

3rd Sunday of Lent

Year C

Sunday 23rd March 2025

First Reading **Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15**

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8**

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**
4. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**



Second Reading **1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:17**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel **Luke 13:1-9**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

St. Mary's Parish Cowes Three Churches—One Parish

St Mary's—Cowes

Our Lady Star of the Sea—San Remo

St. Joseph's—Bass

Parish Priest: Father Manny Lomagno Parish Secretary: Kerry Laughton-McConnon

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9.30am –2.30pm Parish Safeguard Officer: Brendan Marrinon.

Mass/Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Times

Star of the Sea—San Remo

Tuesday 9.15am Mercy Prayer followed by the Rosary & Mass at 10am. Saturday 6pm Mass.

St Mary's—Cowes

Mass 9am Wednesday & Friday.

Reconciliation Saturday 10am-11am

Mass Sunday 9am

St. Joseph's, Bass Mass Sunday 11am. Liturgy of the World with Holy Communion Wed 9am. Adoration & Prayer Wed 9.30—10am & 7-8pm

Solemnity: The Annunciation of the Lord, Tuesday 25th March

Anniversary: We remember & pray for June McKechnie



REFLECTION

by Fr Michael Tate © Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Politics, Economics, and the Gardener

There was a terrible disaster when a building fell down killing eighteen people. Some said, 'Oh, those killed must have been sinners, they or their parents.' Jesus repudiates that notion: 'No, it wasn't for anything they did.' It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of poor construction and conditions at Siloam. Look at the builder.

Responsibility needs to be brought home to those who would otherwise hide behind a religious ideology, or the sheer self-interest of evading blame for a situation.

To identify those really responsible may well require major changes to the way society is organised.

Does it all seem too difficult? Jesus helps us with a metaphor: You are like a fig tree which may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener:

I will water you, dig around you, make sure you are well nourished so that you will bear the fruits I desire.

Our Lord does that by:

watering us with the waters of baptism;

pruning us, especially during Lent;

nourishing us with the bread of life in Holy Communion.

We might pause at various times during Lent to allow Our Lord to garden us so that he may create a heavenly botanical garden, a new Eden, of the whole of humanity.



Bible Study 2025. Bible Study on Wednesday 26th March at 10am St. Mary's Church Hall. New participants are welcome. For further information ring Nicholas on 0409 582 012



Bass Prayer Group on Monday 24th March at 7pm. Contact Wendy Power 56 782271. All Welcome



Lenten Group on Thursday 27th March at 7pm at St. May's, Cowes in the Parish Hall



Parish Lunch—Instead of our usual lunch in April, we are organising a lunch at the RSL on ANZAC Day. It is a \$10 carvery. We have booked for 40. If you would like to attend please ring Merrilyn 040 325 8317 by Monday, April 21.



Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes are available at the back of the Church.



News from Our Lady Star of the Sea

We saw lots of green on Monday as we celebrated St Patrick's Day. There was so much excitement in the afternoon as a Ga Ga Pit was being installed, many thanks to the local Rotary and the Village school high school for organising this for us. We had our school photos on Tuesday morning, so it was another busy day. Our lawn bowls team has been selected and they had another practice before they compete against other schools next week.

Easter Raffle—This Easter the Parish will hold a Easter Raffle. Donations will be greatly appreciated. Baskets are now available at the back of the Church.



Prayer of Intercession.

We pray for all those who live with a disability, especially those who are stigmatised in any way. May we do all we can to support their flourishing as truly equal participants in the human family.



Lenten Prayer - 3rd Sunday of Lent

God of our journey we are all pilgrims of hope brought together by your love and your wish that we may all be one.

We pray that in this Year of Jubilee when we are called to greater justice and care for our common home that we may *Unite Against Poverty*.

May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed and the renewal of creation.

May our compassionate minds and generous hearts help bring about a world where all can live in peace.

May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer bring us closer to your loving heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen



We are a child safe parish. Any children, young persons and adults at risk have a right to feel safe and be safe. If you are concerned about any form of abuse, or believe that someone is at significant risk, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Safety Officer. He can be contacted through the Parish Office. Ph 03 59 525 418

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