

SECOND READING: Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: cf Matthew 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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

*Ex 20: 1-17; 1 Cor 1: 22-25;
Jn 2:13-25.*



Days of Penance!

1. Rules for Lent follow in (a), (b), and (c).
2. Abstinence from meat and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On all other Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) Prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making that Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
 - (b) Self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) Helping other – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you – or anyone you know – have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office at safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or by calling (02) 9390 5810.

PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office

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Office hours Tues-Fri 9am-3pm

St Therese's School

448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412



MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL:	6:00 pm.
SUNDAY:	8:00 am and 9.30am (changed to 10 am till further notice)
MONDAY:	No Mass.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY:	9.00 am Mass. Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION:	Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
Baptism:	Every Sunday at 11am or 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage:	By appointment.
Anointing of the sick:	Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Year B) 27th / 28th February 2021

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

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.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 115-10. 15-19

RESPONSE: I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said:

'I am sorely afflicted.'

O precious in the eyes of the Lord

is the death of his faithful.

Response.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name.

Response.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

before all his people,

in the courts of the house of the Lord,

in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Response.

(continued on back page)

Short Lenten reflections from St John Paul II

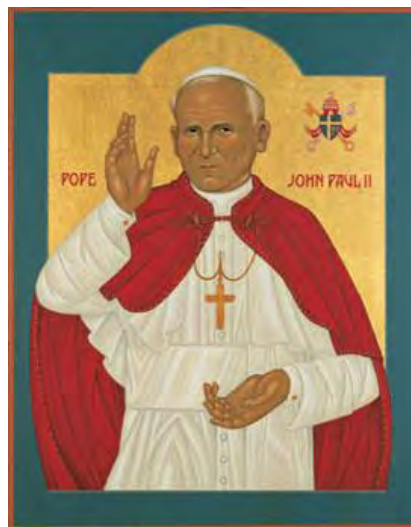
"The spirit of penance and its practice impel us to detach ourselves sincerely from our unnecessary possessions, and even sometimes from our necessary ones, which prevent us from really "being" as God wishes us to be: "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Is our heart attached to material wealth, to power over others, to subtle ways of dominating? If so, we need Christ, the Easter Liberator, who, if we wish Him to, can free us of all the bonds of sin that hold us fast."

"Penance, conversion: this is the road to follow; not a sad one, but a liberating one suggested by the Lenten period."

"Let us always remember that to share is to give to others what God intends for them and which is only entrusted to us. To give fraternally by allowing ourselves to be inspired by the love that comes from God is to contribute to alleviating physical hunger, to nourishing people's minds and to gladdening their hearts."

"Generous and voluntary fasting by those of you who have food will enable you to share the privation of those many others who regularly must search for food. The fasting of those of you who have food during Lent, a fasting which is part of our rich Christian tradition, will dispose you more fully in heart and in spirit to share your goods in solidarity with those who have little or nothing."

"Each year Lent recalls the mystery of Christ "led by the Spirit in the desert" (Lk. 4:1). With this unique experience, Jesus gave witness to His complete surrender to the will of the Father. The Church offers the faithful this liturgical season so that they can renew themselves internally through the Word of God and may express in life the love which Christ instills in the heart of everyone who believes in Him."



Project compassion 2021 – "Aspire not to have more, but to be more".

WEEK 2 - 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.

We invite you to use the envelopes or money boxes provided at the front of the Church. All donations are 100% tax deductible.



So don't forget to pick up your envelopes OR money boxes.

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Tamar Marterossian Harfvani. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries at this time especially Pasquale Simonetti (1 month anniversary) and Salvatore Simonetti (7 year anniversary).



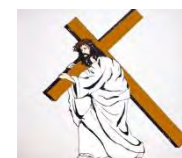
Baptism this weekend.

This Sunday we will welcome into our faith community Rose O'Hara. We congratulate her parents Cheryl & Daniel and their families.



Stations of the Cross.

Stations continues on Friday evenings throughout Lent at 7.30pm.



Don't forget Catechesis 2021 continues.

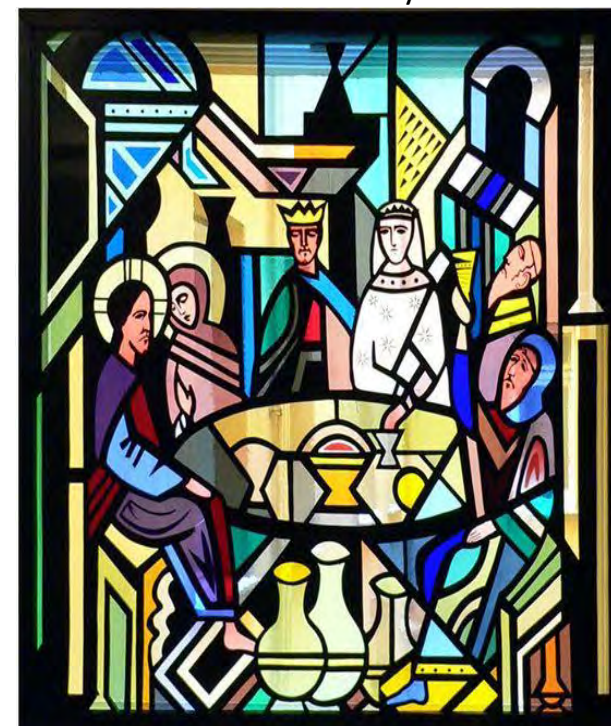
'One Voice - The Voice'

Every Sunday and Thursday Night in Lent @ 7.30 PM in the Church.

Are you able to see God in your life as Abraham did?

These catechesis hold the KEY to interpreting the trials in our daily lives.

COME and LISTEN, and spread the word to others to come and experience Christ lending a hand in our daily lives.



Sunday 10am Mass will be ongoing.

After much consideration Fr Roberto has decided we will not be reverting back to the 9.30am Sunday Mass time slot.



So the Sunday 10am Mass will continue.

Our website will be updated to reflect this change.

Catechist Meeting.

Catechist Term 1 meeting will be held on Tuesday on the 9th March in the presbytery, beginning 10.45am. Please know the number of students in your class for that meeting.



Lenten programme.

Lenten Group continues every Wednesday evening throughout Lent at 7.30pm in the Church. So the next session is on the 3rd March.



Are you OK?

In these uncertain times don't think you are alone with no one to talk to or to offer support. Don't hesitate to see Fr Roberto as he can advise of available services.

'Go Make Disciples.'

Please be aware of the Sydney Archdiocese Mission Plan. This plan will guide our priorities and direction for renewal. With the pressing needs of our ever-changing world, impels us to recreate our parish and make it more a living sign of the proximity of Christ.



Please take a copy of the summarized version of this plan home with you to read it and reflect on this and how can we implement it in our parish and think about the ways you could help too.

Covid19 Safe directions as at 12th February 2021.

- Our church limit is 85 people.
- Masks are no longer compulsory.
- Registering you attendance is still very important.
- QR codes should be used.

If you use the QR code, please also note "QR" on the attendance page where your name should have been recorded. This helps us to keep track of the numbers within the church and ensures we don't exceed our current church limit of 85 people.

