



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

REFLECTION By Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Today's gospel tells us that among those who go up to Jerusalem to worship at the feast of Passover are some "Greeks". The reference is probably to a group known in the early church as "God-fearers", although that designation is found only in Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles. These people were, in relation to Judaism, a bit like RCIA candidates in the Catholic tradition. They were certainly interested in Judaism and, because of their active interest in the Jewish faith, were possibly better informed about many of the Jewish traditions than those who had been members of the Jewish community all their lives. God-fearers seem to have been among the first Gentiles (non-Jews) to join the early Christian Jewish movement, i.e. the Jews who accepted Jesus as Messiah (or Christ).

For Jesus, the arrival of these God-fearing Greeks signals his "hour". Earlier in John's gospel, Jesus has insisted that his "hour" had not yet come. Now that his message receives global acknowledgement, or in the words of the Pharisees, now that "the world has gone after him" (John 20:19), he can announce that the hour of his glorification has come. Characteristically, Jesus uses a potent agricultural image to capture the transformative nature of his imminent death: like the grain of wheat, he must go into the earth and die in order to bear fruit. The same is true for his followers: to be concerned only with self-preservation is to "lose" one's life; to give one's life is to "keep it for eternal life".

Although the language is more explicit in John, the grain of wheat image echoes some aspects of the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah (31:31-34). Jeremiah presents the God of Israel as One who forgives and who is even prepared to forget the sins of the past. The people will be God's garden: the seed planted within them is God's Law. They will be God's own billboard: the law of forgiveness and mercy will be written in their hearts. John uses the "eternal life" metaphor in much the same way as the other gospel writers use the "reign of God" or "kin-dom" image. To keep one's life for "eternal life" has to do with living God's transformative vision for creation in the present so that it might one day be fully realised.

In John's gospel, Jesus' death is also his being lifted up in glory. The moment of his death becomes the moment of drawing "all" to himself. The "all" includes all people, but is not restricted to the human community. It also allows for an ecological interpretation: in his death and exaltation, Jesus gathers the whole Earth community into the mystery of God's redemptive and transforming love.

St Patrick's Cathedral

EASTER CEREMONIES TIME TABLE

CHRISM MASS - MASS OF THE OILS

Wednesday 20 March - 10.30am

HOLY THURSDAY - MASS OF THE LORDS SUPPER

Thursday 28 March - 7.30pm (Televised C31)

(Please note NO 7.00am or 1.00pm Mass)

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March (NO 7.00am Mass)

- Stations of the Cross - 9.00am in Cathedral

- Ecumenical Stations of the Cross - 10.00am

Stations of the Cross in the city

(Beginning at St Francis Church)

- THE PASSION OF OUR LORD - 3.00pm

(Televised on C31)

(Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered after
The Passion of our Lord)

- Tenebrae - 7.30pm

SATURDAY 30 March

-EASTER VIGIL - 7.30pm (Televised on C31)

SUNDAY 31 March

- 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm

(11.00am Mass (Televised on C31))

MONDAY 1 April - Public Holiday 11am Mass

Wedding Congratulations

Emily Farrugia & Sam Khoury
Yeji Ham & Huy Vu



We welcome with joy through the sacrament
of Baptism this weekend .

Ella Grace Ramsden



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday 18 March - St Patrick (Solemnity)

Tuesday 19 March - St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed
Virgin Mary (Solemnity)

Entrance Antiphon

Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.



Entrance Hymn

CWB II 120

“Forgive our sins as we forgive”
you taught us, Lord, to pray;
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your Cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew;
how small the debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you.

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots 1905-1987, alt; Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
Tune: BELMONT 86.86; melody probably by William Gardiner 170-1854, published in Sacred Melodies, Vol. 1, 1812.

First Reading

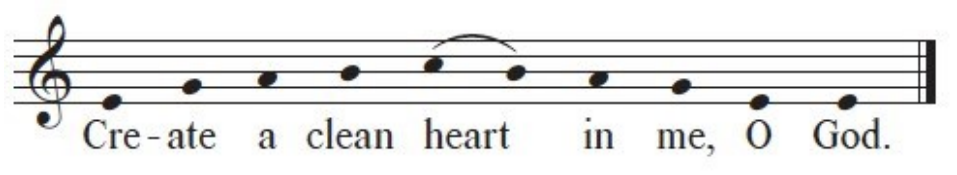
Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15



1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin.

R

2. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R

3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. R

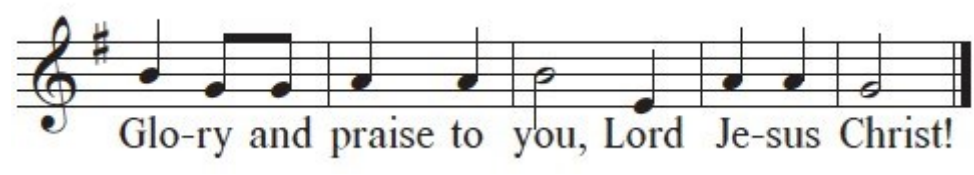
Second Reading

Hebrews 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation



If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Text: *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1980, 1981, ICEL
Music: Lucien Deiss, CSSp, 1921–2007; © 1966, 1968, 1973, World Library Publications, wlpmusic.com.
All rights reserved. Verse tone: Percy Jones, 1914–1992, harm. © the editors, NLMB (Aust.)

Gospel

John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, ‘Sir, we should like to see Jesus.’ Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: ‘Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!’ A voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, ‘It was an angel speaking to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. ‘Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.’ By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
He descended into hell;
on the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of Saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.

Memorial Acclamation

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we pro-
claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Text: English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL

Amen
All (sung twice):

A - men.

Text: English translation of The Roman Missal; © 2010, ICEL
Music: chant ICEL, © 2010

Communion Antiphon

Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat
falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain.
But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Hide me in the sha - dow of your wings.

Communion Hymn CWB II 292

Antiphon: Hear us almighty Lord, show us your mercy.
sinners we stand here before you.

Jesus our Saviour, Lord of all the nations,
Christ our Redeemer, hear the prayers we offer,
spare us and save us, comfort us in our sorrow. Antiphon

Word of the Father, keystone of God’s building
source of our gladness, gateway to the Kingdom,
free us in mercy from the sins that bind us. Antiphon

God of compassion, Lord of might and splendor,
graciously listen, hear our cries of anguish.
Touch us and heal us where our sins
have wounded. Antiphon

Humbly confessing that we have offended,
stripped of illusions, naked in our sorrow,
pardon, Lord Jesus, those your blood
has ransomed. Antiphon

Innocent captive, you were led to slaughter,
sentenced by sinners when they brought
false witness. Keep from damnation those
your death has rescued. Antiphon

Text: Latin, 10th C; Lent Prose; trans Ralph Wright OSB b.1938 © 1980 ICEL
Music: ATTENDE DOMINE, 11.11.11 with Antiphon; Chant mode V

Post-Communion/
Recessional Hymn CWB II 289 v1,2,3

From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptised in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

Through fasting, prayer and charity
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

Our graves split open, bring us back
your promise to proclaim,
to darkened tombs call out "Arise!"
and glorify your name.

Text: Alan J. Hommerding b.1956; © 1994, World Library Publicaitons, wlpmusic.com. All rights reserved.
Tune: ST. FLAVIAN 86.86; adapted from John Day, c.1522–1584, Psalms, 1562.

Mass Setting
11am: Missa Secunda – Hassler
6.30pm: Missa Quarti Toni – Victoria

Offertory
11am: Stabat Mater dolorosa – Guilmant
6.30pm: ‘Sepulto Domino’, No.18 from Tenebrae
Responsories – Victoria

Communion
6.30pm: Qui mihi ministrat (plainchant)

Organ Postlude
11am: Herzlich thut mich verlangen, Op.112,
No.10 – Brahms
6.30pm: O, Welt ich muss dich lassen – Reger

Stations of the Cross at

St Patrick's Cathedral:
Fridays 16 Feb - 22nd March at 12 noon
Good Friday (29 March) at 9am

St Augustine's Church:
Fridays 16 Feb - 22nd March at 5.30pm



Partnership in action

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities. Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.



Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *for all future generations.*

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright / Caritas Australia

A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Weekend is for YOU...

"Live Your Best Married Life in Love"



Every relationship is a journey and the grind of everyday life can easily cause you to lose touch with your spouse.

This weekend gives married couples time to nurture your relationship and some tools to keep passion alive in a gentle, supportive environment, away from pressures and distractions of daily living.

Every married couple deserves a Marriage Encounter weekend!!

The weekend is based around Catholic values and couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details

Date: 12-14 April, 2024 in Melbourne

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: [wwme.org.au](https://www.wwme.org.au)

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 7.00am and 1.00pm
(1.00pm live streamed - Link: www.youtube.com/user/archmelb) Saturday 8.00am and 6.00pm. (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am and 6.30pm.
(11.00am televised on C31. and live streamed on CAM)
Link: www.youtube.com/user/archmelb

Reconciliation will be held Tuesday to Friday
at 12pm - 12.45 pm and on Saturday mornings at 8.30am.

HOLY HOUR HELD IN THE CATHEDRAL EVERY THURSDAY AT 6.30PM

EXTRAORDINARY FORM LATIN MASS

In the Sacred Heart Chapel
at St Patrick's Cathedral
every Wednesday
at 5.30pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Each Friday at the
conclusion of the
1.00pm Mass,
in the Sacred Heart Chapel.
Exposition until 2.15pm.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

We pray for the sick, especially **Sandy Robertson** and **Mauricio Bonozzoni** for all who have asked for our prayers.

We pray for all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries we remember at this time, especially **Greg Buhagiar**, **Paul Kennedy**, **Kimberly Kitching**, **Joseph**, **Katherine** and **Jacob Chen**, **Paill Nguyen Van Nhac**, **Erminio Tarantelli**, **Carmel Simonetta**, **Carmelo De Maria** and **Janet Hinds**.

Archbishop

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Dean of

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monsignor Stuart Hall

Master of Ceremonies

Rev. Michael Buck

Assistant Priest

Rev. Jaycee Napoles

Priest in Residence

Rev. Philip Mathew

Chaplain: St Vincent's Hospital

Director of Music

Dr. Philip Matthias

Cathedral Organist

Dion Henman

Cathedral Singers

Christopher Mason

Director

Thomas Grubb

Organist

St Patrick's Cathedral Choir

in partnership with

St Kevin's College, Toorak

Cathedral Parish

Office Coordinator

Julie Allan

Cathedral Office

T: 9662 2233

E: Cathedral@cam.org.au

Cathedral Administration

Assistant

Huong Nguyen

SAFEGUARDING.

Child Protection Officer:

Rev Jaycee Napoles

Please refer to the two new posters 'Rights and Responsibilities' and 'Feel safe and be Safe at Our Church' at the entrances of the Cathedral

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding>

St Patrick's Cathedral Young Adult Ministry (SPCYAM) (age 18 to 40 yrs old)

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday at Cathedral Room, CKC Centre, 383 Albert St, East Melbourne

Last Saturday of each month; 6pm mass, followed by meal.

Contact Fr. Jaycee Napoles (Jaycee.Napoles@cam.org.au) or info.spcyam@gmail.com