i>
13 <i>Wednesday</i> 6:30pm RCIA <small>(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)</small>	14 <i>Thursday</i> 6:30pm CITY COMPASS 	15 <i>Friday</i> 12.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS	16 <i>Saturday</i>	17 <i>Sunday</i> Fifth Sunday of Lent 10.30am Mass <i>(Catholic Institute of Sydney Opening Mass)</i> 2pm Sunday Public Tour	18 <i>Monday</i> ST PATRICK 10am St Patrick's Day Mass	19 <i>Tuesday</i> ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Weekly Mass Schedule

MASS

Monday to Friday: 6:45am, 1:10pm, 5:30pm

Saturday: 9:00am, 12:00 noon

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am, 9:00am, 10:30am (Solemn Choral Mass), 6:00pm

RECONCILIATION

Monday to Friday: 12noon to 1:00pm and 4:30pm to 5:25pm

Saturday: 11.00am to 12noon and 4:30pm to 5:30pm

EVENING VESPERS

Monday to Friday: 5:00pm

Saturday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 5:00pm

(Choral Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament)

CATHEDRAL NOTICES



MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend Discernment Retreat

A time for single women aged 16-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing to help discern your vocation.

DATE: Friday 1st March - Sunday 3rd March
VENUE: Varroville NSW

For more information contact mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Leaders Immersion Training Weekend

If you are passionate about youth ministry or want to learn more, then this course is for you! Whether you're a veteran or new, there's training, formative talks and prayer available, alongside fellowship and networking with other people in the field!

DATE: 2-3 March (18 - 35 event only)
VENUE: Peter Canisius house in Pymble.
More information and registration at <https://www.trybooking.com/CPDCV>

Volunteer for Cana Communities

Some 225 people in Sydney sleep rough every night, and [Cana Communities](http://cana.org.au) operates homeless shelters in Sydney, with St Francis Shelter the latest to open its doors in Redfern. Run entirely by volunteers, Cana needs volunteers for Tuesday (women's only night), Friday and Saturday shifts (6pm-9:30pm or 9:30pm-7:30am) to welcome and assist guests and prepare meals. All volunteers will receive training. The impact on guests at these shelters cannot be overestimated, considering the alternatives. Be part of a caring community passionate about helping others and making a change. Find out more about becoming a volunteer by emailing carmel.shaw@cana.org.au.

DOMINICAN SISTERS OF *Saint Cecilia*
Founded in 1850 - Nashville

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

CHRIST, OUR FIRM FOUNDATION
Rediscovering the wisdom of the Church's spiritual tradition
Matthew 7:24-27

16 MARCH 2024

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL | SATURDAY 10AM-4PM

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.

REGISTRATION
SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER.
A \$10 FEE ASSISTS WITH COVERING RETREAT EXPENSES.
DOORS OPEN 9AM. TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED.
www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa

SUPPORTED BY CATHOLIC WOMEN'S NETWORK

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Save the date

FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2024

The Friends of St Mary's Cathedral will be celebrating the Cathedral's patroness, Our Lady Help of Christians, with dinner and entertainment in Cathedral House on the evening of 24th May. All welcome: more details will be available soon.

Keep an eye out also for an announcement of our 2024 programme of events.

Sign up for our no-obligation email list

Join the Friends today to become part of our vibrant community

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 or 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.



St Mary's Cathedral Training Choir is launching from February 2024 for Boys and Girls in Years 1-3

This group will be the foundation choir for the main Cathedral Choir, rehearsing every Thursday from 4:15pm to 5:30pm in the Cathedral Song School. Run by experienced vocal specialist Anna Sandström, this free-to-access ensemble is available to any child with an interest in singing.

To register your interest, please scan the QR code and complete the online form.

