

COMPACT

St John the Apostle Parish

A Missionary of the Sacred Heart Parish

3rd Sunday of Lent Year C

28 February 2016

#14.16

“To be on earth the Heart of God”

Parish Administration:

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MASS TIMES

Vigil Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 6:00pm

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 9:30am

LITURGIES

Liturgy of the Word with Communion: Tues 9:30am

Baptisms: 1st & 3rd Sun 11:30 am

Reconciliation: Sat 11:00 – 11:30 am or by
appointment with the priests

PRAYER

Charismatic Prayer: Thursday 7:30pm

Maida: 0423 658 326 Rosary 7:00pm

Meditation [Library] Friday 7.30-8.15 pm

Morning Prayer: Mon, Tues, Fri 9:10am

Stations of the Cross First Fri Monthly 5:30pm

From the Pastor's Desk.....

I was grateful to those who helped prepare for the Children's Mass last Sunday, and of course to the children who took part in the various ministries. At St John's we value the presence of children in the Mass and their active involvement in ministry. Children are a great blessing and parents and educators have a special responsibility to nurture, protect and guide these youngsters. Children should have the opportunity to thrive at home, school, sporting and community events and in their parish.

It is therefore sad and disturbing that we hear of so many cases of betrayal of trust that the Royal Commission into Institution Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has uncovered. What the Commission has highlighted is a systemic failure of the Church to deal effectively with incidences of sexual abuse perpetrated by members of the clergy and religious. As a result the credibility of the church has been tarnished. The church is in a mess. Unless it is able to free itself from its present medieval mindset then the liberating message of Jesus will be muted. From the outset of his pontificate Pope Francis has set an agenda of reform. But there is still widespread and entrenched opposition within the church to these necessary and deep seated reforms.

While the Commission's mandate has been to investigate institutional response to child sexual abuse its terms of reference does not include the abuse and neglect suffered by children in detention centres operated by the Australian government. It beggars belief that as a nation we can tolerate such institutional sanctioned cruelty.

Lent is a time of repentance. In today's gospel Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree and its failure to produce fruit. Normally such a tree would be cut down. But in this parable it is given another year - but only a year! The message is clear. Repentance cannot be put off. God grants us time to get our house in order but we have to act immediately. Whether as individuals, a community, a nation, a church, the necessity for repentance is always before us if we are to fully experience the liberating power of Christ's love.

Peace & blessings, Gerard

God's Mercy is Incomprehensible

The gospel reports two violent incidents, the slaughter of some Galileans, and the collapse of a tower on innocent people. These two occurrences raised the question of culpability. People wondered what terrible things the victims might have done to deserve such dire consequences. Jesus insists that they were no more guilty of sin than anyone else. He tells a parable to demonstrate the mercy of God, who is willing to give us time to repent.

When Pope Francis threw open the Door of Mercy in Rome signifying the start of the "Year of Mercy" on December 8, 2015, he said, "How much wrong we do to God and his grace when we speak of sins being punished by his judgement before we speak of their being forgiven by his mercy. We have to put mercy before judgement, and in any event, God's judgement will always be in the light of his mercy"--which is infinite!

Judgement is too often the final word, and so it remains in our memories, which naturally turn toward fear. Unfortunately, the most common view of God's judgement is retributive justice, which appeals to the ego, rather than restorative justice, which brings true transformation.

Up to now, Christianity has largely mirrored culture instead of transforming it. Reward/punishment, good guys versus bad guys, has been the plot line of most novels, plays, operas, movies, and wars. This winners/losers model is the way the dualistic mind perceives reality. The way to transform this type of thinking is through prayer and grace.

The lessons that Jesus teaches are sobering. First, we never know what lies ahead for us, and so we must always be reconciled with God. Second, while God may be patient with our procrastination, this patience requires that we cooperate with the opportunities provided for our maturing in righteousness.

Resources used; *Reflection* by Dianne Bergant CSS at LiturgyHelp and *Mercy before Judgement* by Richard Rohr

Key Quotes from *Laudato Si'* Pope Francis' Encyclical on Ecology & Climate

"Today, however, we have to realize that a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor."

GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The youth of our parish are invited to participate in the Good Friday - Stations of the Cross.


**Practice: Saturday 5th & 19th March
4:00pm–5:00pm Parish Church**

If you would like to be involved please contact the Parish Office on 6253 3236 or Kippax@cg.org.au

SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB

We are reading



"Borrowed Finery: a memoir" 
By Paula Fox

Sunday 20 March 3:00 pm Parish Library.

There are 3 books available to borrow in the parish office.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION and a CUPPA. If English is not your first language then come and join in the conversation.

Thursdays - Next Meeting 3 March
10am Parish Centre

Pre-school age children welcome.

Guinness & God – 1 March – 'Clear Away the Rubbish.'

International speakers and author Adrian and Bridget Plass, will be looking at the silly and serious things that get in the way of sane and accessible Christianity.

For a night of humour, reflections, and fellowship come along for dinner from 6.30pm, talk from 7:30pm, at King O'Malley's Irish Pub in Civic. For more info email youth@cg.org.au or call 6163 430

Library News: "Grieving through rejection", "Basic skills for Christian counsellors" and "Intimacy and solitude" are three of the titles of psychology books on current display in the library.

JUBILEE OF MERCY

THE SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to "help our neighbour in their spiritual needs

The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- ✦ Counselling the Doubtful
- ✦ Instructing the Ignorant
- ✦ Admonishing the Sinner
- ✦ Comforting the Sorrowful
- ✦ Forgiving Injuries
- ✦ Bearing Wrongs Patiently
- ✦ Praying for the Living and the Dead

INSTRUCTING THE IGNORANT

Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith.

- Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish
- Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend
- Know your faith! Borrow a book from the parish library.

Leaving Collection for Fiji

There will be a leaving collection after each of the masses next weekend 5/6th March .

Our Monthly Children's Mass

is moving from the 3rd Sunday to the 2nd Sunday of the month, commencing in March. The 10:00am mass on 13 March 2016 will be the children's mass.

Coffee club will follow this mass and you are all invited and encouraged to join with other parishioners in this social event.

2016 – DATES FOR YOU CALENDAR

3 rd Mar	English Conversations 10:00am Ministry Discernment Night 7:00pm
4 th Mar	Stations of the Cross 5:30pm
5 th /6 th Mar	Ministry Commitment Day
11 th Mar	Stations of the Cross 5:30pm
14 th Mar	Office Closed: Canberra Day

Ministry Expo Time, Talent and Treasure

Information on the various liturgical ministries is available on the marked tables in the foyer.

If you feel called to a particular ministry please talk to one of the representatives at the table and take a brochure and a Time, Talent & Treasure form home.

There will be a discernment evening Thursday 3rd March 7:00pm in the church. Our prayer is that this will assist you with your prayerful discernment of the gifts that you can offer in service to God.

You are asked to return your Time, Talent and Treasure form on the weekend 5/6 March - Commitment Sunday.

If you are new to the parish registration forms are also on the table, please complete and return to the parish office.

Sacrificial Giving (planned giving forms) are also available for new givers and those interested in increasing their giving.



This year there are 3 Time, Talent and Treasure forms.

1. White – Ministries at Mass
2. Yellow – Other Ministries
3. Blue – Treasure – Planned Giving



Children's Time and Talent

You can offer your gifts and talents back God by participating in ministries at the children's mass.

- Reader of Gods' Word
- Greeter
- Collection Plane
- Offertory
- Children's choir

Practice Thurs 3:30pm – Church
Altar Server – [children who have made their First Holy Communion are eligible to serve.]

Talk it over with mum and dad and complete a Time, Talent & Treasure form.

ROSTERS

6 March Ministers of Communion

6:00pm	Helen Kennedy, Eric French, Debbie Milne, Joe & Maria Catanzariti
8:30 am	Carmel Screen, Sigrid Kropp, Lyn Duck, Agnes Pham, Vacant
10:00am	Robert Greig, Jenny Howarth, Robin Williams, Bonnie & Rose Benedictos
6:00 pm	Margaret Curry, Maria Devine, Anthony Dunnicliff-Hagan, James & Toni Cox

Reading Roster

6:00pm	Michael Horan, Lesley Givens
8:30 am	John O'Heir, Violet Duve
10:00am	Colleen Reed, Ann Reynolds
6:00 pm	Mary Sharf, Robert Sharf

Hospitality Roster

6:00pm	Joe Catanzariti
8:30 am	Agnes Pham, Carmel Screen
10:00am	Farid & Victoria Nauum
6:00 pm	Judith Deklin

Other Rosters

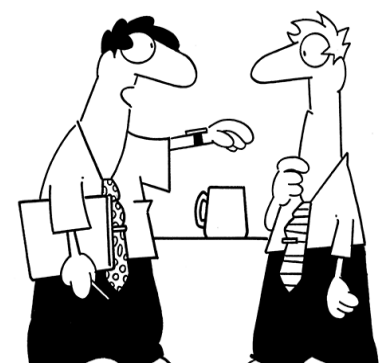
- 29 Feb Altar Society: Maresa Laird
 29 Feb Church Cleaning: VACANT
 5 March Presbytery Cleaning: Margaret Ohlin, Maryanne Ferguson, Margaret Sheehan, Ann Clementine, Lynette Weaver
 6 March Counting Roster: John O'Heir, Marlene Purnell
 5 March Grounds: Barry Dwyer, Peter Onstenk, John Dudley

School of Religion: – 9.15 am-10.00 am
 Sundays Parish Centre (School Term Only)
 For children not attending a Catholic School



Hearing Loop: - We have a hearing loop in the body of the church. To access it turn your hearing aid to the T-Switch setting.

On A Lighter Note: 🎵



"My new smart watch is amazing! It lets me see what time it is without taking my phone out of my pocket!"

✠ Let us pray for those who are sick.
 We remember them in our Masses. 🕯

Recently Deceased:
 Abbot Patrick Barry OSB

Anniversary: Elena Zamora, Adrian Newton, Adrienne Stewart, Ashley Kent, Hayden Ricketts, James McKay, Dorothy Jeffrey, Leo McDonald, Rachael Netting, Francisca Benedictos, Sharon Williams, Ian Coffill, Evelyn Swaris, Josephine Hawkins, Damien Lamb, Oscar Zamora, Darrell Rutter, Henry Sealey, Marie Hallahan.

RESPONSE TO THE PSALM:

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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 IN A NUTSHELL

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.