

PARISH & OTHER NOTICES

Many thanks to all who contributed so generously to making St Mary's Multicultural Fair such a success—with food, donated items, cultural exhibits and song and dance!

And we thank God the weather held out, in spite of all the foreboding forecasts!

Please give us any feedback you like and thank you, everyone, for your participation and support.

See below for our competition!



40 Days for Life is a new pro-life initiative that has produced encouraging results in the US and that involves rosters of men and women who pray over the course of the 40 days of Lent near an abortion clinic.

A full explanation of the programme plus how to join is found on handouts at the rear of the church.



Free copies of a booklet produced by **The Word Among Us** containing daily meditations for Lent based on Scripture texts of the day are available at the rear of the church.

“Stations of the Cross” will be led by one of the priests each Friday of Lent through to the week before Holy Week.

Time and place: 5.30pm in the parish church.

All welcome.



Family Catechism session will take place this SUNDAY March 7 after the 10.30am Mass in the school

(entry from Victoria St)

Further details: Fr Ed 0408 103 125



ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA CATHOLIC CHURCH

33 Howard Street, West Melbourne 3003
 Tel: 9328 3474 Fax: 9328 3203 E-mail: info@stmaryswestmelbourne.org
“An open door to Jesus through Mary.” www.stmaryswestmelbourne.org

PARISH INFORMATION

- Parish Priest**
Fr Max Polak
 - Assistant Priest**
Fr Joseph Pich
 - Catechetics Coordinator**
Fr Edward Barry
 - Restoration Coordinator**
Thomas Hazell AO
 - Parish Secretary**
Linus Kalade
 - Administrative Officer**
Jeremy Fletcher
 - Office hours**
Mon-Fri: 10.00 am-2.00 pm
- For urgent matters, you can contact Fr Max on 0438 942 043 and Fr Joseph on 0427 238 933.

MASS TIMES

- Saturday Vigil:** 6.30 pm
 - Sunday:** 10.30 am
12.00 noon (Lithuanian)
 - Monday to Friday:** 12.30 pm
- CONFESSIONS**
- Saturday:** 11.00 am–12.00 noon
5.45–6.15 pm
 - Sunday:** 9.45–10.15 am
 - Monday to Friday:** 12.00 noon–12.25 pm
1.05–1.30 pm
 - Tuesday:** 5.00-6.00 pm

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

By appointment.

DEVOTIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Eucharistic Adoration:**
Thursdays 1-2 pm
- Legion of Mary:** Fridays 6:30 pm at the presbytery.
- Family Catechism:** Sundays 11:30am during school term
- Playgroup:** Thursdays 10-12noon in the crypt

3rd Sunday of Lent (C)



In both the second reading and the Gospel passage of today's Mass, one of the prevailing ideas is the reality of sin and the danger of remaining unrepentant of sin in one's life.

We hear how Jesus was approached by some people who were deeply impressed by what happened to certain unfortunate Jews who had fallen victim to cruel punishment at the hands of the Roman governor Pilate. Jesus knew what was going through their minds. They had judged that these persons must have been of the very worst sort to have something like this happen to them. It was quite common to draw such conclusions at that time, and it still happens today. However, Jesus responds in a way that would have been surprising for them. “Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you.”

Our Lord went on to put another example—an instance of a tragic accident in the Holy City—that would have probably been interpreted by many in a similar fashion to the more recent case of the Galileans. Again he insisted. Those upon whom the tower at Siloam had fallen were not any worse than many others living in Jerusalem at that time. “But unless you repent”, Christ goes on to say, “you will all perish as they did.”

Such tragic incidents always draw attention. We only have to look at our daily newspapers and other media. They play upon our imagination which can magnify the sense of tragedy, create fear and make us ask why such an event has occurred. The fact is that both just and unjust persons can suffer an accidental or cruel death. Regarding the latter we only have to think of the example of the Christian martyrs, whom the Church venerates as saints. It is not so easy, then, to work out when such death constitutes a punishment.

On the other hand, Jesus makes the point that if we especially fear certain forms of death, we should live so as not to be deserving of them as an end to an evil life. He seems also to be giving a warning to many of his contemporaries who were of the people of God—the beloved fig tree planted in God's own vineyard, the Holy City—and yet were living at variance with all He had given them for their growth in holiness. Jesus may be seen to be the man in the parable—who argues that they be given more time. Perhaps they will react and repent. Yet history shows that many did not, and the whole city of Jerusalem was eventually destroyed by the Romans. Yet God never wants the condemnation of the sinner, but rather that the sinner repent. There is a danger, however, of never really repenting.

Lent is a season for repentance, be it of great sins or small. We should not delay reacting against obvious moral failings in our life, that with the grace of God and some struggle on our part we are able to overcome or keep from overcoming us. Besides, we have an especially helpful way of seeking pardon as often as needed in this life—Jesus' special gift of sacramental confession.

TEXTS FOR TODAY'S MASS

Entrance hymn: 70 Forty Days and Forty Nights

First Reading: *Exodus 3:1-8.13-15*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them up of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 102:1-4. 6-8. 11 R. v 8*

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. R

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. R

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. R

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. R

Second Reading: *Corinthians 10. 1-6. 10-12*

I want to remind you, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age: The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord: the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: *Luke 13:1-9*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans?' They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Offertory hymn: 43 Come Down, O Love Divine

Holy, Holy, Holy: 288

Lamb of God: 289

Communion hymn: 58 Draw Nigh and Take

Recessional hymn: 236 Star of Ocean

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2010 Excerpt from Australian Bishops' Letter

We wish to honour you and to thank you for the precious gift that you are to the Church in Australia. Each member of the Body of Christ brings their own God-given gifts to the fundamental task in front of us all – to seek to build up God's Kingdom in our own place and our own time. As women, you bring to this holy enterprise a special gift, which Pope



John Paul II famously described as "the genius of women". We see this genius brought to vibrant life all around us, both in the Church and in the wider world. It is there in the face of a young woman setting out on the journey to explore her vocation and find her place in the world. It is there in women, married or single, whose faith inspires them to excel in their profession. It is there in wives and mothers who nurture and love their offspring and bring them to know the love of Jesus Christ. We see it in the service and devotion of women with a vocation to the religious life as well as in those very many unsung women who are carers or who serve the poor, the outcast, the lonely, the sick in the spirit of true social justice modelled by Christ. We see it too in those women who play a vital role in the new ecclesial movements emerging in the life of the Church....Holiness of life is the

Canonization of Blessed Mary MacKillop



Australia will have its first saint when on Sunday, October 17 Mary MacKillop, Foundress of the Sisters of St Joseph, is canonized in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI. She was a pioneer of education for the poor and for those in many remote areas of Australia and New Zealand.



Lenten giving— Project Compassion

Project Compassion is the yearly Lenten campaign to raise money for the worthy and efficient projects carried out by Caritas Australia overseas. These include aid to earthquake stricken Haiti and Chile as well as many other long terms

forms of assistance to developing countries. Please give generously this Lent. Material (envelopes and boxes for family contributions) are available on the tables at the rear of the church.

This week's saints

St John of God (1495 – 1550) John came from a noble but poor Portuguese family and in his early life was a farmworker and later, a soldier. He came under the influence of St John of Avila and settled in Granada where he was inspired to dedicate himself to the care of the poor and the sick. With this purpose in mind he founded the Order of Hospitallers, now spread throughout the world.

St Frances of Rome (1384 – 1440) Francesca was a noblewoman of Rome married to head of the Papal troops. She gave birth to six children, two of whom died in infancy. She was dedicated to the poor of Rome and beloved by them. She received many extraordinary gifts.

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Weddings and Baptisms
at St Mary's this weekend:
Pray for these newly-baptised children
Julian Henryk Roszkowski
Johann Vincent Salkunas
Isaac Lazzaro Bruzzaniti
Isabella Furnari
and these newly married couples
Joseph Sculli and Jo-Anne Maria Theresa Grima
Marcellus Mario Reneaux and Sharon Marie Robinson
Christopher James Capponi and Adriana Maruzzi

*Holy Mary, Star of the Sea,
intercede for them.*

Weekday Mass Mar 8th-12th, 2010		
Mon 8 th	Monday 3rd Week of LENT <i>Commemoration of St. John of God</i>	p. 120
Tue 9 th	Tuesday 3rd Week of LENT <i>Commemoration of St. Frances of Rome</i>	p. 121
Wed 10 th	Wednesday 3rd Week of LENT	p. 122
Thurs 11 th	Thursday 3rd week of LENT	p. 123
Fri 12 th	Friday 3rd week of LENT	p.124