

<b>Date:</b>	<b>24th/25th February 2024</b>		<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ed Junis	Colleen Baker	Felix Kobus	Tanya Graham	Chris Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Marek Grus	Vicky Walker	Tom Horsfall	Kim Crawford	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Bernard Ellis	Anne Ellis	Margaret Hickey	Katherine Mahns	Streeters
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2nd/3rd March 2024</b>		<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>		
<b>Mass Time:</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Prayer of the Faithful</b>	<b>Music</b>
<b>Vigil: 5:00 PM</b>	Ian Miles	Cheryl Kirby	Neil Kirby	Margaret Smith	Andrew Wilson
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Randall Noney	Cecilia Hunt	Tanya Graham	Jim Gresser	
<b>9:30 AM</b>	Phil Saville	Anne Edwards	Brian Edwards	Matt Aldous	Chris Wilson
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	Catechists/St Vincent de Paul				

Kid's Corner

Gospel

Mk 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.



God wants us to listen to Jesus. What are some things that Jesus tells us?

Draw a line from each of the following statements to either Moses or Elijah.



Moses

- God's law was revealed to him
- He challenged King Ahab for worshipping a false god
- A great prophet mentioned in the first book of Kings
- He rescued God's people from Egypt
- Elisha became his successor
- He became the leader of the Israelites



Elijah

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, NSW, 2777  
PO Box 4410, Winmalee, NSW 2777  
Phone: 02 4754 1052; Emergency ONLY: 0474 631 168

<b>Parish Email:</b>	email: <a href="mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org">springwood@parracatholic.org</a>
<b>Parish Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.stachurchspringwood.org.au">www.stachurchspringwood.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Facebook Page:</b>	St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Community Springwood
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Rev Christopher del Rosario (E: <a href="mailto:christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org">christopher.del-rosario@parracatholic.org</a> )
<b>Parish Pastoral Council:</b>	Email suggestions to <a href="mailto:springwoodparishpc@gmail.com">springwoodparishpc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday to Friday 8.30 am - 3.30 pm

<b>Weekend Masses:</b>	Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am and 9:30 am
<b>Weekday Mass:</b>	Monday - Saturday 9:30 am
<b>Adoration:</b>	Monday - Saturday from 8:15am - 9:15am
<b>First Friday Adoration:</b>	Starts from the 1st of March 2024 at 7pm
<b>Reconciliation:</b>	Saturday after 9:30 am Mass and 4-5 pm before the Vigil Mass
<b>Children's Liturgy:</b>	3rd Sunday of every month, 9:30 am
<b>Baptisms:</b>	2nd and 4th Sundays of every month - 11 am and by appointment
<b>Weddings:</b>	By appointment
<b>Funerals:</b>	Please Contact the Parish Office

We respect the Darug people and their elders both past and present, as the traditional custodians of this land on which we celebrate the Eucharist.



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It's in the details...

With a week of Lent come and gone our readings for this Sunday look towards the coming Paschal Mysteries. We begin our reflection exploring the well-known account of the Sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith. Like the parable of the prodigal son or the lost sheep, many readers will instantly recall the events of this account after the opening line: 'God put Abraham to the test.' Immediately our minds recall the devastating news of the angel, the journey of father and son to the mountain, the binding of Isaac upon the altar of sacrifice, and the ram offered in place of Isaac; in short, we are very familiar with this Genesis account. Unfortunately, familiarity to the scriptures can often lead to a shallow understanding of the biblical accounts. With our minds primed to focus on key events small but significant details are often overlooked; without a sound commentary in hand a complete understanding remains locked away. Furthermore, our lack of text does not help as the lectionary provides a few fragments of this significant account. As such this reflection will explore a few small but significant details to assist our preparation for the Paschal Mysteries.



In the previous chapter the author of Genesis outlines that Abraham is one hundred years old when Isaac is born. After God calls Abraham to sacrifice his son in the land of Moriah the faithful patriarch, alongside Isaac, makes his way to the mountain in obedience to the Lord. The scriptures then speak of Isaac both carrying the wood for the sacrifice and being bound by his father. While this may seem insignificant the Church fathers have argued that Isaac is no longer a small boy at the time of the sacrifice. The amount of wood needed for a burnt offering would have been quite significant; a portion too much for a small boy to carry. As such, contrary to popular belief, Isaac is not a small boy but an adult at the time of sacrifice. Additionally, his youthful vigour would have easily overpowered his elderly father, an unsurprising feat. However, as noted in the Gospel, 'Abraham bound his son and put him on the altar on top of the wood.' This entails that Isaac is a willing participant in the sacrifice, he cooperates with his father to be an oblation offered to God Most High. He is neither deceived nor oblivious to the events to come, but a willing captive for the glory of God.

Contrasting the sacrifice of Abraham with the events of Good Friday we can see a direct parallel. Isaac is not only a Patriarch of Jewish and Christian history, but a precursor of Jesus Christ himself. Like Isaac, Our Lord carried and mounted the wood of the cross, willingly offering himself as a sacrifice to redeem man from the effects of sin. His participation showed the strength of God and his unyielding love for humanity. It highlights God's relentless pursuit of the human person.

Dear friends, with the above in mind let us cast the gaze of our hearts back to our Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us be encouraged to also pursue communion with God through our consistent Lenten practice and transformation. Knowing how Our Lord willingly offers himself for our sake, may we be reciprocal and offer our lives to him.

With every blessing in this Lenten season,

Fr. Chris



Entrance Antiphon Cf Psalm 26:8-9

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

Or Cf Psalm 24:6,2,22

Remember your compassion, O Lord,  
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.  
Let not our enemies exult over us.  
Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress.

First Reading Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham,’ he called.’ Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

Responsorial Psalm Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

- (R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.
1. I trusted, even when I said:  
‘I am sorely afflicted.’  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
  2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;  
you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:  
I will call on the Lord’s name. (R.)

Responsorial Psalm (Continued)

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil  
before all his people,  
in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
From the shining cloud, the Father’s voice is heard:  
this is my beloved Son, hear him.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

Communion Antiphon Matthew 17:5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.



**Recently Deceased:** Simone Mitrevski

**Sick:** Aurea Hernandez, Julie Somerville, Fr Bob Bossini, Dane San Pedro, Marama Watson, Margaret Munro, **and all**

**Private Intentions.**

*Due to the strict privacy laws, names of the deceased and sick can only be included in the Bulletin with the express permission of the immediate family. Thank you.*

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

**FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR PARISH AND ITS WORKS:** There are a variety of ways you can support our Parish and its Mission:

- **QR Code:** located on the Bulletin Front Page.
- **EFTPOS Machines:** located at the back of the Church.
- **Direct Debit:** Please contact the Parish Office for more details.
- **Direct Deposit:** Details are as follows:  
Bank Account Name: Springwood  
BSB: 067-950  
Bank Account Number: 00000560  
Reference: Your name in full.

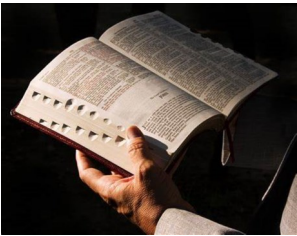
All donations go to maintaining our Church and supporting the various ministries associated with our Parish.

Thank you to donors like you, we were able to meet the cost of the restoration of the candle holders but we still have a long way to go. We will need your generosity to continue to collect funds that will go towards the purchase of our new Atar Crucifix. We are so grateful for your continued support.



We are looking for volunteers to help clean our church. If you can spare a few minutes of your valuable time, please contact our parish office on 02 4754 1052 or email [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org). Thank you.

**HELP WANTED:** Readers for Palm Sunday (Vigil & Sunday Masses), Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter (Vigil & Sunday Masses). Anyone interested please contact the parish office on 02 4754 1052 or email us: [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org). Thank you.



Biblical Studies at St Finbar’s

**The Passion of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark**

Where: St Finbar’s’ Parish Hall  
Who: Fr Joseph Lam, PhD STD PD  
RSVP: [secretary@stfinbars.org.au](mailto:secretary@stfinbars.org.au)

March 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, at 7.30pm  
52 Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773

**FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION:** We invite everyone to join us in our First Friday Adoration this coming Friday 1st March 2024 at 7pm.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be celebrated each Friday at 6pm. All are welcome to participate.



**ST THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH CHOIR** is currently looking for more singers, of ALL VOICE TYPES. Do you enjoy singing? So, if you enjoy singing and would like to join this happy group, we practice most Monday nights weekly in the church at 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood at 7.30pm to 9 pm. You will be made very welcome. We sing on the first Sunday of each month, with our first practice for 2024 commencing 12th February 2024. All music is supplied free. St Augustine said: “... who sings prays twice”. So come and join us in praising the Lord (twice). Enquiries Chris Wilson 0425 290 952 or Margaret Hickey 02 4751 2343 (*answering machine if unattended*).

**DO YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING OF ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE?**

Become a SRE Teacher (CATECHIST) and you can:

- ✚be a living witness of Christ and a witness of God’s love
- ✚faithfully hand on the teachings of Christ as handed on by the successors to the Apostles, our Bishops, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- ✚adapt to the needs of students
- ✚be available for a minimum 30 minutes each week during school terms for SRE lessons

The rewards of being a SRE Teacher:

- ✚receiving quality training and professional development
- ✚having the opportunity to deepen the gift of faith that has been given to you
- ✚contributing to the development of your own parish
- ✚sharing about the gift of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith with others

If you would like to register your interest, please email, or phone the parish office on [springwood@parracatholic.org](mailto:springwood@parracatholic.org) / 47541052 or Wilhelmina de Raadt on [wilhelminaderaadt@gmail.com](mailto:wilhelminaderaadt@gmail.com)

*“Three things are necessary for the salvation of man: to know what he ought to believe; to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do.” - St Thomas Aquinas*