

# The Living Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year B

10 March 2024

## 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 Fr Michael Tate

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us.

'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.'

Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended!

Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter.

Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light.

Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation.

We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

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**Entrance Antiphon:** Cf Isaiah 66:10-11

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

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf Psalm 121: 3-4

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. © Liturgy Help 2024

**PAUSE MOMENT**

INSIGHT! I simply breathe in this moment. What gift presents itself?

**GOULBURN MISSION**

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[goulburn@cg.org.au](mailto:goulburn@cg.org.au) Ph. 0403 631 797WEB: [www.mqagoulburn.com.au](http://www.mqagoulburn.com.au)**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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sat)**Crookwell:** 8.30am (2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

*The Office will close Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, and reopen after Easter on Tuesday April 9<sup>th</sup>.*

**Recently Deceased:** John Cassidy, Colleen Mary 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, Samantha Manette.

**Anniversaries:** 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, Lorna Lyons, Paul and Merilyn Vainross, Bill Murphy, Herman Boller, Joan Fincune.

**Prayers:** John Paul, Sean Cauduro, Bruce Canning, Bob Bower, Damian Gleeson Gavin McKensie, Olivian Suess, Gerard Mackay, Judith Power, Stephanie Duss-Hasserra,

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**Mar 16: St Joseph's Motor pilgrimage **4pm -6pm**Mar 17: St Patricks day **11am** Get together SPP

Mar 21: 7pm II Rite of Reconciliation SPP

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 to shift the pews to the school Hall 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-**9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>** of April at CTK.

**Prayer group-10.30am Wednesday 20th March.****Goulburn****St Patricks Day Luncheon**After Mass March the 17<sup>th</sup> at SPP.**St Joseph's Men's Social Evening**6pm, Saturday March the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Centertown Lagoon for dinner and a talk.

Contact the office by March 10<sup>th</sup> to book a seat!!!**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 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm SPP