

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: 1 John 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5: 38-48

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for

those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

I will recount all your wonders

I will rejoice in you and be glad,

And sin psalms to your name, O Most High.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Gen 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7; Rom 5: 12-19; Mt 4: 1-11.

Safeguarding our community: If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney please call the appropriate authorities OR The Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812 OR **speak with our Parish Safeguarding Support Officer Helen Vaz OR Parish Priest, both of whom will be able to provide support and guidance.**

PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE



Presbytery and Office

8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone 2114 Tel: 9809 2925

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Parish Priest: Fr Roberto Castillo

Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera

Parish Secretary: Gayle White admin@sttherese.org.au

Office hours Tues, Thurs and Fri from 8am-4pm

St Therese's School

448 Blaxland Rd, Denistone 2114 (02) 9874 0412



MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 pm.

SUNDAY: 8:00 am and 10.00 am.

MONDAY: 9.15am Communion Service.

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 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.

Marriage: By appointment.

Anointing of the sick: Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

18th / 19th February 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.

My heart will rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19: 1-2. 17-18.

A reading from the book of Leviticus

You must love your neighbour, as yourself.

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy."

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 102: 1-4. 8. 10. 12-13

RESPONSE: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

Response.

It is the Lord who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

Response.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

Response.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

Response.

(continued on back page)

18 / 19 FEBRUARY 2023 – 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10.00AM
Acolyte	T DABBAH	M MORELLI	G MOODLEY
Reader	L SAMONTE & STT SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEER	H VAZ
Offertory	STT SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY
Projection	STT SCHOOL VOLUNTEER		
Altar Servers	GRP 3: SOPHIA BERNLEITNER, NIARA PAREKELEM & FREDERICK LI		GRP 7: VINCENT & ALYSSA WIDJAYA
Welcomers	STT SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS		VOLUNTEER WANTED
Counters	GROUP 6: S RATH P BRODERICK R LEUNG		
Altar Flowers	A NAGANATHAN	FEBRUARY ALTAR LINEN: MIRA SAVIC	

25 / 26 FEBRUARY 2023 – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10.00AM
Acolyte	R MORFUNI	A STANTON	D ELLIS
Reader	J PERERA	Y LEUNG	VOLUNTEER
Offertory	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY
Projection	V PERERA		
Altar Servers	GRP 4: WONG FAMILY		GRP 8: ELIE & ALYSSIA BARAZ
Welcomers	S CHAMISA		FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
Counters	GROUP 7: P TREACY S DIMICHIEL M PEARCE		
Altar Flowers	J KEYSER	FEBRUARY ALTAR LINEN: MIRA SAVIC	

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died especially Joseph Leotta and Joe Howard. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries.



Ash Wednesday.

Lent begins with ASH WEDNESDAY - 22nd February.

There will be TWO Masses - 9am and 7.30pm.

At these Masses we will distribute the burnt ashes from Palm Sunday.

Remember that on Ash Wednesday you should fast and abstain from eating meat.



Days of Penance!

- Rules for Lent follow in (a), (b), and (c).
- Abstinence from meat and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- On all other Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Project Compassion – Boxes and Envelopes are available NOW.

Get involved this Project Compassion donating as together, we can make a difference now, and **For All Future Generations.**



In our Lenten appeal, Project Compassion, we witness the power of compassion as we are invited to raise funds to help people less fortunate than us in our world. Once again we ask for your **support by using the envelopes or money boxes provided at the front of the Church**, as your generosity makes a difference to provide vital learning and renewed hope to those most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and during Lent is the most appropriate time to show our compassion. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

Lenten programmes.

There will be an opportunity to pray and study the Word of God responding to Pope Francis’ invitation by joining our Lenten Reflection programme. There are TWO groups – afternoon and evening.

Beginning on Tuesday the 28th February at 7.30pm in the St Therese School Hall

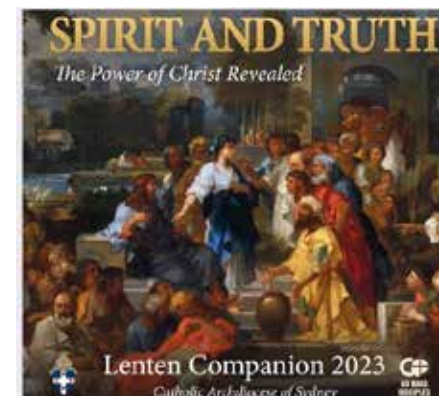
OR

Beginning on Wednesday 1st March at 3pm in the presbytery.

Please add your name to the clipboards at the front of the church if you are interested in attending.

We will be using the Lenten companion Lectio Divina from the Archdiocese of Sydney ‘Spirit and Truth’.

During Lent Jesus wants to show us that He loves us so much that He died for us. In Lent we are invited to pray, enjoy reading the scripture, pray the Stations of the Cross, attend Reconciliation and share the love of Christ with others.



Stations of the Cross.

Will begin on **Friday the 24th February** and will run throughout Lent, every Friday evening at 7.30pm. Come, meditate and pray on the Passion of our Lord to prepare well for Easter.



Welcome Mass.

This weekend we welcome the new parents and their families from our school. Everybody is welcome to meet them after Mass and say hello. All are welcome to attend the BBQ across the road in the school grounds after Mass.



Attention all Catechists.

A reminder that classes begin **THIS Tuesday the 21st February.** Our Term 1 meeting will be held the following Tuesday on the **28th February** in the presbytery, beginning 10.45am. Please know the number of students in your class for that meeting and bring a small plate of food to share.



Altar Servers training.

Is your child in Years 4-6, who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and interested to become an Altar Server? If so, read on. Fr Roberto and Thomas Dabbah will lead a training session for NEW Altar Servers on:



Saturday the 4th March at 4.30pm - 5.30pm in the church.

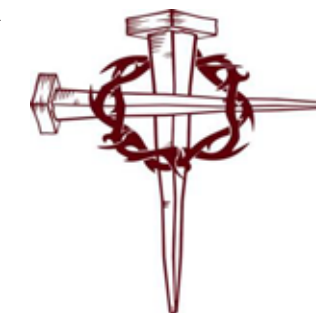
Parents, please note that you must stay with your child for the whole session.

Lenten quotes.

"Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One."

21 Feb 2020 Pope Benedict XVI

"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life"



Pope Benedict XVI

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up."

Pope Francis