

ST. TIMOTHY'S PARISH NEWS

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT— YEAR A

14 – 15 MARCH 2020

Parish Priest / Administrator: Fr. Tony Kerin EV

Secretaries: Millicent (Tuesday - 9am-4pm, Friday, 1pm-5pm)

Corrie (Wed-Thurs, 9am - 3pm)



OUR SACRED SITE

The Muslims face Mecca when they pray. One sees the men kneeling in rows, faces touching the ground. It is a profound gesture of humility which is quite moving.

When we Christians pray, we do not face Jerusalem or Nazareth or Rome. Why not? The answer lies in today's Gospel. The Jewish people worshipped at the temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritans to the north worshipped on Mt Gerizem.

Each group believed that God's glorious presence was grounded, was earthed, in a way special and exclusive to that place, such that it was only there that true worship could be given to God. But Jesus says to the woman of Samaria: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on

this Mountain nor in Jerusalem ... true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth.'

Jesus uses a word for 'to worship' which means to incline the whole body, so Jesus is saying: true worship is the orientation of oneself, the inclining of oneself, body and mind, oriented to God who is never confined to a place.

Jesus would not be against pilgrimages where his followers might deepen their faith by visiting places significant in his ministry, or in the life of the Church since then. But, he is adamantly against any attempt to confine the presence of God to a particular sacred site.

Jesus Christ is our sacred site. God is dwelling in the person of Jesus. In his earthly ministry this was at places like the well in Samaria. As Risen Lord, he is to be found in those in dire need ('when you did this to the least, you did it to me'), and in the heavenly bread, the sacrament of His Presence. In both cases, we need to incline the body as an act of worship.

In the case of the needy, by doing something practical, even something which gets us bruised and dirty, in the words of Pope Francis.

In the case of the Heavenly Bread, by genuflecting, bowing, sometimes prostrating, before the Blessed Sacrament which is Our Risen Lord's presence for us.

The Risen Lord is our sacred site.

This is only one aspect of the very long Gospel passage we have heard. That passage recounts an amazing encounter between a Jewish male and a Samaritan female, breaking all the taboos of ethnic chauvinism and religious discrimination.

But, Jesus was quite at ease with this woman as a person, leading her to some inkling of the truth as to His true identity. Even so, she didn't quite get there. She went back to tell the townspeople of her encounter, and it was they who eventually saw the truth of who He was:

'We know that He indeed is the Saviour of the World.'

He the One who will save us, rescue us
from the petty confines of geographical fixation,
from the destructive impulses of ethnic and religious hatreds,
He is the One who will emphasize our common humanity
as we all worship God in spirit and truth.

We should prayerfully thank the woman at the well who decided to engage in some very indiscreet banter with this travelling Jew.

And we should join with that little band of Samaritan townspeople who were able to say of Jesus: 'We know that He indeed is the Saviour of the World.'

Rev Prof Michael Tate is currently Vicar General in the Archdiocese and is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

"GO FORTH FROM THE LAND OF YOUR KINSFOLK AND FROM YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE TO A LAND THAT I WILL SHOW YOU." (GENESIS 12:1)

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."



ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Father, you entrusted our Saviour to the Care of St Joseph. By the help of his prayers may Your Church continue to serve its Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

A CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

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 T from sin

**LENLEN RECONCILIATION WITH
 FR TONY
 ST TIMOTHY'S CHURCH
 28 MARCH
 AFTER THE 6:00 PM MASS**

This week on the Journey, The Gospel reading by Bishop Brian Mascord, reflections on physical and spiritual thirst by Fr Chris Sarkis and Sr Anastasia Reeves. Your favourites, Mother Hilda Scott, Pete Gilmore and Trish McCarthy and great music! Go to www.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free.



ROSTERS: **6:00PM** **9:30AM**

EUCCHARIST MINISTERS

| | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| ◆ This Week | H. Grealy | L. Cigana |
| ◆ Next week | S. Chen | D. Hickman |

PROCLAIMERS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| ◆ This Week C: | R. Grealy | P.O. Reilly |
| P: | P. D'Cruz | T. Yee |
| ◆ Next week C: | P. Kelly | R. Yee |
| P: | H. Lobo | B. Ross |

COUNTERS

This Week: Terry Drew / Patrick Kelly
 Next Week: Peggy D'Cruz / Kenneth D' Cruz

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Luisa Cigana, Reginald Peters, Sarah Smith, Ona Kilby, Mary McLoney, Cheryl Taylor, Neven Brysah, Noreen Joy Taylor, Annie Reynolds, Margaret Greenway, Sr Anne Dynon, Leonard Patton, Bill McKenzie, Miria Cardenti, Kevin Bradley, Bro Pat Bicknell.

SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

- ◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass)
- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



The Sacraments

MASS TIMES:

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
 - ◆ Sunday: 9:30 AM
 - ◆ Indian Mass: 7:00 PM every 4th Sunday of the month
 - ◆ Mass in Vietnamese: 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
 - ◆ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: A. LOC 0434 239 212 or ANDY 0422 382 109.**

WEEKDAYS:

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ◆ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am

2020 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy's school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy's school, enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00AM to 3:00PM and Friday: 1:00 to 4:00PM but the sacramental preparation classes will be coordinated to Box Hill Parish Office.



TEN CREATIVE WAYS TO APPROACH LENT

Lent can be viewed as the official spiritual detox program of the Catholic faith. It is designed to cleanse, tone and strengthen the three areas of the human being: The body, through fasting; the mind, through habits of selflessness; the soul, through prayer. Before starting, identify your weakest areas in order to gently target and improve them. Some will find fasting a breeze, while others will be clutching empty coffee mugs with blood-shot eyes by Thursday.

To get thinking outside the box, here are ten suggestions for how to observe Lent this year:

1. Practice random acts of kindness

Offer spare change for the homeless; pay-it-forward coffee; etc. In short, be on the lookout for how to improve another person's day. Try and do this once a week. If you have kids, involve them.

2. Put down your phone

In the words of Pope Francis: 'We live in an environment polluted by too much verbal violence, by many offensive and harmful words, which the internet amplifies. We are inundated with empty words, with advertisements, with subtle messages. We have become used to hearing everything about everyone and we risk slipping into a worldliness that atrophies our hearts.' There's no better time for a digital detox.

3. Eat anything you are served

If you are uninspired by the 'I'm giving up xyz' routine, or find that fasting from coffee just made you more addicted to tea, make an effort this Lent to graciously accept whatever is put before you (excluding allergies, obviously). The point is to train your mind and will to see food in its proper place—as good, but not the Highest Good.

4. Remove something in your house that you do not need

If it is in good condition, donate it to charity, or to a friend in need. This will increase awareness of how

truly blessed we are, and help us to think with 'poverty of spirit'.

5. Speak words of affirmation

The less natural this is to you, the more important it is to do. Make a point of saying something nice each day about a person in your life. By Easter, your personal relationships will have undergone a resurrection of their own.

6. Stretch yourself

This is about overcoming fear, cultivating self-control and concern for others.

7. Swap out the good for the better

Don't just give up, fill up. Fill your life with things that are inspiring, good, wholesome and encouraging. Find something you like and swap it for something more edifying. In the words of Pope Francis: Lent is a time in which to turn off the television and open the Bible. Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel. It is the time to give up useless words, chatter, rumours, gossip, and talk and to speak directly to the Lord.

8. Pray a person a day

Write a list of 40 people, or intentions, and offer each day for them.

9. Hold your tongue

There's nothing like making an effort to stop gossiping to make you realise just how often you do it. For extra points, find something positive to say about the potential gossipee.

10. Wear something to make you remember

In religious orders, the term 'habit' is as much a noun as it is a verb. By putting on a daily 'habit', you are reminded that you are Christ's and He is yours. Adopt this small act of remembrance every day, and wear something that reminds you of Christ.

POPE PRAYS FOR CORONAVIRUS SUFFERERS

Pope Francis offered prayers on March 8, 2020, for the many people around the world who are suffering from the coronavirus.

"I am close with prayers to people who suffer from the current coronavirus epidemic and to all those who are giving care," the Holy Father said. "I remembered them a lot in these days of my retreat. I join my brother bishops in encouraging the faithful to live this difficult moment with the strength of faith, the certainty of hope and the fervor of charity. The season of Lent helps us to give an evangelical sense also to this moment of trial."

Our Lenten prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us to Him.

In compliance with the provisions of the Health and Hygiene Directorate of the Vatican City State, the participation of the faithful as guests at the Mass held in Santa Marta will be suspended until Sunday 15 March. The Holy Father will celebrate the Eucharist privately.

BISHOPS ISSUE CORONAVIRUS ADVICE

The Catholic Church in Australia has urged the removal of holy water from churches and issued advice on the distribution of Holy Communion in response to the growing coronavirus crisis. It urges that Catholics use caution and "consider their own health, including any potential to infect others with a contagious disease" before attending Mass.

The statement advises that Holy Communion only be distributed in the hand rather than on the tongue. "Holy Water should be temporarily removed from stoops at the doors of churches to reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus," the statement said. "Holy Water should continue to be available for people to take home. "When exchanging the Sign of Peace, individuals should avoid shaking hands but say "Peace be with you" and offer a smile, wave, nod or bow."

The statement says that all people serving Holy Communion "should take particular care to wash their hands before and after distributing".

"Parishes should cease distributing Holy Communion from the Chalice until further notice."

"The faithful who are too unwell to attend Sunday Mass — whether due to coronavirus or some other condition — or are at particular risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus can honour their Sunday obligation by participating in a time of prayer within the home, reading the Scriptures or watching Mass on television."

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPE

YOU MAY NOW PICK-UP YOUR THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES AND QUARTERLY STATEMENT IN THE CHURCH FOYER. PLEASE ACCEPT OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION AND THANKS ON YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO ST TIMOTHY'S PARISH.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

We are drawn into the Gospel story as companions on the Samaritan woman's journey of faith—asking questions and listening to Jesus' puzzling answers. It is worth noting the progression of the woman's enlightenment from Jesus as a "Jew", "sir", "prophet" and concluding as "Christ". Our journey with her gives us the opportunity to pay fresh attention to our own inner thirst and to renew our faith in Jesus as the answer to all that we long for. Let us drink from the wellspring of life that Christ pours out for all people.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

Lord Jesus, you are living water.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you came to call sinners.

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

FIRST READING: Ex 17: 3-7

The trials on the journey towards freedom and prosperity was long and conditions harsh that the Israelites question the wisdom of their actions ; they lose trust in God who has provided them with protection.

*When anxiety was great within me
Your consolation brought joy to my soul.*

PSALM 94:19

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel

before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

SECOND READING: Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

Christ laid down his life for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL : John 4: 5-42

Jesus offers the water of life to a Samaritan woman who, in turn, becomes the first missionary of Jesus.

NEXT WEEK: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13;

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel: John 9: 1-41