

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

Sunday 26th January 2025

First Reading **Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10**

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

They read from the book of Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The word of the Lord

Responsorial **Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63**

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**
2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**
3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. **(R.)**
4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

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

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

Gospel Acclamation **See Luke 4:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives
and to the blind new sight,
to set the downtrodden free,
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord

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

6 Cowes Rhyll Road Cowes 3922 PO Box 878 Cowes 3922 Telephone 59 525 418 Email cowes@cdsale.org.au

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.

Mass Saturday 6pm

St Mary's—Cowes Mass 9am Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. Sunday 9am.

Reconciliation Saturday 10-11am.

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

Anniversaries: We remember and pray for Miranda Van Boom, Fr. William Shanahan.

Memorial: St. Thomas Aquinas, Tuesday 28th January,

St. John Bosco, Friday 31st January

Holy Hour: At St. Mary's Cowes, on Saturday 1st February beginning at 10am and concluding with Benediction.

Happy Australia Day



REFLECTION

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

Relax: You are Accepted

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth is divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'.

But, in proclaiming 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax!!* Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God.

How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is.

We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others



Bible Study 2025. Weekly sessions of Bible Study will commence on Wednesday February 5th at 10am St. Mary's Church Hall. New participants are welcome. For further information ring Nicholas on 0409 582 012



Diocesan Assembly 2025

The **Diocesan Assembly** will take place on **Friday, 14th and Saturday, 15th of February 2025.** The venue for the assembly is now **Federation University**

Auditorium, Churchill. This significant gathering will bring together representatives from all parishes across our diocese, along with members of the Diocesan Mission Council, representatives from Catholic Schools, DOSCEL (Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Office) and representatives from other faith communities.

Over the past year, the Animation Team has been working diligently to organise this event, ensuring that it provides a meaningful opportunity for reflection, discussion, and planning for the future of our diocese.

We ask all parishioners to keep the Assembly in your prayers as we come together to discern our shared mission and priorities for the coming years.

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



Bass Prayer Group on Monday 20th January at 7pm. Contact Wendy Power 56 782271. All Welcome



Our Year of Jubilee celebrations continue in February, with the Warragul and Drouin parishes combining to host a celebration of the many, many long-serving artists within all the parishes of the Diocese. This event will take place on 23rd Feb at 11:00 am Mass at **St Joseph's Parish, Warragul** followed by art exhibition in the Marian Centre. Followed by shared lunch and artist and art.



All parishes are invited to join in the Jubilee celebration of artists and their work and those who are artistic are welcome to bring a piece of their art to display. Please contact Parish Office at warragul@cdsale.org.au to register your interest and attendance at this Year of Jubilee celebratory Mass.

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