



2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT  
YEAR B

25 February 2024

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



### OPENING PRAYER

*O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your glory.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.*

### FIRST READING: 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.'

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**Response: 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 A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

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.

### **Gospel 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!

### **Gospel: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 9:2-10**

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.



### **Reflection on the Gospel of Mark by Nick Brodie**

'We too are called to climb up the mountain,' says Pope Francis, like the chosen disciples. But, as he points out, we are also called to bring our experience back down the mountain.

In our own lives, one way of understanding this is to contemplate our personal spiritual behaviours. The Pope takes the opportunity of this Gospel to remind us to beware of the risk of 'spiritual laziness'. Are we tempted to 'remain on the mountain and enjoy the bliss of this encounter on our own'? Do we risk taking too much private and possessive comfort from 'our prayers and liturgies'?

As the Pope points out, we cannot stay on the mountain. 'Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, among our brothers and sisters and into daily life.' There is work to be done. It is not enough to come to Mass and posture and pray in a way that is cut off from life. The Church should never become a means of escaping reality or responsibility.

'We', the Pope proclaims, 'are called to experience the encounter with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might take it and make it shine everywhere.' Called up the mountain, we are sent down the mountain to go forth and take the mystery of the Transfigured One with us wherever we may go. We cannot do that if we keep our heads stuck in tents of our own making.

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Priest:** Dear friends, the sight of Jesus' divine glory spurs us on our Lenten way. Let us pray with God's Beloved Son for a new heaven and a new earth.

## READER

We pray for the people of God. May the eyes of our minds be opened to see the glory of Christ present in the whole of creation. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for eco-conversion this Lent. May the whole human family accept its responsibility to care for the earth, our common home. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines. May the work of the Faithful Companions of Jesus enable young women to gain the education they need to secure the future of their families. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for families, youth workers and the police. May their efforts to divert young people away from gang violence open up other pathways towards a fulfilling life. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for our parish community, May we listen intently to God's Beloved Son and faithfully follow him. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially Patrick Thomas, Val Goodsell, Des Pollard, Kerry Prothero, Dennis Dempsey, Penny Crawford, Tony Riley, Jenny Bodman, Violet Davis, Ross Lawless, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Val Biggers and all who need our prayers. May they not suffer alone but be assured of the love and care of the whole community. (Pause) Lord, hear us

We pray for the recently deceased Oliver Koch, June Jeffery. . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they join Christ at God's right hand and reign with him for ever. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep us faithful  
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our Lord.*

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**SCHOOL PRINCIPAL:** Marylou Gorham Ph. 4842 2413

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Tues: 9.30am – 3.30pm; Fridays: 9.30am – 12.30pm

**Mass:** Saturdays at 6.00pm. Last week at this time. 2 March 5.00pm

**Meditation:** Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

**Social Justice Group:** 5 March at 3pm in the Presbytery

**Scripture:** Tuesdays at 4pm in the Presbytery.

**Changeover to 5pm Mass: starting date will be 3rd Sunday of Lent - 2nd March 2024.**

**A Lenten mini-series on the theme of "Unwrapping the gift of Forgiveness" incorporating**

prayer, reflection and sharing the faith journey hosted by Call to Connect Women's Ministry will be held in St. Bede's Church on Monday 26th February 7pm-8pm. This event is open to all parishioners, men and women and invited friends of other faiths. Tea or coffee provided (also Tim Tams, Bronnie says)

**Father Josh's suggestion of the Hallow App:** I have downloaded this app to try. You can have a free trial; 3 months for \$5.99; or annual \$99. I chose the 3 months subscription. So far so good. There are many aspects to the app: meditation, prayers, rosary, music.

**'A HOT BRICK UNDER MY COLD FEET'** An Afternoon Poetry Reading with Wendy McMahon-Bell at 2:00pm, Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup> in the Old Sunday School Hall, 68 Wilson Street, Braidwood

Fundraiser for Hussain, one of more than 50 refugees still suffering in Port Moresby after the closing of Manus Island. *Donations appreciated*

Wendy McMahon-Bell has performed in many theatre productions in the region as well as two wonderful interpretations of Alan Bennett's monologues. Wendy has also been writing poems for over 30 years and on Sunday Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, she will enjoy presenting some of her work in an afternoon poetry reading in the Old Sunday School Hall at 2.00pm

Wendy's poems will take you through the whole gamut of feelings evoked by everyday experiences, great and small. Please join us, donations appreciated, to support Hussain, a Manus Island refugee living in PNG, without adequate support. Hussain and his family are desperately in need of help, and we are hoping that our generous Braidwood community will contribute by supporting this event.

Sponsored by St Bede's Ecumenical Social Justice Group. Further information: Pauline Coady 0478 608 041 [randpcoady@gmail.com](mailto:randpcoady@gmail.com)

**Markets in Ryrie Park: 8am - 1pm Saturday 24 February:** Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure; Monthly Raffle. This month's is a \$120 voucher to the Royal Mail hotel, kindly donated by Jamie. Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table. Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench 0418262011

**Readings for Mass:** 1st: Gen. 22:1-2,9-13,15-18. 2nd: Rom. 8:31-34. Gospel Mark: 9:2-10.

**Next week's reading:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Exodus 20:1-17. 2<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25. Gospel: John 2:13-25.

**Radio Church:** Sundays at 6pm

<b>Ministries for our Mass:</b>	<b>24 Feb</b>	<b>2 Mar</b>	<b>9 Mar</b>	<b>16 Mar</b>
Welcomer:	Geraldine	Cathy F	Helen P	Cathy F
Acolyte:	Felix (when available)			
Reader 1:	Cathy	Tommy	Germaine	Ann T
Reader 2:	Michael	Bobbie	Wendy M-B	Wendy H
<b>Ministries of service:</b>	<b>23 Feb</b>	<b>1 Mar</b>	<b>8 Mar</b>	<b>15 Mar</b>
Altar Decorating:	no flowers during Lent please			
Cleaning:	Bronnie & Felix		Helen P & Sarah	
Counters: 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday:	Pauline & Bobbie.		2 <sup>nd</sup> : Sunday: Wendy H	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday:	Brenda		4 <sup>th</sup> : Phil Owen	5 <sup>th</sup> Helen Bopping
Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster or get a substitute from the list on the reverse side of the roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.				

May this lent be a time of renewal for you all,

Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.