

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

28 FEBRUARY 2021

LISTEN TO HIM. Jesus revealed his oneness with sinful humanity by his baptism in the river Jordan. On the mount of transfiguration he revealed his oneness with God who proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' It takes faith to listen to Jesus, who teaches that the path of life leads along the way of the cross. But, as Abraham learned, if we put our faith in God our reward will be great.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 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.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Gen 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 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 their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP 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.**

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

Rom 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.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 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

Mk 9: 2-10

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

ST MARTHA'S PARISH STRATHFIELD



Parish Priest: Father John Hayes

Administration Coordinator: Nicolle Mazzaferro (Tuesday - Friday) admin@stmarthas.org.au

Administration Support: Larissa Argiro (Monday) office@stmarthas.org.au

Sacramental Assistant: Linda Praum sc@stmarthas.org.au

Safeguarding Officer: Dianne Dawson safeguarding@stmarthas.org.au

Parish Ministries Coordinator: Helen Williamson

Music Ministry: Marcella Ayoub & Agnes Lee

Children's Liturgy Coordinator: Rachel Suriano

Plenary Council Ambassador: Helena O'Neill

Youth Ministry: Jessica Gereis youth@stmarthas.org.au



'This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him'... Mark 9

70 Homebush Rd Strathfield NSW 2135

Phone: 9746 6131 Fax: 9764 3040

Email: office@stmarthas.org.au

Website: www.stmarthas.org.au

Parish Office: Mon- Fri 9.00am-3.00pm



St Martha's School: 9764 1184

Email: info@stmstrathfield.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Carolyn Parsell

Assist Principal: Steven Belcastro

REC: Attilia Kazacos

THE PARISH OF ST MARTHA'S ACKNOWLEDGES THE WANGUL PEOPLE AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH THE CHURCH IS BUILT

Vision:

**Welcoming
Eucharistic
Transformed by the Word
Full of Grace
Proclaiming Good News**



*Please
continue
to support the
St Vincent De Paul Society
through the Church
Poor Boxes.*

Mission:

**Alive with the Spirit
Inspired by St Martha
We Celebrate & Witness
God's love
Using our Gifts & Talents**



MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 7.30am

Wednesday: 9.10am

Thursday: 9.10am

Friday: 9.10am

Saturday: 9.10am, 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 8.00am; 10.00am & 6.00pm



1st Saturday of every month:

8-9am Adoration, 9am Benediction, 9.10am Healing Mass and
Anointing of the Sick,
followed by reconciliation

RECONCILIATION:

Saturday after 9.10am Mass or by appointment.

BAPTISM:

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 11.00am
by appointment only.
(One month's notice is required).



Next Preparation Session:

7th March 2020

Contact the Parish office for more information.

MARRIAGES: By appointment only.
(6 months' notice is required).



ROSARY: Tuesday & Saturday after morning Mass, Wednesday, Thursday
& Friday 8.30am and 7.30pm on Fridays in conjunction with Marian
Movement of Priests Cenacle and Divine Mercy Chaplet.

PRAYER GROUP / ADORATION AT

ST MARTHA'S CHURCH:

Mondays 10.30am – 11.30am

Resumes 15th February 2021

**Please support our Catholic Press
Copies of the Catholic Weekly \$2
& Catholic Leader \$2.50
are available at the Church Entrances.**



GLUTEN FREE HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANY CELIAC
PARISHIONERS. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION
PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH WARDEN OR SEE AN ACOLYTE IN
THE SACRISTY PRIOR TO MASS.

SAFE GUARDING



A reminder to parents that the Notice-Board located at the side
entrance contains various resources for children regarding
Safeguarding.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY.

Abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime 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 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.

Please be aware that if you "TAG" St Martha's in photos on your
Facebook page, the images also appear on an "unofficial" St Martha's
Facebook page. This "unofficial" page was created automatically by
Facebook and is not controlled by St Martha's. We kindly remind you to
take care when uploading photos of any children without parent consent.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

IF YOU PARTICIPATE IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES YOU ARE
REQUIRED TO **SIGN IN** - ACOLYTES; READERS; EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS;
CHOIR; CHILDREN'S LITURGY (LEADERS & CHILDREN) & SACRAMENTAL
PROGRAM (LEADERS & CHILDREN). SIGN IN FOLDERS ARE KEPT IN THE
SACRISTY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

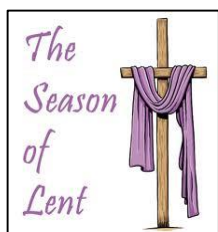
ALTAR SERVERS ARE **NOT** PERMITTED IN THE SACRISTY WITHOUT A
PARENT/TEACHER. THE SIGN IN FOLDER IS LOCATED IN THE CORRIDOR
OUTSIDE THE SACRISTY.

'Sharing the Word'

Will resume soon. Date to be advised.

Everyone is Welcome.





Lenten Devotion: Stations of the Cross
Every Friday of Lent at 7pm
Let us continue to Carry Hope this Lenten Season.
The HOPE Keepsakes are available from the Church foyer.



FIRST RECONCILIATION YEAR 3 STUDENTS

Please keep the candidates in your prayers during this time of preparation.

Thank you to Linda Praum from St Joseph's Enfield who has kindly volunteered to assist with facilitating the program.

LESSONS

Lesson 2 – 3.00pm Saturday 27th February

Lesson 3 – 3.00pm Saturday 6th March

Lesson 4 – 3.00pm Saturday 13th March

Or

Or

Or

3.20pm Wednesday 3rd March

3.20pm Wednesday 10th March

3.20pm Wednesday 17th March



Saturday lessons will take place in the upstairs school hall

Wednesday lessons will be in the Church

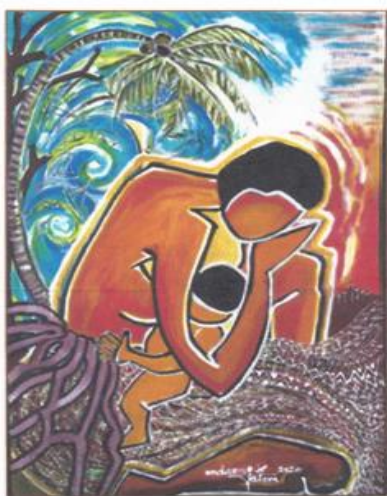
Retreat & Practice – 3.00pm - Saturday 20th March

First Reconciliation Liturgy - Tuesday 23rd March at 6.30pm

Please note: Year 2 students will receive First Reconciliation in Term 4, 2021.

Pray for Vanuatu

World Day of Prayer Service 2021



Date: Friday 5 March

Time: Service 10.00 am
No lunch this year

Location: Concord Uniting Church Corner Concord Road
and Wunda Rd Concord West 2138

Contact person: Martha Noel: 0432 546 165 or
Ada Mac Kay 0408 689 358

POPE FRANCIS' Advice for Lent

Fast from **hurting** words and say kind **words**.

Fast from **sadness**
and be filled with **gratitude**.

Fast from **anger** and be filled with **patience**.

Fast from **pessimism** and be filled with **hope**.

Fast from **worries** and **trust in God**.

Fast from **complaints**
and **contemplate** simplicity.

Fast from **pressures** and be **prayerful**.

Fast from **bitterness**
and fill your heart with **joy**.

Fast from **selfishness**
and be **compassionate** to others.

Fast from **grudges** and be **reconciled**.

Fast from **words**
and be silent so you can **listen**.

@ArchdioceseOfCaceres



The need is acute!

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their

people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](https://www.palms.org.au). Visit [palms.org.au](https://www.palms.org.au), call Palms on 02 9560 5333 or email palms@palms.org.au



Holy Land: Franciscans offer virtual Way of the Cross during Lent

The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land present a virtual Way of the Cross alternative for the faithful during Lent because for the second successive year, pilgrimages are not possible due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

By Vatican News staff writer

Lent this year unfolds as the world continues to battle with the Covid-19 pandemic, which brings with it unprecedented difficulties, including disruptions to travel for pilgrims to the Holy Land during this period. In light of this situation, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land has launched a virtual Way of the Cross project titled "Hic – On the Way of the Cross," for pilgrims during Lent because the Holy Land, for the second year in a row, is not accessible due to the ongoing health emergency. The project, conceived by the Franciscans after realizing the impossibility of pilgrimages this year, aims at providing a way for the faithful to be able to join in a Way of the Cross that would connect them to the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem

Far apart, yet together in prayer:

In an interview with Vatican News, Brother Francesco Patton, OFM, the Custos of the Holy Land, said that since pilgrims cannot physically come to the Holy Land to walk the Via Dolorosa every Friday, as is the pious practice, the Franciscans thought of helping them do so virtually, knowing that "all over the world, many have their eyes and hearts turned towards Jerusalem." It is a journey, the Custos explained, that involves reflecting on the traditional stations of the Way of the Cross, with meditations that can help "the faithful pilgrims scattered throughout the world to find the deepest meaning of their lives, of their existence." It is also "a message of hope in a time like the one we are living – a time of difficulty and suffering," it offers an Easter perspective because that is the meaning of the Way of the Cross."

Videos for each station:

In the 13 short videos of the Way of the Cross project, a friar from a different Franciscan Holy Land shrine will narrate a message about each station of the Cross in his own language, providing for a moment of meditation. Videos were filmed in various locations including in Syria, Jerusalem, Greece and Tel Aviv, Israel. Among the languages spoken by the friars are English, Tamil, Tagalog, Indonesian, German, Italian, Spanish and Mandarin. Brother Patton explained that each of the videos is specifically linked to the places where Jesus walked on the Way of the Cross. He added that the videos are enriched with images and details that help people to understand the places referred to in the Gospels as well as the spirituality of those places, in order to bring the mystery of the Way of the Cross into the present.

Keeping contact with the faithful:

In the wake of the vaccination campaigns against the Covid-19 virus beginning in many countries, Brother Patton is hopeful that Easter 2021 will be celebrated in a more serene manner than the previous year. He explained that vaccination efforts have begun among the population of the Holy Land but the country still has precautionary measures in place. He added that the absence of pilgrims has had consequent economic effects on many business owners, especially in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. "What we try to do for the pilgrims is to transmit, as much as possible, the various feasts that are linked to the individual sanctuaries." In this way, he continued, "the virtual pilgrims - people of flesh and bone - who have visited the Holy Land, can visit the places in which their faith has grown." During Holy Week, all the most important moments will be broadcast, including the Easter Triduum at the Holy Sepulcher, with the celebration of the Holy hour at Gethsemane and the so-called Funeral of Jesus in the Holy Sepulcher. Brother Patton added that throughout the year there will be a series of celebrations "to allow the faithful from around the world, and pilgrims, to feel in touch with this land, in the hope that they may soon return." The videos will be posted every Tuesday and Friday until 30 March, the Tuesday of Holy Week. They are accessible on the social media pages of the Custody of the Holy Land.



Enrolling @ St Martha's Primary School

Kindergarten Enrolments for 2022 are now being taken. Years 1-6 anytime of the year. Please contact the School Office on 9764 1184 for an Enrolment Pack or a personalised tour. All enrolments are welcome.

COULD THE PARISHIONER CURRENTLY USING PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPE NUMBER 170 KINDLY CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE ASAP.



Background on the Gospel Reading (Loyola Press)

On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration. This event is reported in each of the Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. This year, in Lectionary Cycle B, we hear Mark's report of this event. The context for Mark's Transfiguration story is similar to that found in both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel. The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion. After this, in each of these Gospels, there is also a discussion of the cost of discipleship. In each case, Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus. In Matthew's and Mark's Gospel, there is reference to a conversation among Jesus, Elijah, and Moses, but only Luke's Gospel includes the detail that this conversation is about

what Jesus will accomplish in Jerusalem. Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfilment of all that was promised to the people of Israel. On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism. In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death.

The new roster to commence 6th March is now available from the side entrance of the Church or via the parish website.

6 th & 7 th March				
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Special Ministers	Grace Herro	Gian Surjadinata	Relyn Ponce	Mary L'Estrange
	Rick Herro	Artha Surjadinata	Anne Marrins	Volunteer Needed
			Meaghan Williamson	
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Readers	Czarina Mendoza-Cruz	Greg Glass	Mark Soares	Theresa Kuk
	Matthew Lam	Paulina Roncevic	Melanie Yates	Miriam Redolfi
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Altar Servers	Giselle C.	Thomas C.	Zachariah B.	Katarina S.
	Elizabeth C.	James T.	Antoinette B.	John Paul B.
	Grace T.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	Peter T.	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
	VIGIL	8AM	10AM	6PM
Wardens	Joy Li	Mary Cooke	Trudie Rogers	Anne Chow

If you are unable to attend your rostered Mass kindly organise a replacement.

MASS INTENTIONS

Recently Deceased:

Bishop Bede Heather, Rory O'Kane, Nevenko Govorcin, Tomas Geronimo, John Kady, Antonio (Tony) Iannella, Peter Mynett, Janette (Jenny) O'Hara, Maureen Duggan, Dr Francis Anthony Rajah.

Repose of The Soul:



Fr Adrian Horgan, Fr Paul Ryan, Br Ray Dowding, Gerald Wilson, John Ferguson, Daniel Lucich, James Brady, Ken Fraser, Connie Wong, Mary Bentley, Aldo Amarino, Salvatore (Phillip) Puglisi, William (Bill) & Dorothy Starr, Roger O'Reilly, Stefano, Estelle Thurn, Anne Cecilia Glass, Reginald & Agnes Glass, Gerald & Frances Gleeson, Faado & Alice Herro, John, Doreen & Des McNamara Patrick & Janet Reynolds, Jim Reynolds, Ken Rich, Monica & Patrick Ryan, Stephen Maxwell Stewart & Christopher John Stewart, Dr Stephanie Winfield, Philip Winfield, Elie Sahyoun, Paul Nohra, Mahab Nohra, Les & Roberto Young, Tony Khoury, Mary Beini, Rumsey Mangano, Mr & Mrs Fayed, Victor & Apolin Rodrigues, Shri Ram Pujari, Caterina & Matteo Genova, Francesco & Maria Colagiuri, Maria Huang, Dominic Wang, Lisa Cooke, Michael & Mary Cassar, Guiseppe & Romilda Reginato.

Anniversaries:

Andrew Coote, Edith Hogan, Natalia Toth, Parwathy Raju, Grace Hunt, Jim Henness, Anne Pittorino, Peter Hetherton, Dan Dillon.

Sick Intentions:

Nicola Bailey, Aida Bechara, Susanna Boroczky, Pat Fraser, Tony Grace, Baby Alice Ladd, Margaret Davidson, Marc Kayrouz, Peter Starr & Ajith Antony Seemampillai.

Special Intentions:

Trish & Joe O'Kane, Gary & Priscilla, Steve Lucich, Members of the Geronimo & Araullo Families, Members of the Tannous & Duggan Families, The Pagano & Colagiuri Families. For Deceased Friends & Benefactors of the Dominican Order.

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 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: 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.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 17: 5

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

LIVING IN FAITHFULNESS AND HOPE

There are few moments in the scriptures as dramatic as when Abraham has steeled himself to seize the knife that will take the life of his son Isaac. In that moment on the mount Abraham revealed once again his true quality and the depth of his trust in the word of God. Years later, on a mountain God will reveal the glory and grandeur of the greatest gift of all, the presence of Jesus among us, the living word. As Abraham listened to the voice of the Lord God, so too the disciples of all ages are called to listen to the words of Jesus, the beloved Son. His words promise us a life that awaits us beyond death, and his presence will enable the disciples to move on with him to the cross. On a mountain a son's life was saved. Centuries later on a rocky outcrop, scorned and ridiculed, God will give what he did not take from Abraham so that all of us might be saved.

In many ways Paul reflects on what has been gained for us all by that sacrifice on Calvary. Like Abraham, God does not withhold even what is most precious. The glory and promise of the Transfiguration have their fulfilment in Jesus' victory over death, a victory which now enables us to live our lives in faithfulness and hope. Paul is concerned to share the certainty of his belief that, with Jesus pleading our cause, there is no need for fear.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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