

The Living Word

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

2 March 2025

First Reading Sir 27:4-7

Do not praise someone before they have spoken.

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.

The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.

Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58

Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ.

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

***Shine on the world like bright stars;
you are offering it the word of life.***

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 6:39-45

A person speaks from what is in his heart.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the



1/2 MARCH 2025

8TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

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

Monday: 1pm onwards
Tuesday: 1pm onwards
Wednesday: 1pm onwards
Friday: 1pm onwards

WEEKLY TIMETABLE

Saturday

11:30 am	Reconciliation
6:00 pm	Vigil Mass

Sunday

7:30am	Mass
9:30 am	Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Friday

10:00am	Mass
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Wednesday

9:00am	Mass
5:00pm	Mass

Thursday

5:00pm	Mass
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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 Sue Catling, now in palliative care.

7:30am: For Dorothy Joan Edwardes on the 1st anniversary of her death. Mass requested by her daughter Denise Edwardes.

9:30am: For Anna and Randolph Francis who recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

MARCH MORNING TEA: Please join us for morning tea following Mass to help us celebrate the 45th wedding anniversary of Anna and Randolph Francis. All are welcome.



A Prayer for Pope Francis by Father James Martin

Loving God,

We ask you to look with favor on your servant Francis, who has served you as a Jesuit, a priest, an archbishop, a cardinal and now as a pope.

Most of all, he has served you as a faithful Christian, sharing the love, mercy and compassion that you Son showed to all he encountered, especially those who were poor or struggling.

As Francis faces this new illness, help the doctors and nurses who care for him, help him to bear any pain with grace, and help him to heal quickly.

We ask this in your Holy Name.
Amen.

LENTEN COURSE ON THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Why do we need to know or study the Old Testament? Jesus knew and prayed with what we call the Old Testament; it was the only Scriptures he had! Fr Nino will conduct four sessions, one each week.

Please sign-up at either the front entrance or the side entrance with the sign-up forms available selecting your preferred meeting time.

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

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES: Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on the 5th of March. Please join us at either the 9am Mass (with the school) or at the customary time of 5pm.



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Project Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**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

BILLINGS LIFE: Invites you to a talk on the science that verifies the Billings Ovulation Method on Thursday, 27th of March 5-7pm at 40A Mary Street Highgate. Light refreshments provided. Please see the main porch noticeboard for more information and the QR Code for registration.

Gospel Reflection

by Greg Sunter

In our post-modern world, the lesson of the hypocrite seeking to remove the speck from their neighbour's eye before removing the log from their own has at times been taken too far and too literally. We are often confronted with a minimalist notion that nobody can be corrected or criticised because one person's opinion is just as good as the next person's. In this view, there is no room for universal truths; no room for authority; no room for an over-arching view of the world or a meta-narrative – an underlying 'big picture' story for life.

On the surface, the idea that one person's opinion is as valid as any other's seems very democratic and sociable. However, it is fundamentally not true. Someone who has spent a lifetime studying and practising in a particular field of endeavour cannot be lightly dismissed as 'that's just your opinion'. Yet, all too often, such learned knowledge and experience is given the same weight as ill-informed and sometimes mischievous opinion – frequently in the name of 'balanced' discussion.

For some people immersed in the post-modern culture this wash of opinion dressed up as fact is not only confusing but sometimes dangerous. Social norms and even laws can be seen as just another opinion that differs from my own. The opinions of friends and complete strangers on the internet or social networks are held with the same level of legitimacy as established sources of social, moral, legal and religious authority. Whilst it is proper to question established authority and require accountability and justification, the absence of universal truths and meta-narratives lead us back to the proverb that begins today's gospel: the blind leading the blind.

Gospel Focus – Good from Good

'The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good.' What makes a person good? Is it that they have had good things happen in their life? There are plenty of people who have had good things in their life but they remain cynical and spiteful people. Similarly there are plenty who have had the hardest of circumstances yet goodness constantly flows from them. It's not the external influences but what we do with them that determines whether

we are nurturing 'good treasure' or harbouring 'evil treasure'. This is not just sugary sweetness but a deliberate decision to be a person of hope.

Living the Gospel

It is often argued that it is hypocrisy to attend Mass on Sundays and be 'holy' in that circumstance but to then be less than perfect during the rest of the week. This is often rolled out as a convenient excuse for not attending Mass at all: everyone who goes to Mass is a hypocrite. Of course, attending Mass does not imply perfection. It is in fact a recognition of imperfection and the need to come together as a community and to seek God's help to have another go at trying to get it a bit more right in the coming week.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT:

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) and the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference have established guidelines for fasting and abstinence during Lent. These guidelines include:

- Catholics aged 18–59 are required to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Catholics aged 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
- Catholics aged 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year, including Lent
- Fasting on all weekdays of Lent is strongly recommended
- Abstaining on all Fridays is especially recommended

Some people exempt from fasting and abstinence include: Children, Pregnant women, Nursing people, and Adults with mental or physical illness. Fasting and abstinence are spiritual disciplines that help Christians focus on personal growth and their relationship with God. Some ways to observe Lent include:

- Prayer, such as attending Mass, reading the Bible, or praying the Rosary
- Almsgiving, such as donating to those in need
- Self-denial, such as giving up meat, sweets, or entertainment
- Helping others, such as paying special attention to the sick, elderly, or poor