

The Living Word

Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B

17 March 2024

First Reading Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on my, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt.
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
3. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
that I may teach transgressors your ways
and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

The moment of eschatological fulfilment gathers together the sense of the past ('the days when Christ was in the flesh'), the future ('the days are coming'), and the present ('the hour has come'). We live in the time when the past and the future are made present; we live in the 'already-but-not-yet' time of anticipation/fulfilment. This is a moment of great ambiguity, of fear and trepidation but of electric excitement. It is a moment of decision. We hover at the edge of dawn, weighing whether or not to step forward into the new day or to return to the darkness of night.

This 'hour' brings a new covenant, a deep interior relationship with God that is not based on law but which overflows from a commitment of the heart. It brings an abundant harvest that springs from a simple grain of wheat. It brings a promise from God's own Son that those who serve him will be honoured by God, and those who obey him will enjoy eternal life.

Although the 'hour' brings all of these blessings, it only does so with a price. The new covenant could only be written on new hearts; the abundant harvest sprang from the dying grain of wheat; eternal salvation was won at the price of Christ's blood. As challenging as the message of these readings may be, the last note is one of hope. It can overcome the demons that control us, because it is the power of the almighty God.

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Entrance Antiphon: Cf Psalm 42:1-2 Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

Communion Antiphon: John 12: 24 Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. © Liturgy Help 2024

PAUSE MOMENT

"Be still and know that I am God"
PS 46:10

GOULBURN MISSION

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WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday ---- 6pm SPP Goulburn

6pm Taralga

Sunday ----- 8am (OLOF), 10 am (SPP)

9am (Crookwell)

Binda - 10.30am (1st Sunday)

Marulan - 8.30am (2nd Sun)

Tarago - 8.30am (3rd Sun)

Tuena - **Nil until further notice**

Bungonia St Michael's: 7pm, Thurs Rosary

CONFESSIONS

SPP: 11.30 -12 (Wed /Thurs/Fri), Sat 5.15pm

OLOF: Sat. 9.30am -10am

Taralga: 5.30pm (1st Sat)

Crookwell: 8.30am (2nd Sun)

Taralga: 5.30-5.50pm Saturdays in Lent

ADORATION & BENEDICTION: SPP

11am Fridays

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - 5pm (OLOF),

Wed, Thurs Fri - 12md (SPP)

Sat - 9am (OLOF)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mar 20: 6pm II Rite of Reconciliation Crookwell.

Mar 21: 7pm II Rite of Reconciliation SPP

Mar 28: Holy Thursday

Apr 1-8: OFFICE CLOSED FOR EASTER

Apr 13: Men's Breakfast **7.30am -9am** Tatts.

Apr 24: Readers Workshop **5.pm** Wednesday SPP

Apr 25: 9am ANZAC Day Mass

MISSION NOTICES

Stations of the Cross - Fridays in Lent

10.00am: Taralga, 4.00pm: Crookwell,
Goulburn: 5.30pm SPP

PROJECT COMPASSION APPEAL 2024:

Together, we can build a better world.

Crookwell

St Mary's Church will be closed for refurbishment **from 18 March**. Please help with the rearrangement of Church interior after the Mass on Sunday 17 March.

March 20: 6pm II Rite of Reconciliation

Taralga

Good Friday Stations of the Cross: An ecumenical service, walking the way of the cross, will be held at Gray Park on Good Friday commencing at 1PM.

Confession: Saturday's- 5.30pm-5.50pm for the remainder of Lent-**9th, 16th and 23rd** of April

Prayer group-10.30am Wednesday 20th March.

Goulburn

PARISH MEN'S BREAKFAST

The next men's breakfast will host Guest Speaker:

Fr. Damien Styles, Australian Military chaplain.

Contact: Michael Lamarra: 0419 019 304

MINISTRY Readers Workshop

Readers both **CURRENT** and **NEW** are welcomed to April 24th at 5pm SPP

Holy Hour Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday **AFTER** mass at OLOF, Starting 9th of April

Morning Prayer: OLOF 9am Holy Saturday 30th March

The Office will close Thursday 28th March, and reopen after Easter on Tuesday April 9th

Recently Deceased: Dorothy (Lorraine) Davies, Wayne McKay, Stephen Cole, Hector Rodger, John Cassidy, Colleen Quinn, Brendan Craig, Pauline Hill. Josephine Rankin Ng, Spiro Grech, Julie Kelly, Edward (Ted) Turley, John and Muriel Scrivener, Alan Worlton, James Unwin, Patricia Fairall.

Anniversaries: Pat Phemister, Mary, Theo, Dolph and Henrietta Groves, Brian Webb, Peter Hartley, Ray Elliott, Lyle Elliott, Jack Stevens, Kevin McManus, Salvatore Depetro, Elaine Petrivic, Ryan and Dignos Families, Brian Webb, Mollie Evans, Ray Elliott, Johanna Kennedy, Joseph Kennedy, Richard Kennedy, Ruby Kennedy, Megan Pigram, George Cummins, Mary Jane and Braydon Golding, Claude and Gwenda Bourcaier, Anne Fisher, Monica Croke, Wynne Rendall, Noel and Ursula Riley, Joan Finucane.

Prayers: Charles, John Paul, Sean Cauduro, Bruce Canning, Bob Bower, Damian Gleeson,