

## 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 <u>9.30am</u> to 4.00pm Thursday <u>St. Mary's Church, Grafton</u> Victoria Street, Grafton

<u>St Patrick's Church</u> Skinner Street, South Grafton

<u>Mary Immaculate Church</u> Cowper

<u>St John of the Cross</u> Copmanhurst

<u>McAuley Catholic College</u> Hennessy Drive, Clarenza 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

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<u>Parish Priest:</u> Fr Joe Holloway <u>Assist. Priest:</u> Fr Emmanuel Okparanaku



Copmanhurst

## Third Sunday of Lent - Year B

7th March 2021

# **Parish Family News**

## Understanding the Jesus story

If there is one incident in Jesus' life that leads us to question his judgment, the story of him taking a whip and angrily driving people out of the temple must rank as a strong contender. We have heard in recent weeks that Jesus can be forthright in challenging people – even calling pharisees 'hypocrites' to their faces! But our major image is of a patient and forgiving Jesus rather than someone striking out at people with a raging temper.

So, how are we to understand this story? A good place to start is another story of Jesus visiting the Jerusalem temple with his mother and father when he was a twelve -year old boy. On that occasion, Jesus becomes so caught up by the temple experience, he misses the caravan taking his family back to Nazareth. When his parents realise Jesus is missing, they hasten back to find him among the temple priests and elders, engaging with them about the meaning of the Scriptures.

Now, for traditional Israelites the temple was the holiest of all places on earth, enabling people to experience the presence of the living God in their lives in an unsurpassed way. This must have been Jesus' boyhood experience, as is evident in his response to his confused parents: "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" (Lk 2:49).

So, when Jesus returns to the temple some twenty years later and finds it filled with hawkers, merchants and other traders, he is incensed that greed and money-lust have turned his 'Father's house' into a marketplace. However, rather than directing his anger to the little people who are simply trying to make a living, surely Jesus should have confronted the temple priests who no doubt benefited financially from this defilement of God's house.

Jesus has this opportunity to respond to the chief priests when they challenge him over his table-turning, whip-lashing behaviour. In answer to their question: "On what authority do you do this?" Jesus' strange response confounds everyone: "Destroy this temple and I will raise it up again in three days."

Somehow, this is a moment of insight for Jesus. He begins to realise his mission of communicating God's love and forgiveness will result in the destruction of the other temple – his own body – on a cross. Yet, God's glory will always shine through and triumph beyond suffering, cruelty and death itself.

This is the paradox St Paul writes about in his letter to the Corinthians. He realises how preaching a crucified Christ is folly to Jews and Greeks alike. Yet Paul also knows we must acknowledge our own sinfulness and stupidity if we are to experience God's power and wisdom.

Too often, we are like the temple traders, busy with our own pursuits rather than seekers of the living God. Too often, we ignore God's covenant because we are afraid to witness to a crucified-and-risen Christ who heals our weakness and failures with divine love and mercy.

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2021

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

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

Also the following has Mass on demand. <u>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYRq7AjVimr-hcHFJD\_HVaQ</u>

## DIARY OF THE WEEK: LITURGIES, DEVOTIONS ETC

## 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 Grafton8.00am Mass at Mary Immaculate Church Cowper9.30am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

Monday 8th March

NO Mass

Tuesday 9th March

5.15pm Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton Wednesday 10th March

9.15am Mass at St Patrick's Church South Grafton

## Thursday 11th March

8.00am Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

## Friday 12th March

11.30am—11.55am Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 12.00noon Mass at St Mary's Church Grafton

## <u>Saturday 13th March</u>

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 14th March - Fourth 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

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: 9 March & 16 March

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

## <u>Please remember in your prayers:</u> <u>Those who are sick and frail:</u>

especially Fr Michael O'Callaghan, Susan Paine, 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:

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including Sr Loretta Maher, RSM, Peter Robson, Ken Robson, Maisie Wu, Roma Brotherson, Athol Arandale.

## Those whose Anniversaries are at this time:

Including Fr Daniel Troy, Fr John Colahan, Mick Gillett, Irene Hynes, Marie Holmes, Thea Tarrant, Vincent & Enid Moran, Aileen Reynolds, Loreto Demecillo, Tony Macdonald, Aub, Helen & Pat Gillespie.

**<u>Other Mass Intentions</u>**: including all the Holy Souls.



We would not have had the courage to believe in a God who loves humanity, it we had not known Jesus. What kind of God is prepared to die for people? What kind of God loves always and patiently, without demanding to be loved in return?

#GeneralAudience - Pope Francis Pontifex 4/3/2021

## **Parish Notices**

Friday 12th March - Charismatic Prayer

Group Meeting 2nd and 4th Fridays of

the month at McCarthy Centre.

Start 12.45pm to 3pm.



Third Sunday of Lent 7th March 2021



Oliva, 22, could not read, write or count, and her business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australiasupported literacy and numeracy classes, and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving, and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and support people like Oliva's gain access to education to build a brighter future and live in communities that upholds everyone's dignity.

You can donate through envelopes, or by visiting <u>www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion</u> 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 <u>2 square metre</u> 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.* 

## McAuley Catholic College

Welcome to the latest edition of our Schoolzine eNewsletter! Visit the link below to view your newsletter: https://mcaulcgrafton.schoolzineplus.com/schoolnews?nid=21

Or View/Download a PDF copy from our Website.

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

Week 1 to 19 PrizesFirst\$60Second\$30Third\$10

Week 20 Prizes First \$500 Second \$200 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.

## **Project Compassion Prayer**

God of all peoples and nations, as you accompany us on our Lenten journey, may our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, our almsgiving be an act of justice, and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Through living simply and loving generously, may we care for our global family and our common home, as we "Aspire not to have more, but to be more". We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. Saint Oscar Romero

## 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 13/14	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	Tania Disson	Colin Clark	Colleen Scurrah	Marie Moran
Reader	Sharon Cannon	Mariah Hassett	Nancy Crook	Basil Moran
Extraordinary Minister	Gail Ward	Bill Dougherty	Gary Scurrah	

## **Entrance Antiphon:**

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

#### A reading from the book of Exodus 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17 The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.'You shall not commit adultery.'You shall not steal.'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. 'You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 18

## *R*: Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. *R*.

The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. *R*.

The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. *R*.

They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. *R*.

## A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1: 22-25

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

# **<u>Gospel</u>**: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 2: 13-25

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up. Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Communion Antiphon:**

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

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Next Week's Readings: (4th Sunday of Lent, Year B) 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Psalm 136; Ephesians 2:4-10; John 3:14-21

## 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 <u>PG500</u>.

Thank you for your continued support of the Parish.



Invest with peace of mind <u>www.dif.org.au</u>

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The DIF contributes to the printing of the weekly newsletter.