HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PARISH MENAI

LIVING AND SHARING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AS A GROWING PARISH FAMILY

Alfords Point Bangor Barden Ridge Illawong Lucas Heights Menai Woronora West

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 30 March 2025 Year C/1—Divine office Psalter Week 4

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Joshua (Joshua 5:9-12)

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.'
The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tacted the produce of that country, unless years. tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the from that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

<u> Kesponsoria</u>l Psalm

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to

the Corinthians (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against nimsell, not notding men's latitis against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The Word of the Lord Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (Luke 15:1-3.11-32) The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. paid servants." So he went back to his father.

went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields.

they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slayed for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property — he and his women — you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



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Parish Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9am - 4pm

Mass Timings: Weekday: Tue - Sat 9.15am 1st Friday of the month: 7.00pm Weekenď: Saturday Vigil 5.3Ôpm Sunday: 8.30am, 10.00am

Blessed Sacrament Exposition

Tue - Sat: 8.30am - 9.10am Fri ~ 8.30am Laud's music 8.45am Divine Mercy Chaplet 9am Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

1st Friday of the month (after 7pm Mass

Lauds Tue, Wed and Thu - 8.45am Reconciliation: Sat: 4.30 - 5.15pm Or by appointment.

Holy Communion or Visit at Home: Please contact the parish office to arrange a time.

Baptisms: 1st Sunday during 10am Mass and every 2nd and 4th Sunday, 11.15am (no baptisms during Lent)

Baptism Preparation Program: 11am on the 1st Sat of each month.

In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our Holy Family community:

Kathleen Branley, Victoriano Mendoza, Jan Kurianski, Bernadette O'Brien, Ivan David, Adelaide Buttigieg, Tony Trainor, Ilse Von Stamm, Anthony Mifsud, Dympna Fitzpatrick, Sandra Thomas, Frances Rupolo, Matthew McLachlan, Mark F, Robbert A, Carlos Simoes, Beatrice Gonsalvez, Matilda Oliver-Nalder, Angela Symons, Carol Galdes, Julie Gonsalvez, Robert Nicholls, Brad Jory, Jayden, Natividad Sora, Bernard Aclan, Julius Aclan, Jean Aclan, Geoff Eastgate, Joanne Mannah, Marie Collins and Chris Halvey.

We remember those whose Anniversaries and Special Prayers have been requested :

Teresa Jacob, Felicity Thomas, Maria De Bellis, David Stephenson, Cassie Fonseca, Joseph Alam, Thomas Trutwein, Marilyn Nicholls, Johanna Nicholls, Justin Oliffe, Joe Bridgett, Peter Howlett, Venancio Salugsugan, Presentation Gamo Salugsugan, Juan Gamo Salugsugan, Rosario Salugsugan, Juliet Patricio Fajilan, Nilcar Fajilan, Capistrano Huerbana Aclan, Catalina Salas Aclan and Aleen Salas Aclan.

Recently Deceased.

Carmelo Schifilliti.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. - Amen -

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(all bow) <u>and by the Holy Spirit</u> was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

AFTER THE PREFACE

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

THE MYSTERY OF FAITH.

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

What's on at Holy Family Parish

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Tue Sat: 8.30am
 9.10am
- † Morning Prayer (Lauds) Tue Thu 8.45am.
- † Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - Fri 8.45am

1st Friday of the month (after 7pm Mass ~ 12am)

- † Rosary Sat 8.45am.
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- † Children's Liturgy Not in the School Holidays
- † Daily Rosary, Rosary at 8-8.30pm on Zoom, please text (ROSARY) to 0418 433 333 to receive the link.

Catholic Weekly

SUNDAY, 30 MARCH 2025

- ◆ Pro-life rally and prayer events draw thousands
- ◆ Friendship unites faith leaders
- ♦ Double standard on display in Wombatgate
- ◆ Pope Francis returns home from hospital
- ♦ Candlelight vigil held for massacred Syrians

Available to purchase in the foyer. Only \$2 please leave the money in the box provided. Thank you.

THE ALTAR OF REPOSE

Saint John the Evangelist describes the impending events celebrated throughout the Easter Triduum as the hour of Jesus. We should consider the events of the Triduum as a single, salvific event. In fact, the beginning of this single event is the Lord's Last Supper. As we hear in tonight's Gospel, "Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father." (John 13:1) Holy Thursday is rightly considered the moment that Our Lord instituted the Holy Mass. For this reason, it is a day of exceptional devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. At the end of the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, the hosts consecrated at that Mass are solemnly processed to a beautifully adorned altar of repose (these hosts will be distributed at the celebration of the Passion of the Lord). The faithful are then encouraged to keep vigil with Our Lord as he enters into his Passion. The atmosphere should be prayerful and meditative. The liturgical books instruct that once midnight passes, any continued adoration should take place "without solemnity" as the focus of the faithful shifts to the Christ's Passion. The ciborium (the vessel containing the consecrated species) is reserved in a tabernacle made by Deacon Elliot Casalegno who served briefly at Holy Family Parish.

WHY DO CATHOLICS VEIL THE CRUCIFIXES, STATUES AND IMAGES IN THE CHURCH?

The Catholic Church recommends the practice of veiling statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, in order to heighten our senses and build within us a longing and anticipation for Easter Sunday.

We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. The last weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

The veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

		5.30pm	8:30am	10am	OTHER
Roster for	ACOLYTE SERVERS	Christopher Fetherston Peter McLachlan	Paul Tyson	Bernard Govind	Counters: Jeff Low's Team
5/6 APRIL: (1ST WEEKEND)	READERS	Simon Bradstock Margaret Keyes Sophie Kerr	Emma Gioiello Erica O'Brien Julie Tyson	Adrian D'Mello Marina D'Mello	Children's Liturgy: Courtney & Indiana
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	WARDENS	Charlie Zammit/Benny Falls	George Szymura/Jim Montague	Robert Pedic/Tony Ibrahim	Aeralife Aged Care: Terri
YEAR C	Musicians	Holy Family Singers	Gino Ferraro (PowerPoint MP3)	Lisa (PowerPoint MP3)	Barden Lodge Aged Care: Linda & Margaret
	PIETY STALL	Maria G	Priscilla	Laura/Georgia	



A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or **safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org**. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

From Fr Mani's desk...

The greatest short story of the world

The parable of the prodigal son in today's gospel is called "the greatest short story in the world", "the gospel of the gospels", and the "parable of the prodigal father." The world famous portrait of the "Return of the Prodigal Son" by the 17th century Dutch artist Rembrandt, demonstrates the eternal impact of this parable on human hearts down through the centuries.

Through the three persons - the repentant younger son, the self-justifying elder son and the forgiving father - Jesus outlines different aspects in our life.

<u>The younger son</u>: He began by wanting freedom from his father. He forced his father to give him his right to one-third of his father's property. The son then sold his property and traveled to a far-off city where he realized all his wild dreams of a carefree life. Finally, when he became bankrupt, was abandoned by "friends," and was forced to take up the mean job of feeding pigs. At last, awakened by his sufferings, he gathered enough courage to return to his father and confess his sin and the whole scene is changed.

<u>The self-justifying elder son:</u> The elder son had no feelings of sympathy for his brother. He played the part of a dutiful son, but his heart was not in it. He was resentful, bitter and angry. He was so jealous of his younger brother that he never wanted to see him again. He leveled a series of allegations against his prodigal brother, whom he viewed as a rival. Instead of honoring his father by joining him in accepting his brother and playing an appropriate role at the meal, the elder son publicly insulted and humiliated his father.

<u>The prodigal father:</u> The father in the story is the central figure. He promptly gave a share of his property to his younger son, bid him a tearful farewell and waited daily for his return. Finally, when the boy returned in rags, confessing his sins, the father promptly forgave him, kissed him on the cheeks and healed the broken relationship between them. When the elder brother refused to join in the party, He assured the elder son of his continuing love by saying, "All I have is yours."

Thus, the father symbolizes the loving and unconditionally forgiving Heavenly Father who is excessive, extravagant and generous with His forgiveness and mercy. Although the story of the prodigal son is often given as an example of repentance, it is actually the story of how God forgives and heals the repentant sinner. As in the imagination of Rembrandt, like a mother with her long and tender hand (right hand) pats on the back of the son; like a father he shows the masculineness (left hand) by strongly pressing him close to himself and gives strength to rise up.

With a little effort, we can see that we all share a little of both the sons' traits. Which of these three, the prodigal son, the older brother or the forgiving father, speak to you this Lent? Each of them opens a door and shows a path to Easter.

WORKING BEE SATURDAY 12 April

Many hands make light work!! From 10am - 12pm

Please join us for one or two hours for a general tidy-up, inside and outside our Church and car park, getting ready for Holy Week.

Can you please bring along your cleaning/tools.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE

20

06 MONTH 25

PARISH DINNER

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COMING WEEKS.

BIBLE STUDY - The Gospel of John - Chapter 4

Thursdays 27 March to 3 April, 7.30pm

- •Jesus and the Samaritan Woman
- •Second Sign at Cana

Facilitator: John Rickert

All Welcome!



Please welcome Fr_. Jose Karekatt to Holy Family!

Fr. Jose Karekatt MSFS, is a Fransalian priest for 32 years and is the Founder & Director of ITSSCAT-(Institute of Talent Search for Social Change and Transformation), in Kerala, India. It is a unique educational institution with multifaceted goals for the talented, hardworking and sturdily a spiring high school male students to rise into the top from the economically backward stratum of the society. His dream is to bring about a change in the lives of these children, their families and society, by helping them with proper education, formation and training to get into the administrative services of the nation and other high-profile professions and scientific inventions.

Fr Jose will be celebrating Mass this Sunday 30 March at 10am. Please make him feel welcome.

MAIN TOPICS TO DISCUSS FOR SYDNEY SYNOD

(30 AUGUST TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2025)

The Three Longings

- That our liturgies be more prayful; occasions of real encounter with God and opportunities for faith development; sacramental programs be improved to initiate into prayerful sacramental cesebrations.
- 2. That our parish and other Church communities be Christ-centred; where people are called to ongoing conversion; where people are called to live their baptismal dignity, growing in holiness and service; welcoming communities, especially as regards families and the young.
- 3. That we be mission oriented; we carry Christ's presence beyond Church boundaries; we see ourselves as servants of all with a special place for the marginalised.



MORE TOWARD A PRAYERFUL. CHRISTLIKE AND **MISSIONARY** Church

Copies of the Pastoral Letter to the Archdiocese of Sydney regarding the Synod of Sydney 2026 can be found in the foyer. Please take home and read.



TICKET NUMBER SOLD	BY
02163 Engadine Girl Gui	
41361 St. Vincent	De Paul
20814 The Shire	Bands
00300 Nicole Fitzs	
20321 The Shire	Bands
TOTAL MONEY RAISED: \$64,5	00
COMMUNITY GROUP WHO RAISED THE MOST: St. Vincent	De Paul

Please check your tickets to see if you are the lucky winner at Holy Family!



PROJECT COMPASSION

Fourth Sunday of Lent

29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family.





Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes (available in the fover), envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

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

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



WHAT'S ON DURING LENT AT HOLY FAMILY PARISH

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
 Tue Sat: 8.30 9.10 am
- Morning prayer (Lauds): Tue-Thu at 8.45 am.
- Divine Mercy Chaplet and Devotion and Benediction: Friday 8.45 am.
- Rosary: Saturday 8.45 am
- Stations of the Cross in Italian every Thursday morning at 10am and in English each Friday at 7:30pm







You are invited to join us as we commemorate the saving Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, celebrated in the sacred Liturgies of

Holy Week.

Palm Sunday 13 April, 202 5.30pm Vigil Mass 8.30am and 10am Masses

Tuesday 15 April, 2025 9:15am Daily Mass

Wednesday 16 April, 2025 9:15am Daily Mass

Maundy Thursday 17 April, 2025

No 9.15am Mass on this day 10.30am Chrism Mass at St Mary's Cathedral 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration at the Altar of Repose after the Mass until 12am

Good Friday 18 April, 2025

Divine Mercy Novena begins
10:00am Stations of the Cross
Reconciliation 11.15am - 12.15pm
3pm Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's
Passion

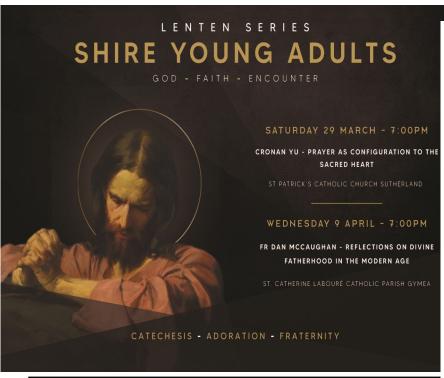
Reconciliation 4.30pm - 5.30pm

Holy Saturday 19 April, 2025

Reconciliation 10am - 11.30am 7:30pm Easter Vigil in the Church

Easter Sunday 20 April, 2025

8.30am and 10.30am Masses (No 10am Mass on this day)



Palms

If you have a palm tree and would like to contribute fresh palm leaves at the Palm Sunday blessing of palms, you can either drop them off in a basket in the foyer on the Saturday 12 April before 4pm.



