



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

Mass Times in St Benedict's Church:

Sunday 7th March 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Sunday, 07 Mar	10.30 am	Solemn Mass
Sunday, 07 Mar	6.00 pm	Young Adults Mass
Monday, 08 Mar	12.35 pm	St John of God, religious (Optional)
Tuesday, 09 Mar	12.35 pm	St Frances of Rome, religious (Opt)
Wednesday, 10 Mar	12.35 pm	Wednesday of Third Week of Lent
Thursday, 11 Mar	12.35 pm	Thursday of Third Week of Lent
Friday, 12 Mar	12.35 pm	Friday of Third Week of Lent
Saturday, 13 Mar	No Mass	Saturday of Third 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: 'Every man is guilty of all the good he didn't do.' *Voltaire*

Congratulations to – Maria Yen Jean Reynolds, Isla Jade Johannson, Mia Pamire-McNeill and Delilah Liliansa Russo; little ones recently baptised in St Benedict's Church by Deacon John Ting. Maria, Isla, Mia and Delilah, you are in the prayers of the parish and your families are, too.

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.*

'In the depths of every heart, love creates bonds and expands existence, for it draws people out of themselves and towards others.' Pope Francis

Project Compassion – Week 3 – Olivia's story – Tanzania

Twenty-Two year old Olivia lives in Tanzania with her farmer husband, two young sons and an adopted niece and nephew. She didn't have the opportunity to go to school, growing up and was embarrassed that she couldn't read, write or count. Around 25 per cent of Tanzanian girls and women cannot read or write, with many families unable to afford school fees or uniforms. Olivia's business was losing money. Then she attended Caritas Australia supported literacy and numeracy classes and set up a home classroom to teach her neighbours. Now her classes, business and family are thriving – and she aims to become a pastor and run for local leadership. Olivia aspires to 'Be More' and wants to help her community to achieve its vision of a better life for all. 'I am proud to be a teacher who helps others to achieve their dream', Olivia says.

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

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Communion Antiphon:

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young. By your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Saint John of God – born in Portugal in 1495, John Cidade led an adventurous life in Spain. In his early forties, he was converted after hearing a sermon preached by St John of Avila. Thereafter, he dedicated himself totally to the sick and abandoned, and founded the Order of Brothers Hospitallers of St John of God. Honoured as patron of the sick, he died in 1550 and was canonised in 1690.

Saint Frances of Rome – Frances was born in 1384 and married at an early age and had three children. Each day after doing her domestic work she visited churches and cared for the poor. Even after two of her children died from the plague and her husband was wounded in a battle, she courageously continued her social work. She founded a Benedictine Oblate Congregation, which she herself entered after her husband died. Frances died in 1440.

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

Vinnies call for Volunteers at Matthew Talbot Hostel – the St Vincent de Paul Society is looking for volunteers to help establish a Conference at one of Sydney's most well recognised homeless shelters for men, the Matthew Talbot Hostel. For more than 80 years, the centre has been offering accommodation and support to people who are homeless or at risk of it, and Vinnies is now looking at increasing their support. An information session is being held next **Sunday 14th March at 9.30am**, beginning with a Mass celebrated by Fr Danny Meagher, followed by a morning tea, a tour and an information session. **Location: Entry 22, Talbot Lane, Woolloomooloo.** For more information, please contact Tony Cranney – 0419 255 943 or to RSVP, please contact Joy Bowen – 0447 636 619 or – Joy.Bowen@vinnies.org.au

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 Tues 9th March.

St Patrick's Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral – Wednesday 17th March – 10.30am – to be celebrated by Bishop Terry Brady – please see poster in bulletin email.

Sunday 6pm Mass Streaming in hibernation at St Benedict's – Dear all, as mentioned in last week's bulletin email, last Sunday's 6pm Mass was the final occasion for Mass streaming in St Benedict's Church. With the congregant capacity of the church now at 170 (under 2 square metres) the dedicated team who have streamed Mass for us since last June are now having a well-deserved break. Thank you very much to the *Streamers* ☺ for your faithfulness over the past nine months – it has been wonderful.

SBAYA dinner – this Sunday, 7th March – Spice Alley – St Benedict's Association of Young Adults is organising dinner this Sunday eve, after 6pm Mass. If anyone would like to attend, you are welcome to meet SBAYA members at the back of the church at the conclusion of Mass – enjoy!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / B

07 MARCH 2021

BEING TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

Lent has the capacity to shake us from our lethargy and turn our lives upside down. For some people change is exciting but for many it is less than comfortable as we search to find our bearings in a new situation. Today's readings can challenge us but they also provide a new set of bearings to help our journey in faith. The people of Israel had their world overturned when they were taken into slavery, but in some ways coming out of slavery was even more difficult. Led into the dangers of the desert and an uncertain future they were to find their bearings in the new covenant. Their new identity as God's people would find its expression in their faithfulness to the Ten Commandments. When Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers in the Temple he called into question the system that had developed around the Temple. His disturbing action was to be a reminder that even as one sign of God's presence was to pass away, it was soon to be replaced by a new sign of God's presence, his own Risen body.

Paul knew that God's wisdom always has a way of challenging the wisdom of the world. A crucified Christ was seen as madness and scandalous. As disturbing as it may still seem this is the wisdom of God that must become our point of reference. In Jesus crucified all our preconceptions of power and wisdom are called into question as we are invited to make God's wisdom our own.

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Law was given through Moses.

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form, 20: 1-17.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 18: 8-11. R. Jn 6: 68

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

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, / it revives the soul. / The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, / it gives wisdom to the simple. **R.**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, / they gladden the heart. / The command of the Lord is clear, / it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, / abiding for ever. / The decrees of the Lord are truth / and all of them just. **R.**

4. They are more to be desired than gold, / than the purest of gold / and sweeter are they than honey, / than honey from the comb. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

We are preaching a crucified Christ, a scandal to many, but to those who have been called, the wisdom of God.

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 3: 16

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. / Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!