



10th March 2024

Fourth Sunday in Lent



Sentence

Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and come together all you who love her. Be joyful, you who have been in sorrow, that you may exalt, and be filled from the abundance of your consolation. (*Isaiah 66:10-11*)

The Collect

Everlasting God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light we may see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Numbers, chapter 21, beginning at verse 4.

They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go round Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!' Then the Lord sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We sinned when we spoke against the Lord and against you. Pray that the Lord will take the snakes away from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. The Lord said to Moses, 'Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.' So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 107

R: The Lord has redeemed his faithful from the hand of the enemy.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: for his loving mercy is for ever. Let the Lord's redeemed say so: whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy, and gathered in from every land, from the east and from the west: from the north and from the south. **R...**

Fools were far gone in transgression: and because of their sins were afflicted. They sickened at any food: and had come to the gates of death. Then they cried to the Lord in their distress: and he took them out of their trouble. **R...**

He sent his word and healed them: and saved their life from the Pit. Let them thank the Lord for his goodness: and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam; Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving: and tell what he has done with shouts of joy. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 2, beginning at verse 1.

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, chapter 3, beginning at the fourteenth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.' For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Merciful God, you chose to give the most vital part of yourself as a means of rekindling the love that Man has forgotten. Hear us when seek to meet that love through prayer.

You nurture your children like a mother: bless the lives of all mothers throughout the world. May they have patience and curiosity around their children, and may the bond between mother and child be reciprocal and ever fruitful. Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

Your angel appeared to Mary to invite her to bear your Son Jesus: we give thanks

for women everywhere, particularly those who have inspired our faith, our morals and our perseverance. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

You met a Samaritan woman by the well, and made her an evangelist: we pray for greater recognition and empowerment of women in the Church. Bless the work of all female deacons, priests and bishops, as well as lay women who selflessly live, teach and support the gospel. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Your mother wept at the foot of the Cross: we pray for all women who live in fear and distress, particularly victims of domestic violence, abuse and mental illness. May they be able to find the support and reassurance they need. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

You healed mothers of their disease, and relieved sisters of their unclean spirits: we pray for those in need of healing in body, mind or spirit, particularly those known to us: *Gail Piechowiak, Father John Young, Fran Cohn, Mary Dodge, Lyn Overend, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.*

Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

You raised a girl to life, and bid her come to you: we pray for those passed away, that they might waken to Paradise. May their example inspire our lives, and help us to walk in the way of truth. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Nola Speirs, Jane Peck, Joseph Daley, Jim Craker, Alwyn O'Brien, Edna Burgess, and Ellen Anderson.* Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers. **Grant that what we have asked in faith, we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Notices

Lenten Study

The sessions this week will be Tuesday 12th March at St Matthew's Broadford at 10am, and Wednesday 13th March at Christ Church Kilmore at 7.30pm.

Holy Week

Preparations for Holy Week are underway. We're hoping to release a schedule some time next week. This is Fr. David's first time arranging things as a priest-in-charge, so your patience/assistance/input is highly valued. At this stage, we are looking at Palm Sunday (TBA), Tenebrae (St Stephen's), Maundy Thursday

preceded by a reflective seder meal (TBA), Good Friday (St Matthew's and Christ Church) and a combined Parish Mass (Christ Church) on Easter Sunday. We still need to decide on the venue/nature of Maundy Thursday, and Palm Sunday, as it may need to differ from the usual service schedule. There may also be a Stations of the Cross during the week if people are interested.

Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

This event takes place at the Royal Exhibition Building in Carlton, from the 20th to the 24th of March. The Kilmore Art Society, including Fr. David, will have a number of wonderful artworks on display. The show is open from 9pm to 5pm from the Wednesday to the Sunday, and til 9pm on the Friday. Well worth a day out!

Painting Workshop

Due to popular demand, another painting workshop with Fr. David is being planned. Depending on people's keenness and availability, this may be in March or April after Easter. If you would be interested in attending, please indicate to Fr. David when you'd be available, so that we can cater to as many people as we can.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

This Week in the Parish:

Monday 11th March: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Tuesday 12th March: 10am: Lenten Study, Broadford

Wednesday 13th March: 7:30pm: Lenten Study, Kilmore

Thursday 14th March: 10am Mass, St Matthew's Broadford

10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 15th March: 10:30am Blue Cross RACF Service

10am-4pm Op Shop Trading

Saturday 16th March: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Lent:		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Morning Prayer
St Matthew's, Broadford	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Morning Prayer
Transfiguration, Pyalong	11.00am	Holy Eucharist

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 11th March	Ps 28; 29	Ps 30; 32
	Jeremiah 36:1-19	Exodus 1
	Hebrews 12:1-11	Luke 18:1-14
Tuesday 12th March	Ps 31	Ps 33
	Jeremiah 36:20-32	Exodus 2
	Hebrews 12:12-24	Luke 18:15-30
Wednesday 13th March	Ps 35:1-17	Ps 35:18-29; 36
	Jeremiah 37	Exodus 3
	Hebrews 12:25-29	Luke 18:31-43
Thursday 14th March	Ps 34	Ps 119:17-40
	Jeremiah 38:1-13	Exodus 4:1-26
	Hebrews 13:1-6	Luke 19:1-10
Friday 15th March	Ps 37:1-17	Ps 37:18-41
	Jeremiah 38:14-28	Exodus 4:27-6:1
	Hebrews 13:7-17	Luke 19:11-27
Saturday 16th March	Ps 38	Ps 39
	Jeremiah 39	Exodus 6:2-13; 6:28-7:7
	Hebrews 13:18-25	Luke 19:28-48

Parish Contacts

Parish Priest – Fr David Kerr: 9 Union Street, Kilmore,

Mobile: 0439 288 070

Email: dkerr1307@gmail.com

Parish Wardens:

Caroline Burge, 20 Chrystobel Way, Kilmore, Mobile 0409 822 180

Rebecca Jones, 3 First Street, Broadford, Ph 5784 4057

Julie Wallis, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

Glenn McKenzie, 13 Station Street, Pyalong, Mobile 0452420958

Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/>

or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services Online on the website.

Thoughts for the Week

John 3:16 is the most quoted verse of the Bible. At least by Christians. And yes, it is a powerful verse. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life. It narrows the scope and purpose of God to a distinctly Christian vantage point. Gone is the vengeful tyrant in the sky of the Old Testament (as a surprising amount of people in this world choose to see him). We know that God loves us, and we believe it was for us he chose to come among us in human form, to learn the fullness of our humanity. But the word that trips some people up is 'so'. It was a surprising source, a highly conservative minister, who preached on this very passage in my hearing, and blew my young(er) mind by saying the following. It is not 'so' in terms of 'this much', but 'so' in terms of 'such'. In other words, God so loved the world in such a manner as giving his only Son. Quality over quantity. God isn't trying to buy back our love, the way a husband has to grovel if he forgets an important birthday or anniversary. In coming among us as a man, God learned the thing that differentiates real love from token gestures is sacrifice. We've all given people candles and cacti and gift vouchers when we've got no idea what to buy for them, or don't care enough to pay attention to their interests. But then there are people over whom we've agonised in getting just the right present. The default position is, sadly, the former. But what elevates humanity to its true self is the latter. Because that's the image of God we

are at liberty to reflect; at liberty, but don't always use the opportunity. You can spend thousands of dollars on something from any old Myer store. Or you can spend five dollars on something you spend days (and sleepless nights) hunting down in the most obscure thrift shops, because it has to be exactly right. You know the person that well. You care about the person just that much, that the agony of expressing love is nothing like the feeling of growing closer to the other person. It's not how much love God expresses to us, it's the way in which he expresses it. To come among us at a given time and place in history, where he could make the greatest singular impact on humanity, for even generations to come. Quality, not quantity.