



Please pray for: Frank & Alice May Purcell (deceased)

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 28th February 2021 – Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Sunday, 28 Feb	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 28 Feb	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 01 Mar	12.35 pm	Monday of Second Week of Lent
Tuesday, 02 Mar	12.35 pm	Tuesday of Second Week of Lent
Wednesday, 03 Mar	12.35 pm	Wednesday of Second Week of Lent
Thursday, 04 Mar	12.35 pm	Saint Casimir (Optional)
Friday, 05 Mar	12.35 pm	Autumn Ember Day
Saturday, 06 Mar	No Mass	Saturday of Second Week of Lent

Regular Confession Times in St Benedict's Church:

Monday to Friday: 11.45 am – 12.30 pm (before 12.35 pm Mass)
Sunday: 5.30 pm (before 6.00 pm Mass)

Mass at St James' Church,

Forest Lodge:

Saturday Vigil: 5.00 pm
Sunday: 8 am, 9.30 am & 11 am
Wednesday & Friday: 9.00am
Saturday (morning): 8.30am

Confession at St James' Church

Saturday: 4.15pm - 4.50pm,
ahead of Vigil Mass
(No Confession on Sundays)

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding Office



If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney we invite you to contact us. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support and discuss the options you have available to you. **Please contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on ph 02 9390 5812.**



A VOCATION VIEW: 'Only Jesus could build a bridge to heaven with just two pieces of wood.' *Unknown*

Autumn Ember Day – (from the German, *Quatember*, 'quarter day' or, as the Irish used to say, *Quarter Tense*) mark the beginning of each of the four seasons. Kept in the Roman Church since the fifth century, they are observed in Australia on the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring (March and September) as special days of prayer and penance. On Rogation and Ember days the Church is accustomed to entreat the Lord for the various needs of humanity, especially for the fruits of the earth and for human labour, and to give thanks to him publicly. *GNLYC 45*

Project Compassion 2021 – this year's Project Compassion theme is **Be More**, inspired by the words of Saint Oscar Romero – *Aspire not to have more, but to be more.*

'It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.' Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Project Compassion – Week 2 – Margret's story – Solomon Islands

Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. The school suffered long term water shortages. Then, amidst the threat of COVID-19, Tropical Cyclone Harold hit. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage, implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and has plans to boost food security. Margret hopes that the school can aspire to 'Be More'. 'I am proud that our school community works together with Caritas Australia as our partner in ensuring that we live in a healthier environment,' Margret says.

Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

Communion Antiphon:

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

**Stations of the Cross - each Friday during Lent in St Benedict's Church - 6pm*

Saint Casimir – Casimir was the son of the King of Poland, who was also Grand Duke of Lithuania. An intelligent and generous young prince, Casimir showed deep concern for national affairs and for the poor. He was devoted to prayer, especially Eucharistic prayer, and had a deep Marian devotion. He died from consumption on his feast date (4th March). He is honoured as the patron saint of Poland and Lithuania.

Weekly Online Lenten Group – Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion

Join Fr Noel Custodio, host of the *Furnace* podcast, as he leads an online Lenten Group which will use *Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion*. **Wednesdays of Lent** – starting Ash Wednesday, 17th February – 7.30pm-8.15pm – To Register – www.gomakedisciples.org.au

Learn Love, Learn Your Call – Lenten Day Retreat for Women – St Michael's Parish, Meadowbank – Saturday 6th March – 8am–1.30pm

The speaker is Fr Daniele Russo – for more information, please contact the Vocation Centre – vocations@sydneycatholic.org – or – 9307 8424. *Please RSVP by Fri 5th March. Online Registration form – <https://forms.gle/vtCMYtqDPyysifFo9> *The event is free – but a \$10 donation will assist with catering.

Open Days at Eileen's Place

Our Lady's Nurses for the Poor is hosting a monthly open day throughout 2021, the centenary of the death of Servant of God, Eileen O'Connor, inviting pilgrims to Eileen's tomb at Dudley Street in Coogee. The next open day is on Sunday 7th March, with two sessions from 10.30am-12pm & 12.30pm-2pm. Register online – <https://eileenconnor.com.au/open-days>

Maximus Men's Breakfast – St Joseph and the Masculine Genius – St Thomas More Catholic Church – Brighton-Le-Sands – Saturday 13th March – 8.30am–12pm

Join in for a fantastic morning of prayer, fellowship, formation and food! Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Umbers and there will be a presentation by Steven Buhagiar. All enquiries – chris.dasilva@sydneycatholic.org and to register – www.sydneycatholic.org/maximus1

Men's Alive Retreat – St John the Baptist Parish, Bonnyrigg Heights – Sat 20th & Sun 21st March

This is a fantastic opportunity for men to have their faith ignited or reignited. Contact Branko Poljak – 0411 281 299 – for further information. To register – www.trybooking.com/BNMJJB

Parousia Media – A new study on the Bible by Dr Scott Hahn and *A Journey Through the Stations of the Cross* by Steve Ray – www.parousiamedia.com – go to the Store, for Scott Hahn's Bible study.

At Sea with Bishop John Bede Polding – SGS Library presents – A Conversation with Fr Colin Fowler

OP – Tuesday 16th March – 10am-11.30am – Good Samaritan Congregational Centre, 2 Avenue Road, Glebe – A *Conversation with Fr Colin Fowler* is timed to coincide with the anniversary of the death of Archbishop John Bede Polding. Fr Colin will talk about his historical publication, *. This timely and engaging conversation will be followed by questions, discussions and morning tea. Enquiries and Registration: Monica – 0447 668 876 – spirituality@goodsams.org.au Due to limited numbers, please register by Tuesday 9th March.

Streaming of Sunday Mass – from St Benedict's Church – 6pm – here's this Sunday's Mass link for – **Second Sunday of Lent (28th February 2021)** – <https://youtu.be/WdUJHMeOzHk>

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

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. 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.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

28 FEBRUARY 2021

LIVING IN FAITHFULNESS AND HOPE

There are few moments in the scriptures as dramatic as when Abraham has steered 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.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PS

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.