



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

28 FEBRUARY 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: 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 22:1-2,9-18

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 bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham 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.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-34

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: 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!

THE GOSPEL: Mark 9:3-20

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 from 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

COMMENTARY:

Ephrem (c. 306-73)

Jesus took the three apostles up to the mountain for three reasons: first, to show them the glory of his divinity, then to declare himself Israel's redeemer as he had already foretold by the prophets, and thirdly to prevent the apostles' being scandalised at seeing him soon afterward enduring those human sufferings which he had freely accepted for our sake.

The apostles knew that Jesus was a man; they did not know that he was God. To their knowledge he was the son of Mary, a man who shared their daily life in this world. On the mountain he revealed to them that he was the Son of God, that he was in fact God himself.

Peter, James, and John were familiar with the sight of their master eating and drinking, working and taking rest, growing tired and falling asleep, experiencing fear and breaking out in sweat. All these things were natural to his humanity, not to his divinity.

He therefore took them up onto the mountain so that they could hear his Father's voice calling him Son, and he could show them that he was truly the Son of God and was himself divine.

He took them up onto the mountain in order to show them his kingship before they witnessed his passion, to let them see his mighty power before they watched his death, to reveal his glory to them before they beheld his humiliation.

Then when they took him captive and condemned him to the cross, the apostles would understand that it was not for any lack of power on his part that Jesus allowed himself to be crucified by his enemies, but because he had freely chosen to suffer in that way for the world's salvation.

He took them up onto the mountain before his resurrection and showed them the glory of his divinity, so that when he rose from the dead in that same divine glory they would realize that this was not something given him as a reward for his labor, as if he were previously without it.

That glory had been his with the Father from all eternity, as is clear from his words on approaching his freely chosen passion: "Father, glorify me now with the glory I had with you before the world was made." *Sermon 16 on the Transfiguration.*

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS by Fr John:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, The story of the Transfiguration is found in Mark, Matthew and Luke.

And from the story in the Gospels we can glean the following points for reflection:

1. In taking his three closest friends with him, Jesus show that relationships in the Lord are important for us all. We need the support of our sisters and brothers (the Church community) to help us continue faithful to the Lord.
2. In witnessing Jesus' transformation and seeing the representatives of the Law and the Prophets on the Mountain, we can see that reading and reflecting on the Scriptures are important aspects of our spiritual journey, so that we are nourished with God's Word (our 'daily bread').
3. In the experience of the Cloud covering the mountain and the voice of the Father, we realise that we also need to make certain that we allow God's Presence to infuse us with his love and mission; times of silent prayer are essential for all of us, so that we encounter the Lord often
4. And the command - "this is my beloved Son, Listen to him" - is said to us every day: we need to be active in faithful ministry to our neighbour, in order to be faithful to God's Command to imitate the Son sent for our salvation.

In this second week of Lent, let's recommit ourselves to the reading of the Scriptures, spending time in silent prayer, and loving our neighbour in practical ways. And in all these spiritual endeavours, let's allow the community of God's Faithful, the Church, to support us at all times.

NOTES FROM FR JOHN:

***The Sacramental Programme for First Reconciliation commences in St Canice's Hall at 9am this Sunday. Let's pray for the children preparing for this marvellous Sacrament of Healing. And also for the children being prepared by the SRE Teachers in the Blackheath and Mt Victoria public schools.

***First Friday is this coming Friday: Adoration, Confessions and Benediction after the Midday Mass at Katoomba; Reflection, Adoration, Benediction from 6:00pm at Blackheath

VISIT OF PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY to celebrate 100 years of Legion of Mary. The statue of Our Lady is visiting Legion of Mary praesidium and councils of NSW and will be in our parish next Thursday afternoon 4/2. Rosary will be said with the statue at St Canice's Church at 4pm. All welcome to attend.

PARISH FUNDRAISING: "Easter hamper raffle". Anyone who wants to donate any items towards the raffle please ring Barbra on 47842473 or Matalena 0459656657

LENTEN GROUPS:

TUESDAYS in St Canice's Hall Commencing 16/2

Time: 9:30-11am

Group facilitator: Pam Le Breton

WEDNESDAYS commencing 17/2

Afternoon group 2pm

Evening group 7:30pm

Location: 3 Easter Street Leura

Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson

HOSPITAL/HOME VISITS:

If you or your love ones are sick and would like a visit please contact the parish office or Barbara Davidson 0417 490 103

Each participant will receive a Lenten Programme book. Suggested donation \$5 per book to help cover costs. Lenten group sign up sheets will appear beginning Saturday Vigil 13th February at the back of the church for people to join their preferred Lenten group. If you prefer to have the Lenten programme book for personal prayer and reflection during Lent you are welcome to request them from the parish office once groups have been finalised.

SUNDAY MASS: Due to an easing of covid-19 restrictions you no longer need to book to come to Sunday Mass. You will still, however, need to sign on when you arrive and observe social distancing requirements. Attendance is on a first come first served basis. Masks are recommended but no longer required.

ALTAR SERVERS: If you would like to serve contact Hugh Jones on 0402 904 681.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL: If you are a parishioner (or visitor) who would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Jacquie on 0405 600 155 to register your details, many thanks!

FINANCES: If you would like to contribute to the 2nd Collection for the parish: Bank Transfer: BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Mary MacKillop Parish Reference: Surname and envelope number or Parish Donation (with or without surname if preferred).

If parishioners would like to contribute to the First Collection for the clergy of the diocese: BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference either the Parish Name or the parish code 6038

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS: Ad Jesum per Mariam.

SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.

MON: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.

TUE: 4:30pm Divine Mercy, Rosary and Exposition, Leura.

WED: after 8:30am Mass, Wentworth Falls.

THU: after 8:30am Mass, Leura.

FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.

FRI: 5pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.

SAT: 8:30am before Mass and also after Benediction following Mass, Katoomba.

ADORATION CHAPEL: 9am Monday - 9am Saturday, Katoomba.

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

You need to book Sunday
Leura 5pm (Saturday)
Wentworth Falls 8am
Katoomba 10am
Leura 5pm
*10am on public holidays

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

MON: 8:30am* Katoomba
TUE: 5:15pm Leura
WED: 8:30am W-Falls
THU: 8:30am Leura
FRI: 12pm Katoomba
SAT: 9am Katoomba

CONFESSION TIMES

TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura
SAT: 9:30am Katoomba
SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura
Confessions are always available on request.



SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.

THU: St. Casimir.

NEXT SUN: 3rd Sunday of Lent.

MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: NORA HAGAR, ALLAN LEATHWOOD, PHILOMENA GABRIEL, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Eleanor Hagar, Monique Haulber, Marie Thuez, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda Heffernan, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliania Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphett, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heiningen, Michelle Scully, Julie Walss, Edwin Wulff

PARISH OFFICE: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780
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Parish Email address: bluemountain@parracatholic.org
After Hours Emergency Number: 0428 878 810 Calls only; no

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. **Baptisms:** upon request.
Parish Website at: www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic
Parish School: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney