



25th February 2024

Second Sunday in Lent



Sentence

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. (*Mark 8:34*)

The Collect

God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life: grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of Genesis, chapter 17, beginning at verse 1.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.' Abram fell face down, and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: you will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. God also said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22, verses 24-32

R: Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord

O praise the Lord, all you that fear him: hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob, and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him. For he has not despised nor abhorred the poor man in his misery: nor did he hide his face from him, but heard him when he cried. **R...**

From you springs my praise in the great congregation: I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you; The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied: and those who seek the Lord shall praise him— may their hearts rejoice for ever! **R...**

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage: or those that descend to the dust bow down before him? But he has saved my life for himself: and my posterity shall serve him. This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation: and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn, that he has done it. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 4, beginning at verse 13.

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah's womb was also dead.

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why 'it was credited to him as righteousness.' The words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him

alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

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.

Whoever wants to be my disciple, let them take up their cross and follow me.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 8, beginning at the thirty-first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. ‘Get behind me, Satan!’ he said. ‘You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.’ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.’

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father, your Son Jesus had the heart to rebuke those dearest to him when he could see they strayed from the path of righteousness. Give us such a courageous heart to pray for our community, our families and our Church.

We pray for children that go without food, healthcare and education; for homes that are lacking in safety, decency and love. Protect your children, and guide your faithful people to do the same. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for victims of domestic abuse in all its forms, particularly when that abuse is not immediately visible to others; for those who are gaslighted and ostracised in addition to fearing for their safety. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the voiceless in society; for those who are forgotten or overlooked because they pose an alleged barrier to the happiness of a select few. Let no one be marginalised that speaks the gospel or acts in the name of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are exploring the Christian faith; for those who are excited by it, and those who may be daunted by it. Let all who have faith take courage in proclaiming the word of God, even if it means bucking a trend or being unpopular. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for practitioners of the arts and purveyors of culture in our community. For all who use their gifts to uphold the glory of diversity, and those who express and respond to the times in which we live, such that your truth and your promise might be made ever clearer to us. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the building up of your holy church throughout the world; for a deepening of faith and commitment, and for an attention to the people of God, rather than simply the buildings in which they meet. Gather and strengthen the human agents of your justice. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need of healing in body, mind or spirit; particularly those known to us: *Doug Whitbourn, Gail Piechowiak, Father John Young, 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.**

We pray for the faithful departed, that they might find rest in the eternal Kingdom. Inspire us with their lives and their faith, and comfort the grieving and broken-hearted. We remember those whose year's mind occurs at this time: *Robert Keath, Mabel Whittingslow, Bill Boulton, John Brown, Rex Collett, John Smith, Cecil Edge, Douglas Boulton, Cindy Holt, Mieczyslaw Kazuro, Walter Homewood, and Beverley Meldrum.* 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

Due to a change in Fr. David's schedule from the 5th of March, the evening session of the Lenten study at Christ Church will need to be moved to a different night, potentially Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. Please confer with Fr. David as to your preference if you would like to attend. The Tuesday morning session will remain at 10am at St Matthew's.

World Day of Prayer

This year, World Day of Prayer is Friday 1st March. It will be hosted by St Matthew's Broadford, with a service at 10am, and then by Christ Church Kilmore, with a service at 11.30am. We will be praying for the people of Palestine. All are most welcome to attend. Respective morning teas to follow each service.

Baptism

At the 9am Mass next Sunday, 3rd March, we will be baptising Noah Hanson into the Body of Christ (and on the day of his 2nd birthday, too).

Working Bee

We will need to arrange a working bee before the 5th of March to tidy up the area behind the Op Shop, as the weeds and other debris have become too much for a one-person job. If you are able to assist getting the grounds looking presentable (and to keep the Shire happy), please speak to Caroline Burge.

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 26th February: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading

Tuesday 27th February: 10am Lenten Study, St Matthew’s Broadford
7.30pm Lenten Study, Christ Church Kilmore

Thursday 29th February: 10am Mass, St Matthew’s Broadford
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 1st March: 10.30am Blue Cross RACF Service
10am-4pm Op Shop Trading

Saturday 2nd March: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

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| Next Sunday: Third Sunday in Lent: Exodus 20:1-17; Ps 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22 | | |
| Christ Church, Kilmore | 9.00am | Holy Eucharist w/ Baptism |
| St Matthew’s, Broadford | 11.00am | Holy Eucharist |
| St Stephen’s, Tallarook | 11.00am | Morning Prayer |
| Transfiguration, Pyalong | --- | --- |

Weekly Scripture Readings

| | Morning Prayer | Evening Prayer |
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| Monday 26th February | Ps 137:1-9; 138 | Ps 139 |
| | Jeremiah 29:1-23 | Genesis 43:1-15 |
| | Hebrews 7:11-25 | Luke 12:49-59 |
| Tuesday 27th February | Ps 140 | Ps 141; 142 |
| <i>George Herbert</i> | Jeremiah 29:24-30:9 | Genesis 43:15-34 |
| | Hebrews 7:26-8:6 | Luke 13:1-9 |
| Wednesday 28th February | Ps 143; 146 | Ps 119:153-176 |
| | Jeremiah 30:10-24 | Genesis 44:1-17 |
| | Hebrews 8:7-13 | Luke 13:10-21 |
| Thursday 29th February | Ps 145 | Ps 147 |
| | Jeremiah 31:1-14 | Genesis 44:18-34 |
| | Hebrews 9:1-10 | Luke 13:22-35 |
| Friday 1st March | Ps 1; 2 | Ps 3; 4 |
| <i>David of Wales</i> | Jeremiah 31:15-26 | Genesis 45:1-15 |
| | Hebrews 9:11-22 | Luke 14:1-14 |
| Saturday 2nd March | Ps 5; 6 | Ps 7; 8 |
| <i>Chad of Lichfield</i> | Jeremiah 31:27-40 | Genesis 45:16-46:7 |
| | Hebrews 9:23-10:4 | Luke 14:15-34 |

Parish Contacts

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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

The world today seems to shy away from the prospect of discomfort. In a word: don't. Don't be afraid of discomfort. For it is the needle of one's moral compass. The disciples, when they felt discomfort, did not feel it in direct relation to Jesus, but to the earthly and insidious forces working to separate them from Jesus. It was not out of disdain for Jesus that Peter rebuked him for deigning to talk about suffering and death. It was the fact that embarking on such an endeavour would mean an end to the disciples' present way of life. Not having to work, but relying on the resources of wealthy women. Having a tightly knit circle of misfits with which to confer, so as to avoid any potential threat of evangelism and outreach (not much has changed really in that regard). They couldn't be afraid of the gospel; on the one hand, they didn't understand it deeply enough, and on the other, there really is nothing to fear in the gospel itself. The bits we feel uncomfortable on, they come from the opposition we face from people who want to keep things as they are. In our daily lives, we will only face discomfort when our path deviates from what is real and right and true. The only way to combat this discomfort is to live through it, maintaining our spiritual and moral integrity, as hard as the world may try to shake us. Every confrontation is like ripping off a band-aid; a moment of pain, before we see the healing beneath.