



### Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:17

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Repent, says the Lord;  
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

### Gospel Lk 13:1-9

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

There was a terrible disaster when a building fell down killing eighteen people. Some said, 'Oh, those killed must have been sinners, they or their parents.' Jesus repudiates that notion: 'No, it wasn't for anything *they* did.' It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of poor construction and conditions at Siloam. Look at the builder.

Responsibility needs to be brought home to those who would otherwise hide behind a religious ideology, or the sheer self-interest of evading blame for a situation.

To identify those really responsible may well require major changes to the way society is organised.

Does it all seem too difficult? Jesus helps us with a metaphor:

You are like a fig tree which may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener:

I will water you, dig around you, make sure you are well nourished

so that you will bear the fruits I desire.

Our Lord does that by:

watering us with the waters of baptism;

pruning us, especially during Lent;

nourishing us with the bread of life in Holy Communion.

We might pause at various times during Lent to allow Our Lord to garden us so that he may create a heavenly botanical garden, a new Eden, of the whole of humanity.

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# The Living Word

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

20 March 2022

### First Reading Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8**

*(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.*

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)
4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

### Second Reading 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.



# HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel  
(Michaelite Fathers)



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(20March2022) Web: [www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au](http://www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au)

Michaelite Community: Fr Stan Kluk CSMA PP Fr Anthony Casamento CSMA

SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.  
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm; Filipino Mass monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 12:15pm

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday Communion Service 8:30am, Tuesday 7pm,  
Wednesday - Saturday 8:30am Public Holidays 8:30am

Reconciliation: Saturday after morning Mass or by appointment.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00am to 3:00pm Mon – Fri

ST VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL HELP CENTRE: 9809 2757

Nest week 4<sup>th</sup> Lent C: Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

## Fr Stan writes ...

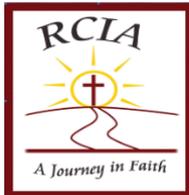
Now into the third week of the **Season of Lent**, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts.

Next week the **Fourth Sunday of Lent** is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." To mark this, the Parish Council has decided to host a BBQ after the 10am Mass next week. This will be the first time in a long time that we have come together as a parish community after consecutive lockdowns and social distancing, so we look forward to seeing many of you at the BBQ after the Mass to renew friendships and "rejoice" on Laetare Sunday while sharing a BBQ with your parish family.



**PLEASE NOTE!** Today, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm in our church, there will be a time for special reflection, prayers, including the Rosary, for peace in war torn Ukraine as well as for all who have been devastated by the floods in NSW and Queensland. **PLEASE JOIN US IF YOU CAN!**

**We are blessed** that we will have adult baptisms at the Easter Vigil this year, which means that the true meaning of this celebration will be expressed fully. As part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) preparation, this Sunday and the following two Sundays, our Elect Xavier Declerck, Zhijia (John) He, Xve (Sherine) Wang, Nannan (Jessica) Ju, Alpha Tej, Matthew Sun and Aiden Sun will undergo their scrutinies. Let us continue to support them with our prayers.



We welcome into our Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism  
Domenico Francesco Coluccio and Eve Lydia Edwards and congratulate their families.

## Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School Enrolling Now

Our parish primary school is an authentically Catholic school where students receive a high quality education in a nurturing, faith-filled environment. The school's students consistently achieve strong academic results and are fortunate to learn and play in a modern environment with outstanding playground spaces. Enrolment applications are now being accepted for positions in Kindergarten 2023. This year all parents are asked to enrol via an online form which is available on our school website: <https://www.hsnryde.catholic.edu.au/>.



To ensure that your child does not miss out, parents are encouraged to submit the application ASAP. If you have friends or relatives thinking about our school for next year, please encourage them to check out the school website or to call the school office. After clicking the "enrol now" button, there are videos and step-by-step guides to complete the application.

If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to call the school office: 9878 2848.



**Flame Gifts** are looking for new volunteers. We have reopened this month and are in need of new volunteers so we can build up to being open 7 days a week again. If you have time and would like to join our great team, please call Jenny on 0466 933 811. All training will be provided. No experience required

## Fr Jacques Philippe to Address the Archdiocese of Sydney | Live Online | Wednesday 23 March 2022 | 7 – 8:30 PM

Fr Jacques Philippe, author, international speaker and spiritual director, will address the faithful of Sydney on the topic, "Can we make disciples? Evangelising with the Holy Spirit." This third event in the *Reclaiming Evangelisation* series will explore the relationship between prayer, reliance on the Holy Spirit and living as disciples within our parishes.

Please register at [www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events](http://www.gomakedisciples.org.au/cas-events). Inquiries: [parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org)

**“Want to know more about your body and femininity?** Are you wondering if there is a way to manage women's health issues without the harmful effects of contraception? Do you and your spouse want to conceive or space your children in a way that works with the natural design of your body? **Your cycle is unique!** Natural Fertility Awareness methods understand YOUR individual needs and work with your body, not against it, to manage your reproductive health. **Register for a FREE introduction to the Creighton Method of FertilityCare held at St Michael's Meadowbank on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am to find out more...**”



## PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Vincent Mascolo, Tony Valvis, Alan Granger, Margaret Cuneo recently deceased.

Also, Vincenzo & Caterina Cincotta, the Escalante & Venal families, Frank & Edgar Falzon, Carmela, Angelo, Paul Scicluna, Ignazio (Jim) Torrisi, Charlie & Melina Bietola, Dr Raphael Panetta, Rosina & Michele Panetta, Rosa & Raffaele Fazzolari, Mary & Sam Bietola, Frank Ientile, Maria Ientile, John, Annarita, Antonio Ientile, Natale Papandrea, Papandrea, Ientile, Cessario families, Angelo Fazzolari & Fazzolari family, Fortunato & Rosa Galluzzo & Galluzzo family, Rosina, Giuseppe, Salvatore & Bruno Panetta, Luigi, Rosina, Pasquale & Santa Genova, Mario & Dirce Gualdi, Antonino & Tindara Caravello, Alberto Tanzini, Angelina & Antonino Rando, Giuseppe & Maria Caterina Pupo, Baby Cove Rose Pupo, Emmanuela Delia, Josephine Keen, Robert (Bob) Jones, Bob Brown, Marianna Cincotta, Nunziata Pirina, Janina & Anzelm Maciejczyk, Zofia & Mieczyslaw Machnio, Max Doohan, Anna Pelosi, John & Mary Moody, Hannah Moody, Bill Moody, Sadie Moody, Danny Moody, Renee O'Connor and the deceased members of the Moody family.