



# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

04 MARCH 2018

YEAR B

*"We are a child safe Parish"*



### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

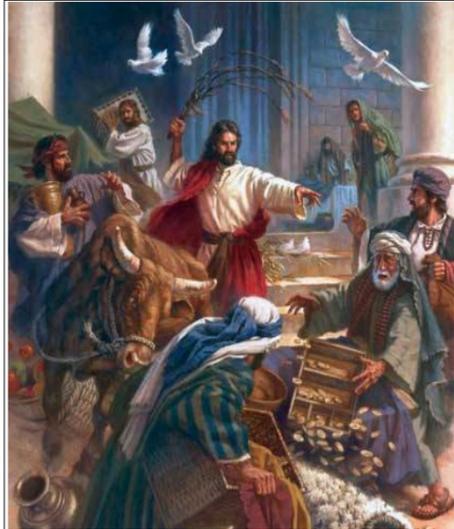
**1st Reading:** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
**2nd Reading:** Ephesians 2:4-10  
**Gospel:** John 3:14-21

### RESPONSE

*Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

### ACCLAMATION

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,  
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.  
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!*



### "CLEANSING THE TEMPLE OF OUR OWN HEARTS"

Today's readings from Holy Scripture teach us that Lent is the ideal time for cleaning out the Temple of our own hearts and to offer to God proper Divine worship by obeying the Ten Commandments. They also teach us that our *New Covenant* with God demands that we should keep our parish Church holy and our Divine worship vibrant by our active participation in the liturgy with hearts cleansed by repentance, and holy by allowing the Holy Spirit to control our hearts and lives.

Today's Gospel gives us the dramatic account of Jesus' cleansing the Temple of its merchants and money-changers, followed by a prediction of his death and Resurrection.

Let us remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity, injustice, pride, hatred or jealousy. Let us be cleansed by asking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Excerpt from Homilies of Fr. Anthony Kadavil on John 2:13-25 available at <http://stjohngrandbay.org> Image from <https://togetherwithgodsword.com>

### LENT AS: HEARING THE CRY OF THE POOR

Each year, the Season of Lent is offered to us as a time of renewal. Usually, we take up this Lenten journey as the gift of personal renewal in terms of our relationship with the Lord. Our renewal becomes concrete when it comes down to self-denial which allows us to live our faith more authentically. The alms giving we do helps us express our gratitude and allows us to exercise generosity. However, Lent can also be a time to focus beyond ourselves. It can be a time of renewal that is offered us to hear the cry of the poor and grow in solidarity with them. Ultimately, this is spiritual renewal as well and helps us grow closer to our Lord who tells us that if we wish to love him, we must express that love as love for the least of our brothers and sisters.

How can I make this Lent a time to hear the cry of the poor? It all starts with desire and a few choices. If we recognize a desire to be more attentive to the poor and to grow in affection for and solidarity with them, then it is likely that this is a grace we have received. Many things may have happened to open us to this grace, but it is important to name it and welcome it. Perhaps God has been offering us this grace for some time and preparing us to receive it this Lent. If we don't feel this desire, we can ask for it. We can



ask our Lord to help us grow in a desire to hear better the cry of those most in need.

We tend to not think of the poor very much because to do so can render us sad or feeling "unable to help." But, if we use a time like Lent to try to reflect upon the situation of the poor near us and around the world, then the poor will help us come to know God's special love for them.

Full article is available at [www.onlineministries.creighton.edu](http://www.onlineministries.creighton.edu)

### THANKSGIVING

Church: \$ 1,783.35

Priest: \$ 1,305.00

(Retired Priest & Archdiocese)



### RCIA Program

*We invite those interested to join immediately the RCIA program. For details, please contact Fr Sebastian before 6 March.*

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** OLOL Family would like to convey its sincere condolences and prayers to the family of Zannette Robinson for the passing away of her husband Ray.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Tom Carey, Luke Scudds, Peter Loonstra, Myrtle Poynter, Kathleen Robertson, Ron Murfitt, Bert Gardner, Fredrick Wood, Ivy Tellis, Elizabeth Richards, Denis Johnston.

**SICK:** Mary Edmonds, Marta Kristan, Geoff Bell, Ted Davies, Maryan and Peter Lisle, Margaret Ratcliffe, Matthew MacDonald

### POPE FRANCIS DEMANDS END TO 'INHUMAN' VIOLENCE IN SYRIA

After one of the bloodiest weeks of aerial bombardment in Syria's long-running conflict, Pope Francis on Sunday issued a strong appeal for an end to the violence 'without delay,' calling what's happening is 'inhuman.'

'In these days, my thoughts have often turned to the beloved and martyred Syria, where war has intensified, especially in Eastern Ghouta,' he said, referring to an eastern suburb of the Syrian capital of Damascus where the bombing by government forces has been concentrated.

According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, nearly 500 people have been killed in the offensive, some 120 of them children. The UN Security Council approved a resolution on Saturday calling for a 30-day cease-fire, although an Iranian news agency on Sunday quoted a military official as saying that attacks on 'terrorists' will continue in the Damascus suburbs.

'Evil cannot be fought with other evil,' the pontiff said. 'I renew my heartfelt appeal that the violence ends soon, and that access be created for humanitarian aid - food and medicine - and that the injured and the sick be evacuated.'

'Let us pray to God,' he said, 'that this happens without delay.' The pope then led the crowd in St Peter's Square in a moment of silent prayer, followed by a Hail Mary.

Full report at [www.melbournecatholic.org.au](http://www.melbournecatholic.org.au)

### FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE FROM ACRATH

(THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN)

In 2015, Pope Francis said that "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act."

Cocoa is a key ingredient of chocolate. Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions. **Most of these children have never even tasted chocolate.**

If you are buying chocolate for someone, please buy only the slavery-free Easter chocolate. Look for any of these three certification symbols on the wrappers: FAIRTRADE, Rainforest Alliance and UTZ.

For more details go to:

<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter-chocolate/>



### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2018

**Confirmation: 31 May**  
**First Holy Communion: 3 June**  
**First Reconciliation: 25 October**

Preparation classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation has commenced this weekend and will run for 4-5 weeks every Saturday at 3PM.

Registration form is available in the Narthex or you can contact the Parish office at 97292622 or email at [bayswater@cam.org.au](mailto:bayswater@cam.org.au)

this SUNDAY

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at 11:00 AM

All parishioners are invited to participate in the AGM.

### AN OINTING MASS

SATURDAY, 10 MARCH AT 2:30 PM

*Please bring all elderly and sick members of your family and friends.*

Kindly take note of the appropriate recipients for the anointing of the sick as described in the General Introduction of the rite:

- "Great care and concern should be taken to see that those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament.
- A prudent or reasonably sure judgment, without scruple, is sufficient for deciding on the seriousness of an illness; if necessary a doctor may be consulted.
- The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after being anointed and then again falls ill or if during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious.
- A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery.
- Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present
- Sick children are to be anointed if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament. In a case of doubt whether a child has reached the use of reason, the sacrament is to be conferred". (#8-12)



Thank You

OUR BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO **BR MARK O'CONNOR** FOR A VERY ENLIGHTENING EVENING WE HAD LAST WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY.

### WORKING BEE

Saturday, 17 March 9 am -12 noon

*Please come along and help spruce up our garden and clean up the Church in preparation for Easter.*



**Station of the Cross**  
Sundays during Lent after the 5PM Mass, followed by Benediction



### ESCAPE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. ACTS 13:38 NIV