

# 4th Sunday of Lent - Year B 13th - 14th March 2021

**First Reading:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23

*The wrath and mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfill the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 136. R. v.6

**R/** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:4-10

*When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

God loved the world so much he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**Gospel:** John 3:14-21

*God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.*

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, For ever they are praising you everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

## Project Compassion Lenten 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."**

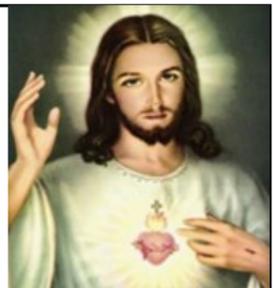
**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

**Parish Contacts:** Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124  
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



## 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B 13th - 14th March 2021

**REJOICE!**

### IN AND THROUGH JESUS WE ARE SAVED!

In the first reading, taken from the Second Book of Chronicles, we learn the compassion and patience of God. God chose Cyrus the Great, a pagan conqueror, to become the instrument of His mercy to, and salvation of, His chosen people exiled in Babylon. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 137), the Psalmist voices the pain of exile the captives of Judah suffered. In the second reading, Paul tells us that God is so rich in mercy that He has granted us eternal salvation and eternal life as a free gift through Christ Jesus.

In today's Gospel, Jesus, the Son of God, becomes the agent of God's salvation, not just for one sinful nation but for the sinfulness of the whole world. Through John 3:16, the Gospel teaches us that God has expressed His love, mercy and compassion for us by giving His only Son for our salvation. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin, meets Jesus by night and begins a long religious discussion. Jesus explains to him that he must believe Jesus' words because Jesus is the Son of God, and, by referring to the story of Moses and the bronze serpent (Nm 21:1-9), further explains God's plan of salvation. Just as God saved the victims of serpent bite from death through the bronze serpent, He is going to save mankind from its sins by permitting the crucifixion and death of His Son Jesus, because the love of God for mankind is that great.



We need to love the cross, the symbol of God's forgiving and merciful love: As a forceful reminder not only of God's love and mercy, but also of the price of our salvation, the crucifix invites us to more than simple generosity and compassion. It inspires us to remove the suffering of other people's misery. It encourages us not only to feel deep sorrow for another's suffering, but also to try our best to remove that suffering. Hence, let us love the cross, wear its image and carry our own daily cross with joy, while helping others to carry their heavier crosses. We need to reciprocate God's love by loving others. God's love is unconditional, universal, forgiving and merciful. Let us try to make an earnest attempt to include these qualities in sharing our love with others. Our rebirth by water and the Spirit must be an ongoing process. That is, we must lead a life of repentance and conversion which will

bring us, with the help of the Holy Spirit living within us, to an ongoing renewal of life through prayer, Bible reading, frequenting the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist and doing corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

#### Office Hours:

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

#### Parish Priest:

Fr Aloysius Nato, SVD  
Ph: 0428 715 282

#### Italian Community Chaplain:

Fr Albano Da Costa, SVD  
Ph: 0478 963 248

#### Parish Office:

Cristina Agius  
**School Principal:** Mark Tierney  
**School Phone:** 9487 1001

#### Sacrament Co-ordinator:

Ylenia Useli  
shpcatechists@gmail.com

#### Child Safety Officers:

Kay Dufty: 0431 376 212  
Robert Dullard: 0433 401 958

#### Child Safety Committee:

Robert Dullard (Chair)

#### Parish Council Members:

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),  
Kay Dufty (secretary),  
Tony Eley, Gerard Grant,  
Ophelia Swai, Anisasio (Pauline)  
Veamatahau, Mark Tierney,  
Ben Fortuna and Natalie Baran

#### Parish Finance Committee:

Peter Constable (Chair)  
Ph: 0425 779 831

#### St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Stephen Costello (President)  
Ph: 0432 405 417

### Parish Mass Schedule

#### Weekend Masses:

**Saturday:** 6:00pm  
**Sunday:** 9:00am (Italian),  
10:30 am, 6:00 pm

#### Weekday Masses:

**Monday to Friday:** 9.10am  
**Healing Mass:** 1st Thursday of  
the month at 1.30pm

#### Devotional Practices:

**Adoration of the Blessed  
Sacrament:** Wednesday after  
9.10am Mass  
**Holy Rosary:** Thursday (English)

#### **Reconciliation:**

Weekdays: 30 minutes before  
Mass or by appointment

#### **Baptisms & Weddings:**

By appointment only

### 2021 Patrick Oratorion

On the feast of St Patrick, patron saint of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will deliver the 2021 Patrick Oratorion.

The last Patrick Oratorion was held two years ago and since the 2019 Patrick Oratorion, the world has been shaken by the COVID pandemic, with Victorians experiencing one of the world's strictest lockdowns. And it is only in recent months that parish communities have been able to return to public worship.

Looking ahead to this year's Patrick Oratorion, the Archbishop acknowledged the dramatic changes that have taken place since 2019.

'I spoke then about needing to set out for new territory and to plant the seeds of the Gospel in amongst our people, in our families, in our local communities and amongst all those who seek to know Jesus,' said Archbishop Comensoli. 'Well, none of us expected COVID – and that has shifted us in such a dramatic way this past year.

'Once again, I will take the opportunity to set a sense of where I see us at this moment, and how we move forward.

'We might call it the Patrick Oratorion: COVID edition.'

**The 2021 Patrick Oratorion will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The broadcast begins at 7.30pm and can be viewed on community channel C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and via [YouTube](#) at 7.30pm.**



**Welcome!**  
This weekend through Baptism we welcome  
**Gigi Savannah Paoli and Alister Tevita Gwyn Fonua**  
into our Parish family

**Dates to Remember**  
**All Fridays during Lent:** Stations of the Cross - 7pm  
**Friday 19th March:**  
Healing through Adoration and Stations of the Cross  
**Saturday 27th March:** 11am - 12.30pm  
Healing through Meditation on Jesus by Fr Gilbert  
at gilbertcarlo@gmail.com

**Last Week's Collection: 07/03/21**  
1st Collection for our Church: \$670.00  
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$533.00  
*Thank you for your kind generosity!*

**Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:**  
Visit <https://bit.ly/3t98LK8>  
where you can listen anytime!



### Sacred Heart Primary School 2021 Enrolments

Enrolments for the 2021 school year are open as of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March. For a school tour, please contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website <http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

At Sacred Heart School, our students are at the heart of every decision we make.

Every day is Open Day and prospective students and their families are warmly invited to tour our school.

### National Consultation for Women

Catholic women are being invited to participate in a national consultation with two bishops later this month and to mark their diaries for a national gathering in September. The national consultation, **which will take place on March 27** via Zoom, invites women to articulate and celebrate their contribution to and vision for the mission of the Catholic Church in Australia. Bishop Michael Morrissey, the Bishop Delegate for Women, said he is looking forward to hearing from Catholic women from across the country.

'The thoughts, the voices and the actions of women within the Catholic Church are absolutely central to our life and mission, and the national consultation invites a sharing and listening that will benefit the whole Church,' he said. 'This process is something new, embracing the changing technological landscape, and seeking to remove some of the obstacles like distance and access. 'All the bishops have women acting in senior roles within their dioceses; this conversation provides another forum for broader national conversation.'

Clara Geoghegan, the executive secretary of the Bishops Commission and the coordinator of the consultation, said women she had spoken with were supportive of the idea of a national conversation.

'Our Church has become increasingly comfortable with the notion of listening and dialogue, in part because of the Plenary Council's invitation to engage in that way,' she said.

'Women are looking forward to the opportunity to speak with the two bishops and with one another and, as invited by the great document *Gaudium et Spes*, to share their joys and their hopes, their griefs and their anxieties, for the Church in Australia.'

Bishop Morrissey said the Catholic Women's Gathering will follow a format developed for the inaugural Catholic Men's Gathering held last year.

'Indeed, the idea for the Catholic Men's Gathering came off the back of the successful Catholic Women's Colloquium, which was established many years ago,' he said.

The Women's Gathering will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup>, with more information to be published in the coming weeks.

#### Consultation Details:

Date: Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm-4pm AEDT via Zoom  
Participants must register by 4pm, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

[Register here](#)

**LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19**  
**Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne**  
Full guidelines can be found at: <https://bit.ly/2MMwYX1>

### Sacred Heart Parish Prayer

**Loving God, we honour the heart of Jesus, your beloved Son. We remember how he opened his heart in love to all people. Open our own heart to receive the gifts that continue to flow so richly from the heart of Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

### St. Vincent de Paul Society - Good Works

Our sincere thanks to members and groups of our Sacred Heart Community who have continued to support St Vincent de Paul, to bring relief and encouragement to many in our community who are struggling to make ends meet day by day, who long for a secure place to call home or who are overwhelmed by educational, medical and other expenses they must meet for their families. Even the smallest amount dropped into a church donation box or donation of good clothing or homewares to a local Vinnies shop or support of annual appeals, will make a tremendous difference in another person's life.

Over Christmas, thanks to parishioner's generosity, parish groups, anonymous donors and a special grant from our local Council, we were able to visit 58 homes and provide \$7,400 worth of Christmas vouchers for families, couples, individuals and Asylum seekers with no income. Thank you for enabling us to make a difference

The members of St Vincent de Paul Preston.

### Computer Projectionists Required!

Computer Projectionists are required for Sunday Evening Mass. If you are able to allocate some time to this role, or even occasionally at another Saturday or Sunday Mass, please contact Cristina at the Parish Office or leave your name and contact number with the priest or choir leader after Mass. **A volunteer Working with Children Check is required for this role.** Thank you.



### 2021 Creative Arts Exhibition Digital Gallery

This year's Catholic Education Week (15-21 March) is taking on a new format, with events and activities reimagined into a digital resource for schools to use locally. Visit <https://sites.google.com/cem.edu.au/creative-arts-exhibition-2021/home> to view the gallery of student's works.

Roster for weekend of 20 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	
	Readers
<b>Saturday 6.00pm</b>	Teresa Dang Marlene Vergou
<b>Sunday 9.00am (Italian)</b>	Volunteers
<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>	Jessy Thambiraj Judeline Wadhvani
<b>Sunday 6.00pm</b>	Damian Casamento Margaret Bannan

**WE PRAY FOR:**  
The elderly and the sick  
*Anthony, Peter Bourke, John Plum  
Pasquale Curcio, Anthony Joseph,  
Ray Mc Veigh and Bronislawa Slobodzian*

Those who have died recently  
*Maureen Bedson*

We Commemorate  
*Giuseppe Bassalacqua, Michael Bradshaw,  
Candida Cardamone, Francesca Chiodo,  
Giovanni Chiodo, Settimo Crocco,  
Giuseppe Marasco, Annie D'Souza and  
Remedios Mendes*

O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.



**Online Masses**  
**St. Patrick's Cathedral - Live Streaming at:**  
<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>  
Monday- Friday: 1pm, Saturday: 8am, Sunday: 11am  
**TV Masses**  
**Channel 44 (31):** Live telecast from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Sunday



**Arsad's Story**  
Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet, so he and his family always had to walk into the forest to an open defecation area. His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save for toilets.

Now Arsad's family is healthier. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.'

*"We help each other, the 'togetherness' is growing. Our solidarity had increased,"* Arsad says.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

**Cleaning Roster:**  
**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
*Anna O'Neill and Lucy*  
*Thank you for your help!*

