




St Mary Immaculate & St Patrick's PARISH OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY

Copmanhurst & Cowper  *Grafton & South Grafton*



Cowper

Parish Office: 2 Clarence Street
Phone: 66439017 **Fax:** 66431388
Email:
admin@clarencevalleyparish.com.au
P.O. Box 577, Grafton NSW 2460
Website: cvcparish.org.au

Office Hours:
8.30am to 4.00pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri
9.30am to 4.00pm Thursday

St. Mary's Church, Grafton
Victoria Street, Grafton

St Patrick's Church
Skinner Street, South Grafton

Mary Immaculate Church
Cowper

St John of the Cross
Copmanhurst

McAuley Catholic College
Hennessy Drive, Clarenceza
Phone: 02 66431434
Email: grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au

St. Mary's Primary School
Turf Street, Grafton
Phone: 02 66422262
Email: grafp@lism.catholic.edu.au

St Joseph's Primary School
Hyde Street, South Grafton
Phone: 02 66422899
Email: sgrafp@lism.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Joe Holloway
Assist. Priest:
Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



Copmanhurst

Second Sunday of Lent - Year B

28th February 2021

Parish Family News

Listening to Jesus

Abraham lived about a thousand years before Jesus. At that time it was not uncommon for people to sacrifice their children, especially their firstborn sons, to various gods as a sign of total devotion. Abraham perceived that sacrificing Isaac was something also required of him; to demonstrate his commitment to God. But the God of Israel is not like the pagan gods and never demands such a sacrifice. The God of Israel wants life, not death.

Yet, the willingness of Abraham to 'let go' of what was most precious to him – the son of his old age – was an inspiration to the people of Israel. It's faith in its extreme. Remember too, that Abraham had already shown a willingness to 'let go' of his family and his homeland to journey to an unknown land in response to God's invitation.

The early church saw the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing to the relationship between God the Father and Jesus. Like Abraham, God was prepared to 'let go' of what was most precious to him – his divine Son – out of love for humanity. God was willing to let his Son 'become flesh', with all that it meant: rejection and ultimately crucifixion.

St Paul is in awe at God's generosity towards humanity. *"God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all."* With such a total gift of love, we have nothing to fear from anything or anyone.

Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus. The experience is amazing. It's an experience so precious that Peter *cannot* let it go. He wants to hold onto it forever. He says to Jesus, *"Rabbi ... let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah."* The disciples glimpse the dazzling and eternal beauty of Christ and they don't want to let go. Yet, the disciples had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. They will receive it again as a gift in the next life. For now, their task is to listen to Jesus, *"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."*

This is our task also. To live our lives listening to Jesus speak to us in the Good News and through the experiences of our daily lives. In listening, we'll discover things which we are called to 'let go' – selfishness, unforgiveness, envy, hatred, gossip, prejudice, dishonesty; to 'let go' of people, places, security, health, life.

Like Abraham, may we have the faith and trust to 'let go' and to be open and ready to receive the precious gifts that God wants to give us; as we prepare for the day when we'll meet God face to face in eternity and we can finally say, *"It is wonderful to be here."*

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2021

Television Free to Air—Channel Ten—Sunday Mass at 6am

For those who have access to the Internet: Bishop Greg—Mass at 8am Sunday—
Livestreamed on Lismore Diocese YouTube channel or follow the links at lismorediocese.org

Also the following has Mass on demand. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD_HVaQ

DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC

Saturday 27th February

NO 9.00am Mass

5.00pm—5.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 28th February - Second Sunday of Lent

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Monday 1st March

NO Mass

Tuesday 2nd March

5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Wednesday 3rd March

9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Thursday 4th March

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Friday 5th March

11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Saturday 6th March

8.35am—8.55am Reconciliation at St Patrick's Church

9.00am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

5.00pm—5.45pm Reconciliation at St Mary's Church

6.00pm Vigil Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

Sunday 7th March - Third Sunday of Lent

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper

9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Please remember in your prayers:

Those who are sick and frail:

especially Pat Connelly, (Taxi)-Tony Cameron, Chris Small, Tony O'Connor, Peter Newby, Kathryn Martin, Evonne Coutis, Cletus Moran, Brian Haynes, Bev Reilley, Dan Moran, Cheryl Kinnane, Dot Dougherty, Sandy Beadman, Gwen Haynes, Sonya Moore, Maureen Endean, Moya Ellem(Melb), Fay Ellem, John McAnally, Darcy Patricks, Eli Hagar, Allan Ryan, Kevin Burns, Shona Owens, Sue Jackson, Jacinta Frawley-Werger, Amanda Crawford, Aileen Whalan, Bree Brossman, and all those in hospital.

The Recently Deceased:

including Peter Robson, Ken Robson, Maisie Wu, Roma Brotherson, Bishop Luc Matthys, Archbishop Philip Wilson, Barbara Deegan (Casino), Athol Arandale, John Reynolds.

Those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

Including Fr Fred Fry, Fr Francis McEvoy, Marie Holmes, Thea Tarrant, Vincent & Enid Moran, Aileen Reynolds, Loreto Demecillo, Tony Macdonald, Aub, Helen & Pat Gillespie, Grace Pidcock, Carmel & Kevin Handsaker, John Handsaker.

Other Mass Intentions: including all the Holy Souls.

Parish Notices

Friday 5th February—Catholic Women's League Meeting at the McCarthy Centre—1pm. All welcome.

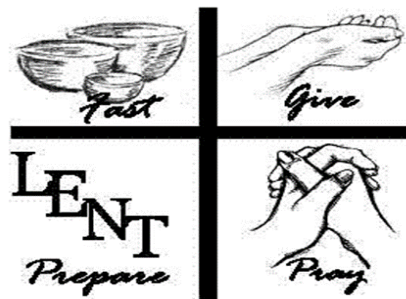
Bishop Greg's Lenten Talk Series continues!

This year's Lenten talks will focus on *Reflections on COVID-19*.

The talk will begin at 6pm in St Carthage's Cathedral on:

Tuesdays: 2 March, 9 March & 16 March

It will not be live-streamed, but will be recorded and accessible via lismore-diocese.org on YouTube by close of business on the following Thursdays. **All most welcome!**



Second Sunday of Lent 28th February 2021



Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800024413.

MASS Attendance

Currently Dispensation from Sunday and Holy Day Mass obligations continues.

As from Monday, 7 December 2020, restrictions which apply in Places of Worship have been lessened. Church services are determined by the 2 square metre distancing rule and even with this limitation, our churches can accommodate more than the usual congregation numbers prior to COVID-19 restrictions.

As we know there are certain directives that must be followed to enable us to come together and celebrate as a community, please familiarise yourselves with the following:

- ◆ Hand sanitising on arrival and departure
- ◆ Recording name and phone number on arrival
- ◆ Sit in allocated pews, 3 or 2 as indicated (*household may sit together*)
- ◆ 1.5m social distancing at all times on entering and leaving the church.
- ◆ Single file for receiving communion (on hand only) - observe social distancing.
- ◆ Government advice is that **congregational singing is not permitted**, and with the potential of more people in our churches, the government recommends that **members of the congregation wear masks** if they are over 12 years of age.

Anyone who is unwell or who have been in COVID-19 hotspots should not attend Mass.

Those most vulnerable to the virus include those people 70 years and over are reminded to carefully consider whether they should attend Sunday Masses at this time.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Those who are unable to attend Sunday Mass are encouraged to spend some time in prayer that might include reading the scriptures, joining in a screen Mass (details in this bulletin) or praying a rosary.

The Parish Bulletin is a single use product-**please take it home.**
Please keep praying for the end of this pandemic & keep safe.

The Eucharist..... is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.

Evangelii Gaudium (2013) 47

Annual Parish 200 Club run by the Cowper Community will commence on 12th April to 23rd August. Tickets \$20 each (Five numbers)
200 Club is run over 20 weeks.

Week 1 to 19 Prizes	Week 20 Prizes
First \$60	First \$500
Second \$30	Second \$200
Third \$10	Third \$ 50

The fundraiser depends on your help. Please ask family and friends if they are interested in a ticket. Remember it is possible to win first, second and third prizes on the same day. Tickets available at Parish Office or contact Margaret Walker 0427 022 326.

Invitation to

World Day of Prayer

Theme: 'Build on a Strong Foundation'

Prepared by the women of Vanuatu

Date: Friday 5th March at 10.00am.

*Presbyterian Fellowship Grafton are hosting at the **Masonic Centre, 104 Bacon Street.***

Everyone is Welcome!

Do You Want to Fast this Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Weekend Mar 6/7	St Mary's Church Saturday 6.00pm	St Mary's Church Sunday 8.00am	St Patrick's Church Sunday 9.30am	Mary Immaculate Sunday 8.00am
Commentator	Lorraine Hughes	Bill Dougherty	Lynne Higham	Lesley McFarlane
Reader	Jacki Moore	Natasha Green	Gary Scurrah	Ellen Moloney
Extraordinary Minister	Keith Ellem	Colin Clark	Colleen Scurrah	

Entrance Antiphon:

Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

A reading from the book of Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18 *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

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.**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8: 31-34

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

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: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9: 2-10

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.



During the Season of #Lent, the Holy Spirit drives us too, like Jesus, into the desert (Mk 1:12-15). It is not a physical place, but rather an existential dimension in which we can be silent and listen to the word of God, so that a true conversion might be effected in us.

Pope Francis - Pontifex 22/2/2021

Planned Giving

Planned Giving contributions may be made by electronic funds transfer. If you would like to make contributions by EFT, banking details are:

BSB: 062546 Account Number: 00800690

Name: Grafton Catholic Church.

In the details section please record: PG followed by your envelope number eg PG500.

Thank you for your continued support of the Parish.



Invest with peace of mind
www.dif.org.au

The Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF) is not subject to the provisions of the Corporations Act 2011 nor has it been examined or approved by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Deposits with the DIF are guaranteed by CDPF Limited, a company established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference for this purpose. We welcome your investment with the DIF rather than with a profit oriented commercial organisation as a conscious commitment by you to support the Charitable, Religious and Educational works of the Catholic Church. Neither the DIF nor the Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the Diocese of Lismore are prudentially supervised by the Australian Prudential regulation authority; contributions to the DIF do not obtain the benefit of the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959; the DIF is designed for investors who wish to promote the charitable purposes of the DIF.

The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.