



be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

“Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. “Your brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

“The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

For Jews, pigs are ritually unclean, so that living in a pig sty would make this young man unapproachable.

So, imagine the reaction of his Jewish audience when Jesus told the story of the father running to his son and embracing him still stinking of the pig sty, exclaiming, ‘You were lost and now you are found.’

That is Jesus’ portrayal of his heavenly Father’s relationship with us.

Of course, sometimes we are the older brother, resentful that someone seems to have had too easy a time of God’s forgiveness. Is this the attitude of many who challenge the emphasis by Pope Francis on Mercy as the core of God’s relationship with us?

More often, we are like the younger brother who has strayed to a far off place, sometimes quite deliberately.

We could resolve to approach the Sacrament of Mercy during Lent, knowing that our heavenly Father will run towards us, embracing us, exclaiming, ‘You were lost but now you are found.’ That is worth a celebration!

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The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year C

27 March 2022

First Reading Jos 5:9-12

The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. *(R.)*
2. Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.
I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free. *(R.)*
3. Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
This poor man called; the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress. *(R.)*

Second Reading 2 Cor 5:17-21

God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his

reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 15:18

*Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and
against you.*

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH, North Ryde

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Under the care of the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel
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SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.
Spanish Speaking Mass 12:30pm; Filipino Mass monthly 4th 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 4th Lent C: Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

Fr Stan writes ...

The **Fourth Sunday of Lent** is traditionally called **Laetare Sunday**. Laetare is a Latin word that means "rejoice." Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another. The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

On this **Fourth Sunday of Lent**, we rejoice as a community and come together for a parish BBQ after the 10am Mass. This will be the first time in a long while that we will come together as a parish community after consecutive lockdowns and social distancing. I look forward to seeing many of you so we can "**rejoice**" together.

With the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine growing, and a flood of refugees now in Poland, our Michaelite parishes have opened up their churches and monasteries to house displaced Ukrainian families. Next weekend we will be holding a Leaving Collection after all Masses to raise funds to support these displaced refugees. All the funds will be sent to the Congregation's Curia in Poland to be dispersed across our parishes supporting those fleeing the war. Please give generously if you can.



We welcome into our Christian community through the
Sacrament of Baptism
Viraaj Lopes and Adriel Piradharsan 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.

First Friday Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with exposition of the



Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity for Reconciliation. Followed by Holy Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, this coming **Friday 1st April at 7:00pm**. Stations of the Cross during Lent will be included. Everyone is welcome! Livestreamed www.holyspiritnorthryde.org.au

“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 2nd at 10am to find out more...**”



DURING THE SEASON OF LENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during weekdays in Lent will take place after daily Mass, Tuesday to Saturday for half an hour.

Stations of the Cross during Lent, each Friday at 7:00pm in the church

PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF: Minerva Santos, 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, Pedro Almelo, Jose Reario and the deceased members of the Moody, Di Tano, Smith, Shewan, Holland families.