

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Yr B – 14 March 2021

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23 *A reading from the second book of Chronicles*

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its Sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep Sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

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| 1. By the rivers of Babylon
there we sat and wept,
remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there
we hung our harps. (R.) | 3. O how could we sing
the song of the Lord
on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither! (R.) |
| 2. For it was there that they asked us,
our captors, for songs,
our oppressors, for joy.
'Sing to us,' they said,
'one of Zion's songs.' (R.) | 4. O let my tongue
cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem
above all my joys! (R.) |

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10 *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians*

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21 *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

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Fourth Sunday of Lent

14 March 2021



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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Thursday 9.00am to 12 noon. Tuesday & Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm

PASTORAL & ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

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Administration Assistant: Gurli Pennings **Tim Horvat:** Parish WHS & Safeguarding Officer

Dear People of God

In today's second reading St Paul tells us that "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it". So that human beings might live the good life that God the creator has intended us to live, he always sends us his word to guide us with his wisdom when perplexed and to fix us with his creative power when troubled; servicing us in his unfathomable love when we are weary and maintaining us in hope in his inexhaustible mercy. In Jesus Christ, God gave his final Word. He is the 'Amen' to all of God's promises (see 2 Cor. 1:19-20). He is the eternal Word of God, who was, who is and who is to come.

The Letter to the Hebrews says: "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe" (Heb. 1:1-2). God has never left his people without guidance. As the first reading puts it, He has "tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house". But the people of Israel, God's own people, refused to listen to the word of God. Instead, "all the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself".

It would be good to note here that those practices of the nations which the scripture refers to, may not be shameful in the eyes of those nations. But for the people of God, they should be considered shameful practices. Such practices like idol worshipping, human sacrifices, temple prostitution, uncircumcision, sexual licentiousness, eating pork, and other similar behaviours of the nations were abhorrent to the Jewish people. They hated such ways of living simply because God said they should not practise them. It was because Israel, in accordance with God's words, described those practices as shameful, that Israel was hated by the nations. It was narrated in the book of Maccabees (especially, 2 Maccabees 6) how a pagan king tried to force the Jews to break the law of their God. The king just wanted the Jews to be like themselves and do what they, the pagans, did. They preferred their way of life to that of the Jews. But for the Jews, keeping God's commandments is the only way to love, light and life. In today's Gospel, Jesus says, "though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil". But do evil doers see their deeds as evil? If they do they would not prefer the deeds of darkness to Light. Jesus is the Word and the Word is Light (John 1:4-5).

St John tells us that Jesus is the Word through whom God made all things. This Word came and took flesh and dwells among us (see John 1:1-2, 14). And the Father testifies, "this is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him" (Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:5; Luke 9:35). Jesus is the Word of God we should listen to and obey. The Gospel Acclamation of today says "God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life". Those who believe in him, would love him and keep his commandments. In the Gospel according to St Luke, Jesus asks: "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' but not do what I command?". Sometimes, if not quite often, those who readily disobey God are those who claim Jesus as their Lord. The obedience of the pagan king, Cyrus king of Persia, to the command of "the Lord, the God of heaven" to "build him a Temple in Jerusalem" contrasted with the disobedience of the Israelites who continued in their infidelity, despite the warning that their infidelity might lead to the destruction of the Temple.

As God's work of art, we should read Jesus like our user guide manual, believe what he says and follow in obedience his instruction as our modus operandi. We may be faulty at times and malfunction because of our weaknesses and sinfulness, but he is our way, our life and our truth. He is raised on the cross as our healing remedy. As he says in the Gospel to Nicodemus and to us as well: "the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him". Bitten by sin like a poisonous snake because of our disobedience, we are healed by looking up to Jesus on the Cross where he displays and encourages obedience to the Father even unto death.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

CHURCHES

St Brigid's Church
39-49 McLaren Rd
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St John's Church
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Beechmont Q
4211

SCHOOL

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MATTHEW VINE
Principal

MASS AND PRAYER TIMES AT ST BRIGID'S CHURCH

Week Day Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7.00 am
 Wednesday 5.45 pm
 Saturday Morning 9.00 am

Mass for the Sick with Anointing is on the
 Third Saturday of the month at 9.00am

The next Anointing Mass will be to be advised

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm
 Sunday 8.30 am
 10.30am - except 4th Sundays for
 Beechmont ...see below.

St John's Windabout Road, Beechmont 4th Sunday of each month - 10.30am
Next Mass at St John's 28th March 2021

Rosary
 Monday, Tuesday, Friday at 7.30 am
 Saturday at 8.30am.

Divine Mercy Prayer Thursday 7.30 am
Adoration Thursday 6.00-7.00pm

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday 9.30 am

Reconciliation: St Brigid's Church By appointment only



We remember all those who have gone before us to rest in the loving embrace of Jesus

We pray for the recently deceased: Kath Fisher

We pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur at this time:

We also remember their families—may they be comforted in their loss by this Community of Faith.

We pray for those who are sick or in hospital: Ian Robins, Brenda Dale, Shawn Marshall, Shirley Ryan, Franziska Peter, Vera Horvat, Daniel Lawson, Daniel Rowland

Our prayers are also offered for those who are elderly and in Nursing Homes.



March 14, 2021 - 4th Sunday of Lent "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - JOHN 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

[Weekly Bible Reflections](#) | [Bulletin Inserts](#) | [About Stewardship](#) | [Archdiocese of St Louis \(archstl.org\)](#)

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday in Lent commencing at 5.00pm

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART

The First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart Mass will commence at 10.00pm on the First Friday of each Month with the exception of 2nd April 2021.

ROSARY & CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

will be held on the last Friday of each month commencing at 6.00pm. Please note: During Lent the Rosary Procession follows after the Stations of the Cross.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION 2021

RCIA program every Sunday commencing at 4.00 pm at St Brigid's Parish Centre. All candidates for RCIA are requested to attend.

Week-day Mass Readings

Days	Memorials/Feasts	Readings (R1 and R2)	Gospel Reading
Mon	15/3/21	R1: Is 65:17-21	Jn 4:43-54
Tues	16/3/21	R1: Ezek 47:1-9, 12	Jn 5:1-3, 5-16
Wed	17/3/21	St Patrick, bishop R1: Jer 1:4-9; Acts 13:46-49	Lk 10:1-12
Thurs	18/3/21	R1: Ex 32:7-14	Jn 5:31-47
Fri	19/3/21	St Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary R1: 2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22	Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24

ADONAI YOUTH GROUP OF ST BRIGID'S PARISH

We are glad that our Parish Adonai Youth Group is waxing strong. The number is increasing, New members are joining. The group is full of potentials. Faith is shared and nourished. **We meet for Mass every Wednesday at 5.45pm here**, and have talks that are based on Scripture and sound Catholic Tradition on issues of faith and moral, with the Parish Priest present. And it is really great. We would like to take this opportunity to invite New members. Come and be blessed.

ST BRIGID'S PARISH WEEKLY FINANCIALS as at 7th March 2021

1ST COLLECTION: \$ 799.80 For Clergy Support
2ND COLLECTION: \$ 1198.00 For Parish expenses such as administration & maintenance of all our buildings & properties.

We appeal to all our Parishioners and friends who are not on planned giving already to consider switching over to planned giving or find another means of supporting the Parish and our ministry financially. We will send to parishioners the planned giving forms on request. I sincerely thank you for your continued financial support. Be assured of our prayers, and of your divine rewards.

Fr Isidore Enyinnaya

Project Compassion - Pick up your Giving Box or Envelopes today

In today's Gospel reading, we heard Nicodemus's humbling encounter with Jesus. Nicodemus was asking Jesus how it is possible for one to renew themselves, or to be born again from sin. As Jesus responds, he makes numerous references to "the light".

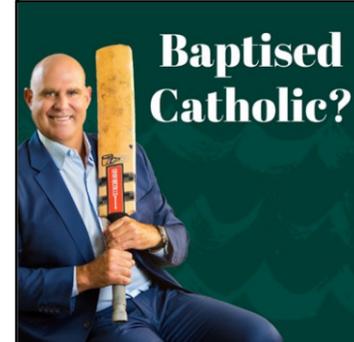
Jesus invites us to "be a light in the world, a light to others". We are all made in the image and likeness of God and thus all possess God-given gifts that we are called to share. Christ was made man to shine a light onto the darkness in this world. By his life, God revealed the ways in which to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth; demonstrating how to be a light to others so that we may attain salvation and enjoy eternal life.

In Indonesia about 17 per cent of the population do not have access to a proper toilet. Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, conducts hygiene, sanitation and financial management training to help people fund the building of toilets in their houses. Improved hygiene practices helped the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Caritas Australia, through Laz Harfa, also shared prevention measures and distributing soap and masks.

Lenten Program - LOOK TO JESUS

The program will be held at St Brigid's every Monday during Lent at 6.00pm.

The Catholic Leader has returned as a monthly newspaper after a 10-month hiatus. Limited copies are available at this parish for \$4 each. Subscribe today to receive *The Catholic Leader* at your door. Visit catholicleader.com.au/subscribe to get



Baptised Catholic?

In an advertising campaign in February and March featuring international cricketer, Matthew Hayden, the Archdiocese of Brisbane is inviting all baptised Catholics to reflect upon what it means to be baptised Catholic with.

We're looking for your help to:

- Pray for the opening of hearts
- Accompany those who are seeking
- Welcome new faces

There will also be fliers in your parish that you can give to family, friends, or colleagues who might be interested.

To sign up to be an accompanier or join the prayer, or to find out more, go to:
www.evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/baptisedcatholic