

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B 27th - 28th February 2021

First Reading: 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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

R/ I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

Second Reading: 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

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 17:5

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: 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.

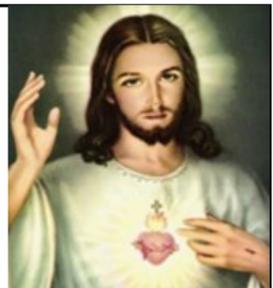
The Gospel of the Lord



Sacred Heart Parish Preston

322 Bell St, Preston 3072

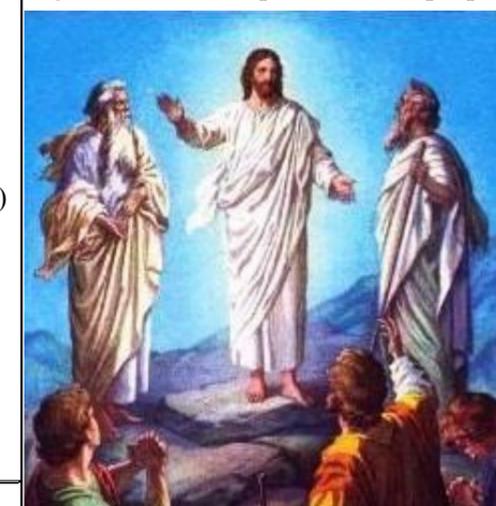
Parish Contacts: Phone: (03) 9480 3398 Or (03) 9484 2124
Email: preston@cam.org.au Website: www.sacredheartpreston.com.au



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B 27th - 28th February 2021

God's Love and Mercy

In today's first reading, Abraham is portrayed as being willing to let go of what was most precious to him, the only son of his old age. In being willing to let his son go to God, he went on to receive him back as a gift. Many people find it a very disturbing story, because it portrays God as asking Abraham to sacrifice his only beloved son as a burnt offering to God. We are rightly shocked by the image of God asking a father to sacrifice his son in this way. Abraham lived about a thousand years before Christ. In the religious culture of that time it was not uncommon for people to sacrifice their children to various gods. The point of the story seems to be that the God of Israel is not like the pagan gods. If Abraham thought that God was asking him to sacrifice his son Isaac, like the people who worshipped other gods, he was wrong. God was not asking this of Abraham. Yet, the willingness of Abraham to let go of what was most precious to him if that was what God was asking, remained an inspiration to the people of Israel. He had already shown a willingness to



let go of his family and his homeland as he set out towards an unknown land in response to God's call.

The early church came to understand the relationship between Abraham and Isaac as pointing ahead 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 one and only Son, out of love for humanity. God was prepared to let his Son go to humanity, with all the dangers that entailed for his Son. Saint Paul was very struck by this extraordinary generosity of God on our behalf, as he says in the 2nd Reading, 'God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all'. God let his precious Son go to humanity even though the consequences of that were the rejection of his Son and, ultimately, his crucifixion. Even after Jesus was crucified, God continued to give him to us as the risen Lord. When Paul contemplates this self-emptying love of God for us, he asks aloud, in the opening line of that 2nd Reading, 'With God on our side who can be against us?' Paul is declaring that if God's love for us is this complete, then we have nothing to fear from anyone. Here is a love that has no trace of possessiveness, a love that makes us lovable.

In today's gospel reading, Peter, James and John are taken up a high mountain by Jesus, and there they have an experience of Jesus which took their breath away. It was an experience that was so precious that Peter could not let it go. He wanted to prolong it indefinitely and so he says to Jesus, 'Rabbi, 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 and the other two disciples had a fleeting glimpse of the heavenly beauty of Christ, and did not want to let go of it. Beauty always attracts; it calls out to us. Yet, Peter and the others had to let go of this precious experience; it was only ever intended to be momentary. They would receive it back in the next life as a gift. For now, their task was to listen to Jesus, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him'. That is our task too. We spend our lives listening to the Lord as he speaks to us in his word and in and through the circumstances of our lives; we listen to him as a preparation for that wonderful moment when we see him face to face in eternity and we can finally say, 'it is wonderful to be here'.

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

Practical Message during Lent

Every sacrament we receive transforms our lives.



For example, Baptism transforms us into children of God and heirs of heaven. Confirmation transforms us to brave witnesses of and warriors for Christ. Reconciliation transforms sinners to saints.

In each Holy Mass, the bread and wine we offer on the altar are transformed into the crucified and risen, living body and blood of Jesus by transubstantiation. Just as Jesus' transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each holy Mass should be our source of Heavenly strength against temptations, and our renewal during Lent. In addition, our Holy Communion with the living Jesus should be the source of our daily "transfiguration," transforming our minds and hearts so that we may do more good, by humble and selfless service to others.

In moments of doubt and during our dark moments of despair and hopelessness, pains and suffering, the thought of our future transformation in Heaven will help us to reach out to God and to listen to His consoling words: "This is my beloved son." Let us offer our Lenten sacrifices to our Lord so that, through these practices of Lent and through the acceptance of our daily crosses, we may grow closer to him in his suffering, may share in the carrying of his cross and finally may share the glory of his second "transfiguration," namely, his Resurrection.

Welcome!
This weekend through Baptism we welcome
Luna Rose Parissi and Harlow McLoughlin
into our Parish family

Dates to Remember

All Fridays during Lent: Stations of the Cross - 7pm

Thursday 4th March: Mass at 1.30pm
Mass with Anointing of the Sick

Friday 19th March: After Stations of the Cross
Healing through Adoration

Saturday 27th March: 11am - 12.30pm
Healing through Meditation on Jesus

Last Week's Collection: 21/02/21

1st Collection for our Church: \$1070.00
2nd Collection for support of clergy: \$480.00

Thank you for your kind generosity!

Sacred Heart Primary School 2021 Enrolments

Enrolments for the 2021 school year are open as of Monday 1st 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.

GENERAL LITURGICAL GUIDELINES COVID-19 Implications for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

Places of Worship and Religious Gatherings

All places of worship including churches, adoration chapels and other church buildings used for public prayer and religious services may open for permitted religious ceremonies.

- Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors. Venues must apply the 1 person per two square metre rule to ensure people have enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance between them.
- Record Keeping is required for all attendees beyond a 15 - minute visit and must include: First Name + Contact Number + date and time at which the person attended the place of worship. Records must be kept for 28 days;
- People must carry a fitted face covering at all times.
- Hygiene precautions must continue to be maintained throughout;
- Doors must remain closed to prevent public access if there is no-one available to ensure that particular number limits are maintained;
- A place of worship can have indoor or outdoor religious gatherings at the same time.

Outdoor Religious Gatherings

- Places of worship may hold religious ceremonies outdoors (note spaces below); The two square metre rule must be applied to ensure everyone has enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance from each other;
- It is recommended that fitted face coverings be worn outdoors if a distance of 1.5m between persons cannot be maintained.

More guidelines can be found at <https://bit.ly/3pym5FJ>

Weekly Catholic Radio Reflection:

Visit <https://bit.ly/3koWWw2> where you can listen anytime!

PLEASE TAKE THE BULLETIN HOME

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.

Don Bosco Lenten Retreats 2021

1. Saturday 13 March
Family Retreat Day

2. Saturday 20 March
Youth and Young Adult Reflection Day

3. Friday 26 March
Seniors Retreat Day

Further information and flyers visit: donboscoretreats.org.au

Online registrations essential as Covid number limits apply



Readers and Ministers

Please contact Cristina at the presbytery on 9480 3398 or email sacredheart3072@gmail.com, if you are interested in assisting with Reading or Minister work during Mass.

A sign up sheet is also available in the church foyer. Current readers and ministers, please fill in the sheet in the church foyer, indicating the current status of your Working with Children Check.

Please note: Working with Children's Checks must be current and only a 'volunteer' status is required, which is at no cost. Assistance to apply for a check is available if required.

Roster for weekend of 6th - 7th March 2021

	Readers
Saturday 6.00pm	Mary Harb Johnny K
Sunday 9.00am (Italian)	Volunteers
Sunday 10.30am	Ivana Lo Bello Sonya Bading
Sunday 6.00pm	Ylenia Useli Anna Liggieri

WE PRAY FOR:

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

We Commemorate
Maria Santalucia (1st Anni.) & Rocco Pennella

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 at 11am

PROJECT COMPASSION BE MORE

Caritas AUSTRALIA

Margret's Story

Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment.

The school faced water shortages for about half the year. Staff and students would walk for up to half an hour to collect water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables. Then in April 2020, amidst the threat of COVID-19, Tropical Cyclone Harold struck, damaging school buildings and its vegetable garden.

With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed eight large water tanks and provided cyclone-proof materials to repair the damage. It also helped the school to implement COVID-19 prevention measures, providing fabric for students to make face masks.

Margret's school now has enough safe water to supply the school's population of 150 and has the capacity to cater for more students. It plans to boost food security, by increasing its agricultural production. This will improve nutrition and boost the school's income, while building resilience to future disasters.

Margret hopes that the school can aspire to 'Be More'. "I am proud that our school community works together with Caritas Australia as our partner in ensuring that we live in a healthier environment," Margret says.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Cleaning Roster:
Saturday 6th March 2021
Pauline and Dale

Thank you for your help!