

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** (Continued )

**RESPONSE:** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

O let my tongue  
cleave to my mouth  
if I remember you not,  
if I prize not Jerusalem  
above all my joys!

**Response.**

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 2:4-10

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

**When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.**

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** John 3:16

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**  
**God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,**  
**that all who believe in him might have eternal life.**  
**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL:** John 3:14-21

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

**God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believed in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer

darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

**Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.**

**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

**Jer 31: 31-34;**  
**Heb 5:7-9;**  
**Jn 12:20-33.**



## 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.**



## PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office

8 Inkerman Rd, Denistone 2114 Tel: 9809 2925

Website: [www.sttherese.org.au](http://www.sttherese.org.au)

Administrator: Fr Simon Apablaza

Deacon: Rev Mr Aruna Perera

Parish Secretary: Gayle White [admin@sttherese.org.au](mailto: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:	9.30am Communion Service.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY:	9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY:	9.00 am Mass. Exposition & Benediction from 9.40am – 10.15am every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION:	Friday during Exposition and Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
BIBLICAL REFLECTIONS:	Tuesday evening at 7.30pm at the St Therese School Hall.
Baptism:	Every Sunday at 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage:	By appointment.
Anointing of the sick:	Please give names to Father Simon Apablaza.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Year B) 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:**

**Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

**FIRST READING:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

**A reading from the second book of Chronicles**

**The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.**

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord

roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Ps 136

**RESPONSE:** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon  
there we sat and wept,  
remembering Zion;  
on the poplars that grew there  
we hung up our harps.

**Response.**

For it was there that they asked us,  
our captors, for songs,  
our oppressors, for joy.  
'Sing to us,' they said,  
'one of Zion's songs.'

**Response.**

O how could we sing  
the song of the Lord  
on alien soil?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
let my right hand wither!

**Response.**

(continued on back page)

**9 / 10 MARCH 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

	<b>SATURDAY 6.00PM – FAMILY MASS</b>	<b>SUNDAY 8.00AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10AM</b>
ACOLYTE	ROBERT MORFUNI	DAVE D'MELLO	MARC MORELLI
READER	B CLARK	P TREACY	FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
OFFERTORY	DABBAH FAMILY		FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEER
PROJECTION	TONI MORFUNI		
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 2: ZAC O'DONOGHUE, CHRISTIAN HILL & EL-AZZI FAMILY		GRP 6: SIENNA BUIST, OLIVIA JOMA, ANNA MIRABILE, GENEVIEVE MCPHIE
WELCOMERS	ALICE CHAN & PENNY ONG		FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
MUSICIANS	SHEILA LEE & JOHN KENNY & CHOIR		
COUNTERS	GROUP 6: ROBERT LEUNG    STEPHEN RATH    PATRICIA BRODERICK		
ALTAR FLOWERS	NONIE HAHN	MARCH ALTAR LINEN: JOSEFINA DELAVEGA	

**16 / 17 MARCH 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

	<b>SATURDAY 6.00PM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 8.00AM</b>	<b>SUNDAY 10AM</b>
ACOLYTE	THOMAS DABBAH	DAVID ELLIS	ANTHONY STANTON
READER	LUEN UYMATIAO / BILL KINDER	SHERRY JAYAMMANE	HELEN VAZ / HANNY WIDJAYA
OFFERTORY	DABBAH FAMILY		SCOTT & SONYA DIMICHIEL
PROJECTION	AMJAD SHEEKA		BUDY WIDJAYA
ALTAR SERVERS	GRP 3: BERNLEITNER FAMILY & FREDERICK LI		GRP 7: WIDJAYA FAMILY, ANNABELLE BOGER, LENNOX HO
WELCOMERS	ALICE CHAN & PENNY ONG		VOLUNTEER NEEDED
MUSICIANS	SHEILA LEE & JOHN KENNY & CHOIR		
COUNTERS	GROUP 7: THOMAS DABBAH    QAISER DABBAH    GABI BAYEH		
ALTAR FLOWERS:	ANNE MARIE NAGANATHAN	MARCH ALTAR LINEN: JOSEFINA DELAVEGA	



**RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER – 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
Wednesday at 7.30pm

**PALM SUNDAY – 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Saturday Vigil: 6pm, Sunday 8am and 10am.

**WEEKDAY MASSES DURING HOLY WEEK**  
Monday to Wednesday - 9am Mass.

**HOLY THURSDAY – 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
Mass of The Lord's Supper at 7.30pm with prayers and adoration till 12 midnight.

**GOOD FRIDAY – 29<sup>th</sup> March**  
Stations of the Cross at 10am.  
*(Reconciliations will be available after the Stations.)*  
The Passion of Our Lord at 3pm.

**EASTER MASSES – 30<sup>th</sup> / 31<sup>st</sup> March**  
Easter Vigil at 7.30pm – *followed by Refreshments and finger food in the School Hall*  
Sunday Masses at 8am and 10am.

**PARISH NOTICES:**

**Mass intentions Request for Mass and Prayers.**

We pray for those who have died recently especially **Merwyn Remedios.**

We also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries especially **Neville and Elaine Braidwood, Mavis Burge, Colleen Conway, Maria Santa Maria, Mark Pearce and Manuel Wong.**

**Family Mass and Cuppa THIS weekend.**

Family Mass THIS weekend at 10am followed with "CUPPA" hosted by our school. Everyone is most welcome to stay back and have a "cuppa" with parish friends.



**Course for Acolytes.**

Training continues THIS Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> Mar at 6:30pm-9:30pm in the School Hall.

**Lenten programme.**

The group discussion evening continues on **Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30** in the St Therese School Hall.

**Attention all Catechists.**

A reminder that our Term 1 meeting will be held THIS Tuesday on the **12<sup>th</sup> March** in the presbytery, beginning 10.30am. Please bring a small plate of food to share.

**Stations of the Cross.**

Will continue on **Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> March** and will run throughout Lent, every Friday evening at 7pm.

**Palm branches are needed.**

Please bring them to the Church on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March or Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March *before the 9am morning Mass* and leave the palms at the **Church entrance closest to the presbytery.**

**Working bee.**

Our NEXT working bee will be held on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March from 9.30am. We will be preparing the church for our Easter celebrations and also cutting up the palms for the Palm Sunday Masses. Come along and help, bringing your rakes, gloves and secateurs.

**Volunteers to Setup the Hall.**

Volunteers are needed to set up the tables for the Easter Vigil Celebration on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. **Please write your name on the clipboard at the front of the church.**

**Volunteers for Holy Week Roster.**

Our Holy Week volunteer roster sheets for all our Easter Services are in the foyer. Please add your name if you able to help at any of the Masses.



**Seven Churches Visitation on Holy Thursday.**

The Seven Churches Visitation is especially Roman Catholic, Lenten tradition to visit seven churches on the evening of Holy Thursday following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Blessed Sacrament is placed on the Altar of Repose in the church for Adoration. During the Seven Churches Visitation, the faithful visit several churches to pray before the Blessed Sacrament in each church.

This year our parish is on the list of churches open till midnight for pilgrims to visit. To find out other churches that will be open for visitation please see the noticeboard.

**Project Compassion.**

Please continue to be generous with your donations to help people like Memory who became the first female carpenter in her village.



To make your donations please use the envelopes or money boxes from the front foyer.



**Easter Vigil Celebration.**

Our community will celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with a catch up in the school hall after the Vigil on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Due to the lateness of the Holy Saturday Vigil we suggest it be a night of casual drinks and nibbles.

So please bring a bottle of wine or finger food to share with everyone.



**Parish Council Meeting - update.**

The following items discussed:

- Planning for Holy Week Services.
- Working bee on March 23 for Palm Sunday.
- Refreshments to be held after Easter Vigil.
- Parishioners to bring finger food & drinks.
- Large number of applicants for the position of Parish Secretary.
- New video screens.

**THE Catholic Weekly**

- Hollywood star Mark Wahlberg seen at St Mary's Cathedral
- Cumberland Council bans drag queen story time
- Melkite youth lead Lenten fundraiser for war-torn families
- Conscientious objection played down in ACT dying law report
- Gender report shows Catholic workplaces nurture women
- Philippa Martyr: Let chastity bring you inner peace