

## 4th Sunday of Lent - Year C 30th - 31st March 2019

**First Reading:** Joshua 5: 9-12

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

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.

The Word of the Lord

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

**R/** Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**Second Reading:** 2 Corinthians 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 this 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.

The Word of the Lord

**Gospel Acclamation:** Luke 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:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

*Your brother here was dead and has come to life.*

The tax collectors and the sinners, meanwhile, were all seeking his company 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 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 was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord



## Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

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Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



### 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C 30th - 31st March 2019

#### “He was Lost and is Found”

Reconciliation – “uniting what was separate” is the key theme in all of the readings today. The first from the book of Joshua describes God’s people uniting in a ceremony of rededication to their God after the long struggles and divisions of the desert wanderings.

The Gospel parable of the Prodigal Son has often been described as a gospel within a gospel. It goes right to the heart of Jesus’ mission to humankind: to draw all into the merciful and inclusive love of God. St Paul sums it up to the Corinthians this way. “God, in Christ, was reconciling the world to himself.”

There are those in every time – devout and committed people – who, narrowed or stiffened by zeal to uphold the rules, traditions and their reputation by scrupulously following correct procedure, build barriers which rather than draw people into the embrace of a loving God, put them off and exclude them from fellowship. Jesus, unlike these, reached out to embrace those deemed ‘unclean’, sinners,

the poor, the sick, the degraded and abused or shunned by the ‘spiritually elite’. Jesus was the physical presence of God who like the ever loving and faithful Father in today’s parable, runs out to meet a lost son irrespective of his reasons for wanting to return and draws him into the innermost life of friends and family.

In the Roman missal there are two Eucharistic prayers of Reconciliation we rarely hear. The first one echoes the message of today very directly:

“...You do not cease to spur us on to possess a more abundant life...Never did you turn away from us... You have bound the human family to yourself through Jesus your Son, with a new bond of love so tight that it can never be undone.” Indeed, though we



once were lost and could not approach you, you loved us with the greatest love.”

As we progress in our Lenten journey let us remember that this is a time to celebrate and appreciate the enduring merciful love of God for all people - not for ‘some’ as St Paul reminds us - by opening our hearts as a community and ‘ambassadors for Christ’ to those amongst us isolated by loneliness, depression, loss of self –worth and those who are displaced or seek asylum. Let’s not wait for them to come to us but seek them out and welcome them into God’s loving care.

**Office Hours:**

Tues to Fri: 10.00am - 12.30pm

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Jan Szweda, SVD

**Priests in Residence:**

Fr Ennio Mantovani SVD

Fr Phuong Vu SVD, La Trobe

University Chaplain

**Parish Office:** Cristina Agius

**School Principal:** Mark Tierney

**School Phone:** 9484 3514

**Sacrament Co-ordinator:**

Judeline Wadhvani

**Child Safety Officer:**

Judeline Wadhvani

M: 0490660787

judeline.wadhvani@gmail.com

**Parish Council Members:**

Catherine Zanatta (chairperson),

Kay Dufty (secretary), Gerard

Grant, Ophelia Swai, Anisasio

(Pauline) Veamatahau, Mark

Tierney, Fr Jan Szweda SVD

**St. Vincent de Paul Society:**

Pauline O’Day (President)

Ph: 9484 2445

**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) & Friday (Italian) after

9.10am Mass

**Legion of Mary:** Thursday

7.30pm, in the Presbytery

**Reconciliation:**

Weekdays: 30 minutes before

Mass or by appointment

**Baptisms & Weddings:**

By appointment only

**Outpouring of Love instead of Hate**

Not long ago a gunman entered a place of prayerful worship and murdered innocent men, women and children. It was an act of terror and brutality that affected all the families of the dead and injured, the Christchurch community, New Zealand, Australia and the wider world. It brought sorrow and loss to families, communities and nations. But remarkably, if the man's goal was to sow hatred and division he failed. Overwhelmingly, the response seems to be one of community – 'of standing together'.

Certainly, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has set a tone not usually found when there has been an attack on a country. Rather than bluster and oaths of vengeance, she's been empathetic, resolute and inclusive of the country when decisions have been made. Instead of hate there have been outpourings of love.

It is fitting then the Gospel for this weekend is 'The Lost (Prodigal) Son', a parable that projects a picture of 'a God who displays love to an extravagant and, humanly speaking, foolish degree'.

Reflecting on the Christchurch tragedy we might reflect on how can we responding differently to those who have hurt us and learn to forgive. This is what Jesus asks of us and this is the only path to peace. Peace in our world and peace for ourselves.

**Dates to Remember**

- All Fridays during Lent:** 7.30pm  
Stations of the Cross
- Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April:** 7pm - Liturgy Committee formation meeting with Cathy Jenkins
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** 1.30pm  
Mass for the Anointing of the Sick
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April:** 7.30pm  
Lenten Penitential Service
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April:**  
Palm Sunday, beginning of Holy Week
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April:** 11.00am  
St. Patrick's Cathedral: Mass of Oils
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Holy Thursday - 7.30pm  
The Lord's Supper
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April:** Good Friday  
Stations of the Cross - 10.00am  
Passion of the Lord - 3.00pm
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Vigil  
Mass at 7.30pm
- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April:** Easter Sunday  
Mass Times: 9.00am, 10.30am & 6.00pm

**Last Week's Collection: 24/03/19**

1st Collection for our Church: \$1494.25  
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$835.65  
*Thank you for your kind generosity!*



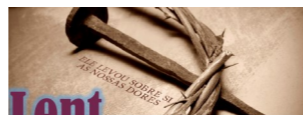
**Sacred Heart Primary School Enrolments**

Enrolments for the 2020 school year are open. For a school tour, contact the school principal on 9487 1001 or via the school website: <http://www.shpreston.catholic.edu.au>

**Lenten Program - The Person of Jesus**

**5th March - 9th April 2019**

Presenter: *Fr. Phuong Vu, SVD*  
Venue: Sacred Heart Preston  
Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm



**Topics**

- 2nd April** - Jesus is the Teacher
- 9th April** - Jesus is the Redeemer

**The Lenten Pilgrim Podcast**

Week 4: The Parable of the Prodigal Son  
Listen now or download for later: <https://soundcloud.com/user-842576877/lent-week-4-the-parable-of-the-prodigal-son>

In this fourth episode of The Lenten Pilgrim podcast, Fr Steven Rigo reflects on the parable of the prodigal son, which he says might also be a story of how to be a good parent, a good child, a good sibling and, ultimately, a good church. He says, 'Even when we are far off, he is there waiting for us to return and experience his forgiveness. So maybe put yourself into this scene: what do you want to ask for? And what do you hear?' Fr Steven Rigo is Parish Priest of the partnered parishes of St Mary's Greensborough, St Thomas' North Greensborough and Sacred Heart Diamond Creek. He previously lectured in Ecclesiology at Catholic Theological College Melbourne.

**Liturgy Committee Meeting**

A formation/information meeting for former and new members of the Parish Liturgy Committee will be held at the Presbytery on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, at 7pm – 8.30 pm. It will be conducted by Cathy Jenkins, the Director of the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation. If you like to commit yourself to serve our parish on this committee or if you are interested but not sure what it is about, please 'come and see'. Please sign you intend of attendance on a list provided in the church foyer. This meeting will be followed by a discussion to organise the forthcoming Holy Week and Easter Celebrations.

**Project Compassion**

Envelopes and boxes for your donation for the Lenten Project Compassion may be picked up in the church foyer and returned with any Sunday Mass collection. Thank you for your generosity.



**Empowering the Family**



Couples for Christ Australia cordially invite you to a series of inspiring talks about living the Christian faith. This is FREE for everyone seeking happiness and a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Activities for children and afternoon tea included. Come with your family and friends.

When: 7 Sundays, starting 7<sup>th</sup> April, from 1 to 4 pm  
Where: Sacred Heart Hall, 85 David St, Preston  
For more details call/text: Bing & Candy Robles - 0435 759 148 or Mike & Faye Santos – 0413 713 973

**Melbourne Catholic Youth Gather for the Annual RISE Festival**

Catholic young people from across Melbourne gathered last Saturday for the annual RISE youth festival which was held at Penola College in Broadmeadows. It was a day of fun, faith and music, tied together with the theme 'Let there be Light'. The event was hosted by local MC, rapper and music producer Josh Angrisano (AKA J-Sano) who warmed up the 850-strong crowd with his rhythmic rap style. 'You see in the scripture it says, God is light,' he said to the crowd. 'Jesus says I am the Light. Whoever walks with me will never walk with darkness but has the light of life.'

**Are You available to participate in our Holy Week Ceremonies 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> April?**

Please leave your name and contact number if you can participate in various ministries, preparation and setting up tasks for:

- ✝ Holy Thursday evening,
- ✝ Good Friday morning Stations,
- ✝ 3pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion or the
- ✝ Easter Vigil.



**Like to join Sacred Heart's Music Ministry??**  
Contact Priscilla on 0415061781



**Save the Date! Oz Rosary around Australia**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

Download Flyer: <https://bit.ly/2Cj4Lib>

Enquiries: Jane Chifley on 0476 535 595

**WE PRAY FOR:**  
The elderly and the sick  
*Peter Bourke, Brian Donnellon, Irene Navascues, Dale O'Keefe, Veronica Parkes, Rosie Poter, Lidia Razzi, Raul Reinal & Fr Jan Szweda*

.....  
Those who have died  
*Leo Howard, Teresa Howard & Narcisa Liwanag*  
O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Heart of Life's Saturday Reflection Day**  
Mary Magdalene...A Most Maligned Woman – Join us for a reflection day exploring the life of Mary Magdalene...  
Can we set the record straight by considering John 20:1,2,11-18...so that Mary of Magdala is not cheated out of the integrity of her own life, or of the dangerous memory of her missionary discipleship, or we the People of God deprived of the prophetic power of women's leadership?  
At Heart of Life, 96 Albion Road, Box Hill, Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-4pm. Cost \$60 (morning tea provided, BYO lunch). Enquiries and bookings - [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or Ph: 9890 1101 or [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)

**Message to Readers and Ministers of the Eucharist**

Next week, a new roster for liturgical ministers for the next three months will be due. Please contact Cristina at the office or Pauline O'Day on 9484 2445. Email Pauline at [pauline.oday@optusnet.com.au](mailto:pauline.oday@optusnet.com.au) if you need to advise of any changes to your availability.

**Cleaning Roster: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2019**  
Dale/Richard  
Thank you for your help!

Roster for weekend of 6 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2019			
	Readers	Ministers	Projector
<b>Sat 6.00pm</b>	Rohan Lemos Marlene Vergou	Peter Bourke Terry Murphy	Rohan Lemos
<b>Sun 9.00am (Italian)</b>	Tamburrini M.	Bozzella C. Capobianco A.	Tamburrini M.
<b>Sun 10.30am</b>	Anne Stuart Alan Castles	Teresa Bernardini Eileen Stevens	Jessy Thambiraj
<b>Sun 6.00pm</b>	Abigail Roberts Robert Dullard	Margaret Bannon Benedicta Arhatari	Jessica Suppiah