

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Year C

Sunday, 13th April 2025

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.

The Lord has given me
a disciple's tongue.
So that I may know how to reply to the wearied
he provides me with speech.
Each morning he wakes me to hear,
to listen like a disciple.
The Lord has opened my ear.
For my part, I made no resistance,
neither did I turn away.
I offered my back to those who struck me,
my cheeks to those who tore at my beard;
I did not cover my face
against insult and spittle.
The Lord comes to my help,
so that I am untouched by the insults.
So, too, I set my face like flint;
I know I shall not be shamed.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 21:8-9. 17-20. 23-24. R. v.2

(R.) My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

1. All who see me deride me.
They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him;
let him release him if this is his friend.' **(R.)**
2. Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me.
They tear holes in my hands and my feet.
I can count every one of my bones. **(R.)**
3. They divide my clothing among them.
They cast lots for my robe.
O Lord, do not leave me alone,
my strength, make haste to help me! **(R.)**
4. I will tell of your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled.
'You who fear the Lord give him praise;
all sons of Jacob, give him glory.
Revere him, Israel's sons.' **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.

His state was divine,
yet Christ Jesus did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are,
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,

even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings
in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
Christ became obedient for us even to death
dying on the cross.
Therefore God raised him on high
and gave him a name above all other names.

Gospel Luke 22:14 – 23:56

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke



St. Joseph's, Wonthaggi & Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch

St Joseph's, Wonthaggi

27-29 Dowling Street
WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

St Joseph's School Principal:

Joanne Coldebella
56 721 052

Parish Priest: Fr Darren Howie 56 722 923

Parish Secretary: Ann Hemming
Parish Safeguard Officer: Kaye Carew
PO Box 70 Wonthaggi 3995

Telephone: 03 56 721 111

Email: wonthaggi@cdsale.org.au

Hours: Wednesday & Friday 8.30am –4.30pm

After Hours Emergency Phone

03 56 722 923

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch

Scarborough Street
INVERLOCH VIC 3996

Mary MacKillop College Principal:

John Freeman
56 624 255

WEEKEND MASSES

Wonthaggi

Saturday 6.30pm
Sunday 10.30am

Inverloch

Sunday 9.00am

Anniversaries:

Anniversaries: Eileen Shea, Catherine Gilmartin, Dan Smith

For the deceased clergy of the Diocese of sale.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. "May they rest in peace."

We pray for the sick, lonely and those suffering from illness and pain. May God's merciful love shine on them.

Weekday Mass or Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion Times

Inverloch

Tuesday No Service

Easter See Notice on Page 3

Wonthaggi

Wednesday Mass 9.30am
Reconciliation 7.00pm

Easter See Notice on Page 3

PARISH ROSTERS

WONTHAGGI: Easter Roster

INVERLOCH: Easter Roster

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

St Joseph's Parish:

Presbytery (1st Collection) \$952.85
Planned Giving envelope (2nd Collection): \$643.00
(planned giving pledge per week \$1,968)
Loose cash (2nd offering) \$292.15

Thank you for your contributions, they are greatly appreciated.

RECONCILIATION TIMES

Wonthaggi: Before 6.30pm Mass on Saturday and upon request

Inverloch: Sun before 9.00am mass

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 the Parish Child Safety Officer. The officer can be contacted through the Parish Office. 03 56 721 111

Newcomers or Update Details

Welcome and thanks for worshipping with us at St Joseph's Wonthaggi and Our Lady Star of the Sea Inverloch.

If you are new to the Parish or have changed your details or need Thanksgiving Envelopes, please complete your details and drop the form on a Collection plate or drop off to the Parish Office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

New Parishioner ☐ Change of Address or Phone # ☐

Thanksgiving: Envelopes ☐ or Electronically ☐

Palm Sunday 12-13th of April 2025

As Project Compassion 2025 draws to a close for another year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support throughout this Lenten Season.

This year, we shared the inspiring stories of 3 individuals whose lives have been transformed through your compassion and generosity.

But the work isn't done yet. There is still time to donate! Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty* and help transform lives this Lent.



**UNITE  AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



Parish/Diocese News

Before and after Mass please be respectful of the presence of Our Lord Jesus in the tabernacle and of your fellow parishioners who wish to reflect and pray in silence.

Prayer Group will resume after the school holidays.

Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday 18th April 2025

Special Collection Good Friday – supports the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land. Envelopes available

Our Lady Star of the Sea—Inverloch

Cuppa after Mass will be held after mass on the First Sunday of the Month

St Joseph's Wonthaggi

Cuppa after Mass will be held on the first Saturday and Sunday of the Month



CHRISM MASS

In the year of Jubilee- Pilgrims of Hope

Join Bishop Greg Bennet and the
Clergy of our Diocese
at St Mary's Cathedral, Sale
on Tuesday, 15th April 2025
at 11.00 am.



YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CELEBRATION

HOLY WEEK

St Joseph's Church, Wonthaggi

RECONCILIATION – 16th April 2025 Wednesday 7pm

HOLY THURSDAY – 17th April 2025 6.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – 18th April 2025 10.00am

GOOD FRIDAY

THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 18th April 2025 3.00pm

EASTER SATURDAY VIGIL – 19th April 2025 6.30pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 20th April 2025 10.30am

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch

HOLY THURSDAY – 17th April 2025 6.30pm

GOOD FRIDAY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – 18th April 2025 10.00am

GOOD FRIDAY

THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 18th April 2025 3.00pm

EASTER SUNDAY – 20th April 2025 Inverloch 9.00am

Jesus showed mercy to the woman caught in adultery. As God he is both infinite justice and mercy, so Jesus struck a perfect balance. Jesus is also omniscient, that is all knowing, he knew back then about Lady Gaga's song Born This Way and in spite of that knowledge he didn't say keep on going but rather go away and do not sin any more. God is not cruel he does not condemn people to perpetual internal conflict, so that they feel like a square peg in a round hall. When we live the Faith, rely on God's grace we find that Jesus yoke is easy, and his burden light, and we realize that he came so that we may have life to the full. We come to appreciate the truth of his words, whoever loses their life for his sake finds it.

In last week's gospel Jesus responded to the complaints of the scribes and pharisees about his mercy with the parable of the prodigal son. This week they tried to use his mercy against him by bringing to him a woman caught in adultery, the penalty for which was stoning. In many ways it seemed like there was no hope just as there appears to be no hope for Carlton after 4 straight losses. Ironically God in the OT frequently described his relationship with his people as a marriage relationship and Jesus on many occasions had accused the scribes and pharisees of being faithless to the covenant God had made with Israel.

Either way, with the woman caught in adultery, they reckoned they had Jesus backed into a corner and whatever he did he would be a loser. To appreciate the situation, we have to bear in mind that back then, and even now in many parts of the Middle East, there was zero tolerance towards adultery. Was this harsh and wrong? Absolutely, stoning someone for adultery would never be tolerated in today's culture. But harsh times can make people harsh, which is not to say we agree with what they did. In our extremely wealthy culture, there are very different standards for stealing and vandalism. In 1788 Thomas Barrett was publicly hanged at Sydney Cove just three days after the arrival of the first fleet not for murder or some other serious assault against a person, but for stealing or conspiring to steal food from government stores. Imagine the public outrage today if somebody were to be hanged for stealing a roasted chicken from Safeway. From our perspective it would be considered a very poultry thing to do – pun intended, but back then the stakes were very high – no pun intended. Order and discipline were a matter of life and death for hundreds of people, and stealing food, could not be tolerated if they were to survive.

In the time of Our Lord the sanctity of the marriage bond not only protected the relationship between a husband and wife, so essential for stability and survival, it ensured that children would be nurtured and protected, there was no social welfare from the government. Back then people understood very powerfully that if marriage was not protected, society and there very survival were in danger.

So, Jesus found himself between a rock and a hard place with this woman caught in adultery. If he advocated mercy, he would be portrayed as going against the law of Moses. If he condemned the woman, he would undermine all the work he had done to show the mercy and love of God. Jesus was not going to undermine either God's law, or God's mercy. As a Church we would do well in following Our Lord's example of outreach and mercy to people. Consider the case of Mary Magdalen, rather than condemning her and making her feel worthless he enabled her to become her true self, and right this moment we can pray to St Mary Magdalen asking for her intercession.

As a Church we would all do well to follow Jesus' example and think outside of the box. Jesus took the initiative and set the agenda. He asked a question, if there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her. Then on two occasions he bent down and started writing on the ground. We know that they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest. It is a known fact that often the youngest are those who are most assured of themselves and their integrity, and the fact that they know everything, especially around the age of about 16, and as they grow older, and hopefully wiser they reflect on what they have done, or what they could have done. Which brings to mind a discussion I had with a much older man when I was 16 while getting a lift home from a weekday Mass. The older man said, we can never be sure that we will remain faithful to God we must pray and do our best. I said I know I will never give up the Faith, the old man said you can't say that. Response: I can, I am sure that is something I will never do. Reply: You can't say that, Darren. Response: What do you mean I can't say, I just did. The old man then explained how St Peter three times at the Last Supper said he would never deny Our Lord. It was only after denying Our Lord three times that he learnt that he could not rely on his own strength and had to trust in the grace of God. Human nature remains the same. Could it be that Jesus wrote some pertinent questions, and they were thinking, ooh, ah yeah that could be me? What we do know for sure is that they went away one by one beginning with the eldest. Beginning from the eldest because the eldest upon reflection would have realized that they too had failed, or upon reflection there go I but for the grace of God. That is why the youngest were the last to leave.

The words of Jesus from Mathew 9:13 come to mind, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice