



St Mary's Parish

Incorporating the Catholic communities of Hamilton, Dunkeld, Macarthur, Glenthompson and Penshurst.

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Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

11 March 2018

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23

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."

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 136. R. v.6

*(R.) Let my tongue be silenced,
if ever I forget you!*

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. 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.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

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.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 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 Jn 3:14-21

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.

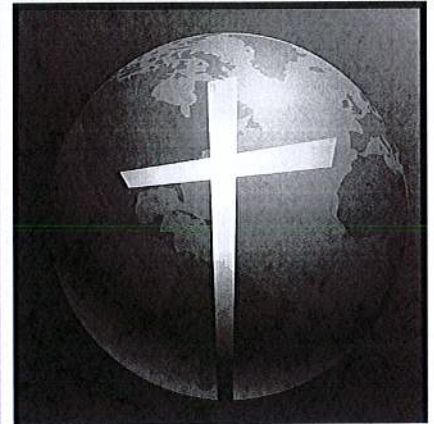
Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

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.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son - the Word made Flesh - is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love - will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

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Weekend Mass Times @ Hamilton: 6pm (Sat) & 10:30am (Sun)

Weekday Mass Times @ Hamilton Tue, Thur, Frid. 10am
& Wed 5.15pm

ST MARY'S PRIMARY, HAMILTON

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Principal: Mr Mark McGinnity

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the Gunditjmara people.

Country Mass Schedule

	1 st Sun	2 nd Sun	3 rd Sun	4 th Sun	5 th Sun
Penshurst 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	Mass	SAWC	Mass	Mass
Dunkeld 8:30am	Mass	No Service (To Glen)	Mass	SAWC	SAWC
Glenthompson 8:30am	SAWC	Mass	No Service (To Dunkeld)	Mass	SAWC
Macarthur 8:30am	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)	Mass	No Service (To Ham)	No Service (To Ham)

St Joseph's Penshurst

11 March - Cuppa after Mass
25 March - Sandy O'Brien bequest presentation.

18th March 2018

Lector	Catherine Loria
Prayers	Terry Pezutti
Gifts	
Special Minister	Terry Pezzutti
Leader	Brendan Kelly
Communion to Hospital	Terry Pezzutti

Our Parish Collections

1st Collection: Priest Support: \$959

2nd Collection: Stewardship (2017-2018 FY)

Pledged: \$118,820 Given: \$70,442

St Mary's Parish Mission Outreach

(10% of Stewardship) This Financial Year;

Sr Lorudes—Kenya Mission \$5,000

St Mary's Parish Ministry Roster

	10 & 11 March Ministers of Communion	17 & 18 March Minister of Communion
6 pm	J Ryan, J Gustus & M Byrne	P & M Dunn & K Brewis.
10.30am	F Soulsby, D Dunn, M Bell & P Fitzgerald.	U Murphy, P Stanhope, P Fitzgerald, Pryia & Nicola J.

Date	Welcome	Computer	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Commentator	Gifts	Cuppa	Count Team
10/03	Kylie-Ann S J Schurmann	Pauline Murphy	Michael McGrath	Terrielynn Groves	Margaret Meagher	J & M Duyvestyn	Kylie-Anne Shanahan	I Ferguson L Stevens.
11/03	Anne & Des Slattery	Jo-Anne Bond	Bryan Roberts	Ursula Murphy	Val Lovell	Stanhope Family	J & Glenn Howell	
17/03	S McCaskill J Schurmann	Pauline Kelly	John Duyvestyn	Ted Oliver	Annette Mason	T Tuppen G Grinham	Helen & John W	B & J Roache
18/03	Anne Slattery	Felicity Shaw	Rohan Fitzgerald	Carmel Schlaghecke	Jo-Anne Bond	P Blohm A Aylmer	Trish Irving	

Celebration of St Patrick's Day

Saturday 17th March

ALL WELCOME

St Patrick's Church Dunkeld

Mass at 6pm followed by
an "Irish" meal.

Cost \$10per head. BYO DRINKS.

Raffle tickets available on the night
for Wood & Photographic Voucher
(donated by Greg G).

Bookings essential by Tuesday 13 March

Helen 55772375 OR Keryn 55772364

THE HAMILTON & DISTRICT RURAL AUSTRALIANS FOR
REFUGEES & HAMILTON & ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

proudly present

HOPE ROAD

A REFUGEE FILM BY TOM ZUBRYCKI

MARCH 17TH 7:30PM

HAMILTON & ALEXANDRA COLLEGE KANTOR MUSIC
& PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

\$10 PER PERSON OR \$5 STUDENTS INCLUDES
COMPLEMENTARY SUPPER.

BOOK ONLINE @ TRYBOOKING.COM

St Mary's Parish

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Deaths: Graeme Page, Faye Rizzo.

Our prayers and thoughts are with these families.

Anniversary:

Aimee Callaway, Kevin Cass, Geoffrey Eales, Beryl Pickett,
John Baumer, Murray Kealy, John Kinnealy, Margery McFarlane,
Joan Brownlee, Jim Reed, Shirley McNamara.

THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Noreen Kenny, Jenny Jenz-Watt

We welcome into the family of God
through Baptism
at St Thomas'
on Sunday 11th March.

Ella Rose McLean



daughter
of
Bradley
& Sarah



Reconciliation

Hamilton - Wed. 21st March 7:30pm.

Easter Ceremonies

Palm Sunday - 25th March

Hamilton 10.30am

Glenthompson & Penshurst 8.30am.

Dunkeld SAWC 8.30am.

Holy Thursday - 29th March @ 7pm

Hamilton & Dunkeld.

Good Friday - 30th March @ 3pm

Hamilton & Dunkeld.

Easter Vigil - 31st March @ 7.30pm. Hamilton.

Easter Sunday - 1st April

Hamilton & Dunkeld @ 10.30am.

Glenthompson & Penshurst @ 8.30am.

If you are available to take part in the Hamilton
Easter ceremonies.

There is an opportunity for you to volunteer.

Lists available at the table in the gathering
space of the church.



PRAYER

Almighty and ever-faithful God,
in this season of Lent
we listen attentively to your word.
We ask you to bless us with your gifts
of discernment, wisdom and good counsel.

May we always be
the Body of Christ
blessed, broken and given

to a world hungry for your truth,
compassion, mercy and justice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

www.facebook.com/stmaryschurchhamilton



Preparing for the 2020 Plenary Council of the Australian Catholic Church

The Australian Bishops at their November meeting decided that the Plenary Council will be held in two sessions, one in October 2020 around the tenth anniversary of Mary Mackillop's canonisation and the second in May 2021. One of these sessions will be held in Central Australia and the other in one of the major cities on the East Coast.

In the next few months, the Facilitation Team and the Executive Council will prepare a website, social media access, a Plenary Council logo and prayer, a survey [online and on paper] and other instruments to ensure that all Catholics can be consulted in as full, free and productive way as possible. Meanwhile, the Bishops are to appoint working groups to ensure that the people in their dioceses, parishes, schools, health care and social welfare facilities can be involved.

The official launch will be on Pentecost Sunday 2018. That will begin a year of consultation through diocesan and parish meetings, family conversations, facilitated community discussions, meetings with schools, health care, social welfare agencies, with aboriginal groups, the poor, listening sessions with the bishops and so forth. There will also be consultation and reporting back through the website, discussion through social media, and other ways. The hope is that many Catholics, active and disaffected, will take the opportunity to help plan the future of our Australian Church.

After Easter 2019 we will try to review and consolidate what has been said in the hope of beginning a second phase of consultation and prayerful discernment after Pentecost 2019.

Early in 2020 the main issues and directions should be clearer and we can prepare documents, merciful and inspiring ones along the lines of the Vatican II documents. These can then be shared and attract feedback and discernment before the October 2020 first Session. They may also be accompanied by legislation to ensure they are implemented.

All the bishops must attend the Plenary Council, but it is also hoped to have many lay people, priests and religious present. It is difficult to say at right now, but if there is voting at this session, it will be largely consultative and

involve all delegates. Then as with Pope Francis' recent two Synods on the Family the results of the first session will be published and open for consultation in the seven months of prayerful deepening before the final session where the bishops, having listened to the Australian church, will finalise the documents and any necessary legislation to be submitted to the Pope for approval.

Because this is meant to be an open consultation where "everything is on the table" it is difficult to say at this stage what the major themes will be and what legislation will be required. But one thing is clear, whatever legislation is required our bigger need is to talk to and appreciate one another. There is a certain amount of fatigue in the church these days that no law will resolve. We need to discover the Spirit in the church and among ourselves.

Pope Francis is convinced that it is by listening to one another that we listen to God and that "open and fraternal debate makes theological and pastoral thought grow". He is also convinced in the power of face-to-face encounter. Hopefully, there will be plenty of opportunities for personal encounters in the process. We need one another. All being well, if we can learn to speak boldly, listen humbly and always with an open prayerful heart we may not only learn what the Spirit wants for us but also come to respect and even enjoy one another.

Fr Noel Connolly SSC is a lecturer in Missiology at both the Broken Bay Institute and the Catholic Institute of Sydney. He is also a member of the Adult Formation Team with Catholic Mission Australia and has recently been appointed by the Australian Bishops to the Facilitation Team for the Plenary Council 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent



11th March 2018



Evangeline featured in Project Compassion 2016. With the support of Caritas Australia, she has risen to the role of Senior Arts worker at Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation, now a multi-level contemporary arts centre and major employer for young people in her remote Northern Territory community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future. A Just Future starts with your support!
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

I give you a new commandment: love one another; you must love one another just as I have loved you. It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognise you as my disciples. *John 13: 34-35*

Please stay for a cuppa after Mass to live this Commandment!