



The Transfiguration

One day, Jesus took Peter, James and John to the top of a high mountain. They then witnessed Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah and heard the voice of God. Draw a picture of the Transfiguration.



Moses



Elijah

Draw a line from each of the following statements to either Moses or Elijah.

- God's law was revealed to him
- He challenged King Ahab for worshipping a false god
- A great prophet mentioned in the first book of Kings
- He rescued God's people from Egypt
- Elisha became his successor
- He became the leader of the Israelites

God want us to listen to Jesus. What are some things that Jesus tell us?



AUTUMN EMBER DAY: 1 MARCH

Embers days – what are they? Those familiar with the Extraordinary Form of the Mass will perhaps be more acquainted with the concept, but the liturgical calendar for the Novus Ordo has them too (at least in Australia). What is their purpose and should we make a conscious effort to adopt them again?

The history of Ember Days is, admittedly, a bit obscure, and they are a peculiar feature of the Roman Church. In its more ancient form, the Church had four Ember Weeks throughout the year, corresponding with the beginning of each season. The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of such weeks (the Ember Days) would be days of fasting, abstinence and prayer (following the same guidelines we do for Ash Wednesday and Good Friday). The purpose of them was to give thanks to God for the gifts of His creation and request assistance in using them well. According to the old Catholic Encyclopedia, originally they came into practice as part of the Church's sanctification of pagan practices. Religious festivals were a key feature of ancient paganism, and there were four times a year that festivals of sacrifice would be celebrated, imploring the favour of Roman deities on the seeding and harvest of their crops. The Church, the encyclopedia states, has always tried to sanctify any practices which could be utilized for good purpose.' Thus, Ember Days were born, times where the seasons could be consecrated to the one true God. It seems as though they came into practice in the first three centuries of the Church, although Pope Leo the Great (mid-fifth century) was of the opinion that they were apostolic in their origins.

An additional meaning became attached to them when Pope Gelasius (late-fifth century) allowed priestly ordinations to happen on Ember Days. This was fitting, since historically ordinations have been preceded by days of prayer and fasting (Acts 13:3). Prior to the introduction of the 1966 Missal, Ember Days were prescribed and mandatory. Since 1966, they are no longer considered obligatory but they are (theoretically) encouraged. The 1969 General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar states that it is up to the discretion of local bishops' conferences to decide when and how many there would be. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) decided that there would be two Ember Days, both on the first Fridays of Autumn and Spring. Are they worth observing? Absolutely. The human connection to and dependence on the earth is one of the most basic features of our existence. The offering of the "first-fruits" from the soil was an important aspect of ancient Jewish ritual, too (Deuteronomy 26:4-10). Unless you have grown up farming, most people today (at least in the West) are quite disconnected from the feeling of dependency on creation, especially in these days of food being readily available at the mere touch of our phones. Ember Days harken back to a more rural time. Observing Ember Days is a great way of acknowledging the abundance we often take for granted, thanking God for it, and consciously striving to live virtuously instead of simply as consumers. Pope Francis has encouraged us to take up a new asceticism, where we 'replace consumption with sacrifice, greed with generosity, wastefulness with a spirit of sharing' (LS §9). Observing Ember Days once again is a powerful way of doing that. Since they have the added connection to priestly ordinations, observing them and offering prayer and fasting for the priests and seminarians of our local dioceses is another good reason to take them up again. Source: www.melbournecatholic.org

OLOL PARISH MINISTRIES & COORDINATORS

<p>Liturgy: Y. Fenech & S. Sta. Maria Baptism Prep: R. Vail & M. Mardy Sacramental Prep: M. Alphonso, M. Mardy, A. Tilley Children Liturgy: K. Pauer Eucharistic Ministers: E. Kinnear Prayerclaimers: Y. Fenech Prayer & Friendship Group: Y. Fenech (Wed) Safeguarding: M. Anderson Care & Support Group: Janice Webster</p>	<p>Home Visits & Holy Com.: A. Tilley Liturgy Rosters: D. Lim Our Lady of Fatima Visit: V. Measki Narthex Coord. & Altar Linen: B. Pascoe Counting & Banking: B. Dempsey Parish Choirs: M. Dennis /Fons; S. Fernandes; Praveen; Galangs Craft Grp: B. Pascoe & M. McKiterick (Thurs) SVDP Society: For Help Call 1300 305 330</p>	<p>Altar Servers: S. Rajan Piety Stall: M. Lisle Library: A. Tilley Cuppa: B. Pascoe & M. McKiterick Art, Garden & Environment: V. Measki Event Management: W. Singh Parish Website & PowerPoint: D. Lim & A. Sujeev Maintenance: Mowing Roster:</p>
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HOLY MASS

- Weekend**
- Saturday: 9am Morning Mass; 6pm Vigil Mass
 - Sunday: 8am, 10am & 5pm
- Weekday**
- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9am (**Benediction & Adoration on First Friday at 8:30am**)
 - Tuesday: 7:30pm (**Adoration, Divine Mercy Novena & Benediction at 6:30pm**)
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary:** 30 minutes before weekday Masses

SACRAMENTS

- **Baptism** 2nd Sunday of every month, 11:15am (2 months advance notice)
- **Baptism Preparation** 2nd Thursday of every month, 7:30pm.
- **Reconciliation** Tuesday: 6:30pm & Saturday: 9:30am and 5:30pm
- **Marriage** Minimum 6 months advance notice is required
- **Sacramental Preparation:** Call the Parish Office

PRESBYTERY

- Parish Priest: **Fr. Sabu Thomas Adimakiyil VC**
- Secretary: **Millicent Cabisidan (Peachy)**
- Bookkeeper: **Emalyn Rivera**

OFFICE HOURS

- Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 3pm
- Friday 9am - 12pm

OLOL PRIMARY SCHOOL

- Principal: Ross Williams Tel: (03) 9729 3411

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Chair: Michael Di Paola

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

- Chair: Michael Dennis

25 Orange Grove, Bayswater, Victoria 3153

Tel: **(03) 9729 2622**
 Email: **bayswater@cam.org.au**
 Website: **www.ololbayswater.org.au**

VISION

Our parish be a faith-filled, caring and sharing community that will actively embrace multiculturalism and team building reaching out to joyfully demonstrate God's love to the wider society.

MISSION

That our parish hold spiritual and social programmes to cater to all levels and interests of parishioners, drawing in toddlers, youth, elderly, and new families into the orbit of the parish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.'





SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

25 FEBRUARY 2024

'We aim a Safe and Inclusive Parish'

YEAR B / 2



NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel: John 2:13-25

RESPONSE

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

ACCLAMATION

*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!*

THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

Trust in the Lord is the theme that links all this week's readings. As we continue our Lenten journey, we are reminded of the extent of the Lord's love and generosity – if we but listen to his voice and place our trust in him.

In the First Reading we see the depth of Abraham's trust in God as he is asked to sacrifice his beloved son. Abraham's faithfulness is rewarded with more blessings than he could ever have imagined.

In the echoing the story of Abraham and Isaac, St Paul in the Second Reading challenges us to recall the immensity of God's love for the world in giving up his Son. With Jesus standing at the right hand of God pleading for us, we can have confidence in placing all our trust in him. In the Gospel, Jesus asks Peter, James and John to trust him, without speaking of the wonder they have witnessed on the mountain top.

Source: Excerpted from the Scripture reflection courtesy of St Beuno's Outreach in the Diocese of Wrexham, UK available at www.australiancatholics.com.au. Image from <https://seedsoffaitth.cph.org/>



LITURGY OF THE WORD

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.

FIRST READING: GENESIS 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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 bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham 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 your 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 PSALM

- 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.)
- 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: ROMANS 8:31-34

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

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.

GOSPEL: MARK 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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 from 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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



CLOSING THE GAP REPORT IS A WAKE-UP CALL

Australian Catholics are being encouraged to reflect upon the implications of the latest report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander wellbeing, with calls for the report to be the starting point for renewed action.

The latest report has found that improvement will continue to fail without fundamental changes, adding that successive governments have 'failed to fully grasp' the challenges. It calls for urgent changes to rescue the landmark agreement, accusing the federal government of 'weak' action on key areas, not fulfilling its promises and a 'disregard' for the suggestions of First Nations communities.

In response to the report, Bishop Charles Gauci - chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Commission for Relations with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders - emphasised the pressing need for Australian Catholics to collaborate with their First Nations counterparts to achieve tangible improvements in their lives.

'As a Church, we are called to illuminate and enrich Australian society, particularly in the realm of Indigenous affairs,' Bishop Gauci said. 'Now more than ever, we must unite, deliberate and take meaningful action.' He underscored the importance of Catholic institutions in fostering holistic wellbeing for all First Nations people. Full report at www.cathnews.com



POPE APPEALS FOR PEACE IN SUDAN AND MOZAMBIQUE

Pope Francis has urged global leaders to push for peace in Sudan and northern Mozambique, where a Catholic mission of Our Lady of Africa in Mazeze was set ablaze.

"Wherever fighting occurs, people are exhausted, tired of war, which as always is pointless and inconclusive, and will only bring death, only destruction, and will never solve the problem."

Pope Francis launched that appeal on Sunday after praying the Angelus prayer with pilgrims in St Peter's Square. He recalled that 10 months have passed since conflict broke out in Sudan, leading to a serious humanitarian situation.

"I once again ask the warring parties to stop this war, which causes so much harm to the people and the future of the country," he said. "Let us pray that paths to peace are soon found to build the future of dear Sudan." "Let us pray for peace to return to that tormented region," the Pope said.

He also prayed for people suffering from conflict in other counties on the African continent, as well as in Ukraine and the Holy Land. War, he recalled, "is always a defeat." "Let us instead pray tirelessly," the Pope concluded, "because prayer is effective, and let us ask the Lord for the gift of minds and hearts dedicated concretely to peace." Full report at www.cathnews.com

PRAYERS AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Welcomes everyone who would like to join the group. If you are interested and would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact: Jan Webster 0448 489 729 (Morning group) and Yvonne Fenech 0433 159 588 (Evening group).

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING AND THEIR FAMILIES:

- ANNIVERSARY:** Ada Maher, Terry McClusky, Daniel Murphy, Ben Laurito, Raymond Robinson, Carla Maria Papillo, Lawrence Augustine, Edward Gray, Frederick George Wood.
- SICK:** Peter Lisle, Wendy Markby, Fiona Scudds, Elisa Iacovitti, Evelyn McDougall.



'IN FAITH, YOU ARE NOT ALONE'

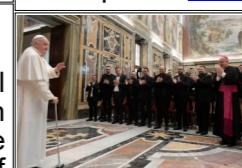
The Rite of Election was held in cathedrals across Australia on the first Sunday of Lent, an important step for those participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation and preparing to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter.

The Rite of Election has roots in traditions held since the early centuries of the Church but has existed in its current form since the promulgation of the RCIA in 1972.

In Melbourne, almost 1000 people – catechumens, candidates, sponsors, godparents, fellow parishioners and families, gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral for the Rite. "Just have a look around you," Melbourne Archbishop Peter A Comensoli told the catechumens and candidates from more than 60 parishes from across the archdiocese. "You are not alone. In faith, you are not alone."

At St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, 266 people intending to enter the Catholic Church were presented.

Each parish's representatives processed down the cathedral's aisle to present Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP with a "Book of the Elect," upon which is written the names of the catechumens seeking baptism. In Brisbane, this year marked the biggest number – 128 – of catechumens up for election. Catechumens are people who will be baptised at Easter. There were also 70 candidates (people who were baptised in other Christian traditions) who will be confirmed Catholics at Easter. Full report at www.cathnews.com



POPE FRANCIS GIVES SEMINARIANS NEW LENTEN GOALS

Pope Francis says Catholics and especially seminarians should this Lent rediscover the joy of simplicity, pay less attention to their

appearance than to their prayer lives and make a special effort to get along with everyone they live with.

Progress on the Lenten "path of conversion and renewal," the Pope said, starts with "allowing oneself to be conquered by renewed awe at God's love," the foundation of every vocation.

The Pope met with seminarians and staff from the Cardinal Ascalesi Seminary, an archdiocesan seminary in Naples, which was celebrating its 90th anniversary. Eucharistic adoration and prayerfully reading the Bible are two of the best ways to rediscover God's love and renew one's sense of awe at being loved by God, he said. Lent, the Pope said, also is a time to rediscover "with joy one's taste for simplicity and avoiding waste," something which also will help seminarians learn "a lifestyle that will help you to be priests capable of giving of yourselves to others and being attentive to the poorest."

Full report at www.cathnews.com

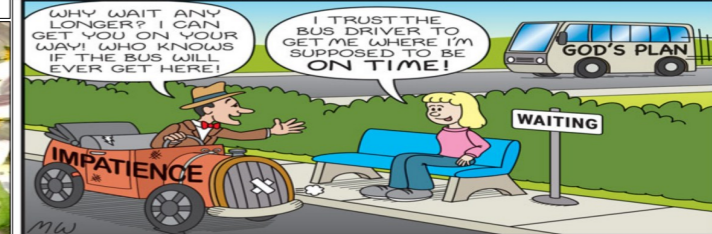
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024

Enrolment is now open for children in Year 5 and up who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Enrolment form is available in the Narthex or you can download a copy from our website. For details, please contact the parish office.

STATION OF THE CROSS

- Every Friday of Lent at 7pm followed by a Holy Mass.
- Every Sunday of Lent after the 5pm Mass

WAITING FOR THE BUS



Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

- PSALM 27:14 NIV