

The Living Word

Third Sunday of Lent, Year C

23 March 2025

First Reading Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

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.'

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 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

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.

Continued on the back >



22/23 MARCH 2025

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

SEND US MAIL:

25 Forrest Street, South Perth, 6151
PO Box 52, South Perth WA 6951

Parish Priest

Fr. Nino Vinciguerra
nino.vinciguerra@perthcatholic.org.au
Mobile: 0468 467 421

Parish Deacon

Deacon Bruce Talbot
bruce.talbot@perthcatholic.org.au

Parish Secretary

Isabella Robertson
admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au
Mobile: 0466 579 740
Parish Office Phone: 9367 3950

ST COLUMBA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL:

Principal: Mr. Allen McMahon
Phone: 6436 9500
Mail: PO Box 8307 South Perth WA 6951
Email: www.stcolumbassp.com.au

THIS WEEK'S OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday: 1:30pm to 4:30pm
Wednesday: 3pm onwards
Thursday: 3pm onwards
Friday: 2pm onwards

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Saturday

11:30 am	Reconciliation
6:00 pm	Vigil Mass (No livestreaming)

Sunday

7:30am	Mass
9:30 am	Mass

Monday, Tuesday

10:00am	Mass
---------	------

Wednesday, Thursday

5:00pm	Mass
--------	------

Friday

10:00am	Mass
5:30pm	Stations of the Cross

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS:

If you would like a Mass intention or Prayer for the Sick to be listed in the bulletin and/or Prayer of the Faithful, please email or call Isabella.

BAPTISM: Celebrated on Sunday's at 11am
Enquires to: admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

COLUMBA CARE: Convenor Shaun Maton admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

COLUMBARIUM: Enquiries to: admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

MARRIAGE: Celebrated at 1pm and 3:30pm on Saturdays. Other days by arrangement:
Enquires to: admin.south.perth@perthcatholic.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, PRE-CONFIRMATION, & FIRST RECONCILIATION: Contact Catechist Helen by phone/text on 0401 329 479

St Columba's parish acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the Traditional Owners who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation

MASS INTENTIONS:

6pm Vigil: For Parishioner's intentions.

7:30am: For Parishioner's intentions.

9:30am: Mass offered for Alberto K Aguirre on the 6 month anniversary of his death.

Tuesday, 25th of March: Mass offered for Thomas Shepherd, son of Pete and Jenny Shepherd on the 15th anniversary of his passing.

UPDATE ON MONSIGNOR BRIAN O'LOUGHLIN:

We have received an update on Monsignor. Unfortunately, he has had a fall and is back in Fremantle Hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

ANZAC COMMEMORATION CONCERT - Including Mozart Requiem Orchestral and Choral Performance by Choralis Australia and Perth Baroque Orchestra:

Please join us in the Church on the eve of Anzac Day on the **24th of April at 8pm** for a 45minute performance.

Choralis Australia is a Western Australian group of 16 semi-professional singers from the national Choralis Australis. Perth Baroque Orchestra has approximately 20 players who will be performing. Both choir and orchestra will come together, conducted by Dr. Margaret Pride OAM, we hope you will join us for a special evening of beautiful music, all free of charge.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN - Confirmation, First Holy Communion & First Reconciliation:

Children who attend Catholic Schools/Colleges that do not have a Church attached. External candidates receive sacramental preparation classes at their school but need to enrol at their Parish to receive the Sacrament.

Parents, please contact our Catechist Coordinator Helen directly by phone/text on 0401 329 479 to discuss enrolling your child to receive the Sacraments.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross will be held on each Friday at 5:30pm throughout Lent.

DONATING TO OUR PARISH: Whilst we prefer contributions by direct credit, we invite you to use the EFTPOS machines as you enter the church, or the cash collection boxes at either entrance.

1st Collection – For the Priest

Bank: NAB
BSB: 086 006
ACC: 72646 1615

2nd Collection – For the Parish Expenses

Bank: NAB
BSB: 086 006
ACC: 45853 7299



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

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

WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM! FOLLOW US:



@stcolumbasparish



HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES:

Holy Thursday: 7pm Mass

Good Friday: 10am Stations of the Cross and 3pm Service

Easter Vigil: 7pm Mass

Easter Sunday: 7:30am & 9:30am

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN - Preparatory Classes for Confirmation, Pre-Confirmation, First Holy Communion & First Reconciliation: PREP CLASSES STARTING SOON IN THE PARISH CENTRE!

Parents, please contact our Catechist Coordinator Helen directly by phone/text on 0401 329 479 to discuss enrolling your child to receive the Sacraments.

MISSING GLASSES: A pair of prescription glasses have been found in the Church. They have been left in the Sacristy. Please reach out to Fr. Nino or Deacon Bruce after Mass or email Isabella.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 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 Lk 13:1-9

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."

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Brendan Byrne SJ.

I suspect many preachers may groan at first sight of the **Gospel** for this Sunday (Luke 13:1-9). Luke's Gospel contains much of the most attractive material in the tradition. But Jesus' response to the report of Pilate's massacre of Galileans and the fall of tower at Siloam might seem to offer slim pickings.

What I think has to be kept in mind is that in this part of the gospel Jesus has set out on the great journey to Jerusalem, to which, following the Transfiguration, he had 'set his face' (9:51). Now more than ever the gospel depicts him very much in the role of a prophet. And the essential task of a prophet in the biblical tradition is to summon people to conversion. Conversion, in fact, would seem to be the common thread running through all three readings set out for this Third Sunday of Lent. Whatever about the Gospel, the **First Reading**, Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15, does take us to one of the seminal moments in the whole of Israel's biblical tradition. It describes the call of Moses, the one who is to lead the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt and receive from God and promulgate the law that is to define and regulate their existence as God's own people.

Moses' personal encounter with God in the wilderness of Sinai will be replicated in the experience of his people in the same wilderness, albeit not with the same closeness and intimacy.

To authenticate the leadership role to which he is being called, Moses tries to extract a name from God. But God's identity remains in mystery: 'I am, who I am'. Moses' prophetic role will be to go to his people and summon them to follow the call of this God – an all-holy God, whom they cannot see, an image of whom they – unlike other nations – will not be allowed to make. They will come to know this God only as they commit to follow Moses in the highly risky project of an escape from their situation of slavery in Egypt. They will have to place their faith in Moses and in the unseen God whose very name remains shrouded in mystery but who made and kept promises to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Now, to come back to the **Gospel**. Two incidents stand behind it. The first is an atrocity brought about by human cruelty. Orders from Pilate have instigated a massacre of a number of Galileans who were sacrificing in the Temple. The second incident, again involving large-scale loss of life, is due to natural causes. It is, in legal terms, an 'act of God': the fall of a tower in Siloam, occasioning the death of eighteen persons. Jesus is told of the first and himself recalls the second. He does so for two reasons. First he wards off something to which the religious instinct is ever prone when faced with episodes of this kind: to conclude that the victims were being punished for a sinfulness from which others – specifically themselves – were exempt.

Jesus heads off all thinking of this kind. He mentions the second incident and goes on to tell the parable about the fig tree to make the point that, far from attempting to judge the sinfulness of others, everyone should interpret such events as a warning to take stock of their own lives lest far greater disaster – eternal ruin – befall them. Without speculating in any way about punishment (see John 9:1-3), he simply makes the prophetic point: these examples of sudden, unforeseen death serve as a warning that the time, the space, left for conversion, may be short.

As always, the urgency, the prophetic passion of Jesus, comes from his intense sense of what God wants to do for people: as at the time of Moses and Israel, to rescue them from the destructive captivity that holds them bound and set them free for life and for love. There is time for that now. But the opportunity will not last indefinitely.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the **Lectionary for the Mass** ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from **The Psalms, A New Translation**, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the **Jerusalem Bible**, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.
© Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd
All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.