

**Parish Priest:**

Fr Thinh Nguyen
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Parish Secretary

Dominique Hockey
Amelia Younane

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday 9am—3pm

Baptisms & Weddings

Please contact the Parish Office.

St Scholastica's Primary School

Principal: Jenny Rohan
9808 7279
principal@ssbennettswood.catholic.edu.au

Child Safety Team

Fr Thinh Nguyen, Jenny Rohan,
Katherine Presley, Kathy Menzies
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Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

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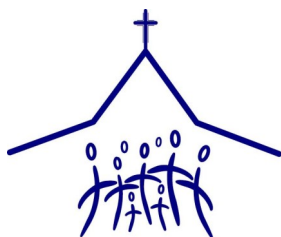
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2nd Sunday of Lent Year B 27th & 28th February 2021

Dear Parishioners and friends,

On this weekend, we will welcome Deacon Kyaw-Lin Aung from Corpus Christi College to our Parish Community over the next few months. He will be spending two Sundays per month in the parish to exercise the ministry of preaching, baptism and other ministry. Kyaw-Lin (Joseph) was originally from Myanmar (Burma) and before coming to Melbourne, he was a seminarian for Archdiocese of Yangon, Myanmar. In 2014, he was accepted by the Archdiocese of Melbourne to continue his studies for the priesthood at Corpus Christi College. Coming to Melbourne was a difficult decision for him but through prayers, he realised of God's plan to continue with his studies in Melbourne. He shared that although he had some difficulties and challenges during last seven years, he believes that God's blessing through people around him is more than enough to persevere in his vocation. He was ordained to the Diaconate on the 3rd December last year and he is looking forward to be part of our parish community. Let us make him welcome and let us also pray that God will bless him and those who help him on the journey with generous abundance.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr Thinh Nguyen PP

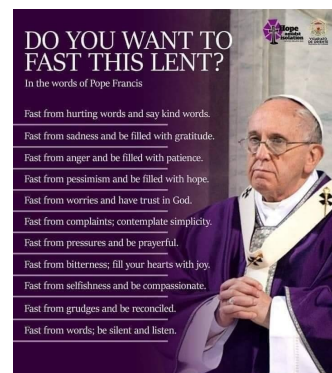


Fasting during Lent

When we think about fasting during Lent, we think about no chocolate, no biscuits, no coffee and even no alcohol. Some people will save up the \$ they would have spent and put it in a Project Compassion box or donate it to St Vincent's or another charity. Maybe you give up binge watching television, playing a favourite computer game or even using a mobile phone & texting too much. Fr Thinh suggested last week during Daily Mass (Friday), that Jesus wants us to fast from a different type of food to allow us to grow closer to God. Quoting Pope Francis' daily homily about what kind of fasting do you exercise during this season of Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and have trust in God
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from words; be silent and listen



Perhaps this is a better way to fast during Lent which will allow us to focus totally on God.



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WEEKLY CALENDAR 2021

Monday 1 March

No Service

07.30pm Vinnies Meeting - GA

Tuesday 2 March

09.00am Mass followed Adoration/Rosary until 10am

11.00am Funeral for Bichara Seraphim

07.00pm Prayer Group - GA

Wednesday 3 March

10.00am Novena and Exposition

10.30am Rosary

11.00am Healing Mass

01.00pm Legion of Mary - GA

Thursday 4 March

09.00am Mass followed by Rosary

07.30pm Baptism Information Night - GA

Friday 5 March

10.00am Adoration

10.30am Rosary

11.00am Mass

07.00pm Way of the Cross

Saturday 6 March

09.00am Mass followed by Rosary/Confession

05.30pm Mass

Sunday 7 March

09.00am Mass

11.00am Mass

12.15pm Vietnamese Mass

05.30pm Mass

ROSTERS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Mass Time</u>	4th Sunday of the Month 27/28 February 2021	
		<u>Readers/Musician</u>	<u>Special Ministers</u>
Saturday	5.30 pm	Rachel Cordeiro ----- Lucy	Judith Silvina Laurine Shane
Sunday	9.00 am	Sylvia Chuah ----- Judy	Ramon Paulo Mata Anna Gaetano
	11.00 am	Mario Tauro ----- Mario	Barbara Schobben Willard Lewis
	5.30 pm	Louise Willison ----- Henry	Michael Chan Netty Solomon

ROSTERS

<u>Day</u>	<u>Mass Time</u>	1st Sunday of the Month 6/7 March 2021	
		<u>Readers/Musician</u>	<u>Special Ministers</u>
Saturday	5.30 pm	Dianne Smith ----- Pauline	Mary Ann Borg Christine Wates
Sunday	9.00 am	Laurine Shane ----- Judy	Rosa Coniglio Sangeetha Thomas
	11.00 am	Geetha Jayasuriya ----- Henry	Anna Marie Ziino Marie Serophim
	5.30 pm	Kristin Jabay ----- Rebecca	Marcia Nelson Arden Nelson

Remembering Our Community

Sick

Ian Holmes, Michael Yau, Rachel Bransby, Doris Gauci, Doris Sinclair, Fred Hillas, Joe Panetta, Fran Panetta, Natalie Balding, Rosemary Anderiesz, Maria Fonseca, Baby Mary Pauchnik, Margaret Sweeney

Anniversaries

Teresa Muir, Giovanni Dabrisi, Angela, Calogero, Adele Signorelli

Recently Deceased

Andrew Lim, Claude Presle, Bichara Seraphim

Condolences

St Scholastica's would like to offer our deepest sympathies to the family of Bichara Seraphim, who passed away recently. May God be watching over you all during this challenging time.



St. Vincent de Paul Society: Monthly Food Collection

The monthly food collection will be held next weekend on the **6th & 7th March 2021** at all masses.

The most useful items are the staples such as:

- Pasta & Pasta Sauces
- Rice
- Baked Beans
- Other canned food & soups,
- Canned fruit
- Spreads such as vegemite, peanut butter & jams
- Breakfast cereals
- Long life milk
- Canned fish such as tuna and sardines.

Thank you in anticipation for your generosity.



Healing Mass

The next Healing Mass will be held on Wednesday 3rd March at 11am. We invite everyone to come to mass and receive a special blessing and anointing.



Seniors Social Night Functions

We would love to see you at our next Senior Singles Social Night Functions. These nights are a regular occurrence each month and are a perfect opportunity for you to enjoy the company of some fellow parishioners.

The February nights out will be held at Box Hill RSL at 6:30pm. The dates for March are:

- Men's Dinner - Wednesday 17th March
- Ladies Dinner - Monday 22nd March

Mark your diary now for a night of company and a nice meal. All are welcome.

St Scholastica's acknowledges that we gather, pray and live together on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations.



NOTICEBOARD

Communion to the sick

Do you know anyone who is sick or housebound, who would like to receive a visit from Father Thinh? Perhaps the sick/homebound person is feeling isolated from the parish community and would like to receive communion on a regular basis. Please phone the parish office on 9808 1006.



Baptism at St Scholastica's

It is a requirement of the parish that a Baptism information night must be attended prior to having your child baptised. Contact the parish office on 9808 1006 to make a booking into one of the monthly sessions. Next session: Thursday 4th March 2021 at 7:30pm in the Gathering Area.

Working With Children Check

Anyone who volunteers in the parish must have a current working with children check. If you have not provided, or your card has been recently updated, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Pray for Vanuatu - World Day of Prayer Service 2021

Friday 5th March, 11am at St Thomas' Burwood, 44 Station Street, Burwood. All welcome.

Project Compassion

Margret is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



Lent/Easter Choir Practices

Practices for this time will commence this Sunday 28th February and are on each Sunday at 10:00am in the Church during Lent. All welcome.

Requirements when coming to Church

- Mask wearing, is **mandatory** in church. Please wear a mask over your nose and mouth when you enter the church and sanitise your hands at the back of the church.
- It is **preferred** you register with the QR code on your phone, but if you do not have the ability to do so, please sign in at the back of the church.
- People must be sitting, 1 person per two square metre, to ensure people have enough room to maintain 1.5 metres distance between them. Please use the green dots as a guide as to where to sit
- Entry is only through the Narthex and you must sign in and hand sanitise before entering the church.
- Please only exit the church through the side doors where it is marked 'Exit Only'
- When you come up to receive Holy Communion, please sanitise your hands from the sanitising station 'right before you receive'.
- Reception of Holy Communion is in the hand until further notice.
- Use the wipes to clean where your hand rested, the kneeler and your seat itself. Take the wipe and put it in the bin as you exit the church and sanitise your hands when you leave.
- People who are sitting/singing in the choir area should have their masks on at all times covering their nose and mouth. The cantor is the only one who should be without a mask when they are singing and remain socially distanced.
- Everyone should have their mask over their nose and mouth when they receive Communion.

If you have a cold, cough or any flu like symptoms of COVID-19, you must NOT attend mass. It is crucial that all these rules are followed for everyone's safety. Please be aware that if you arrive and the doors are locked the church has reached its capacity.

Weekly Updates and Thanksgiving

Please be aware that we are still sending weekly updates via email with all the relevant information as we are aware that some people might not yet be comfortable to come back to attending mass.

Thanksgiving envelopes can be dropped at the Parish Office. For direct deposits, the parish account details can be found below.

- Account Name: St Scholastica's Parish
- BSB: 083 347
- Account Number: 68681 8033
- Reference: **Please use as reference: Envelope number**

Set up a direct debit or monthly credit card giving by contacting the parish office.

A message from Aid to the Church in Need

Australia: Did you know that each year the Catholic charity, Aid to the Church in Need, supports the training of 12,000 seminarians and provides ongoing formation for 8,000 priests. Could you help support a priest or seminarian? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/formation

2nd Sunday of Lent
Year B - 27/28 February 2021

Entrance Antiphon: Cf. Ps 26:8-9
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: 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 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.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9
R. I will walk in the presence of the
Lord in the land of the living.

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.**

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.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 4:4

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: Mark 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 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.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Communion Antiphon:

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

**3rd Sunday of Lent Year B -
7th March 2021**

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians
1:22-25
Gospel: John 2:13-25

Scripture Commentary for the 2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B

A common thread runs through all three readings today: a parent's sacrifice of a beloved child.

The account of Abraham's near-sacrifice of his son Isaac – in its full extent rather than in the reduced form appearing as today's First Reading (Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18) – is a masterpiece of narrative art. At the same time, it can present a troubling image of God. Abraham may display faith and obedience to an admirable degree but what are we to think of a divinity who tests him by letting him believe till the very last moment that he must kill and sacrifice his only son? Traditional theology would probably respond that God is God, unanswerable to human categories of judgment (cf. the Book of Job). But many people will likely remain rather disturbed.

It is probably best to concentrate in the first instance on Abraham, rather than on God. Unfortunately, the lectionary extract omits the exchange between Isaac and his father as they climb the mountain (vv. 7-8). The boy points out the lack of a lamb for sacrifice. Abraham's enigmatic response, 'My son, God himself will provide ...', serves at one level to keep the boy guessing. But more deeply it reveals the depth of the patriarch's faith. He simply keeps walking into this appalling situation that God seems to require, all the while believing that somehow his future, which hangs entirely upon this only, God-given son, remains in the hands of God.

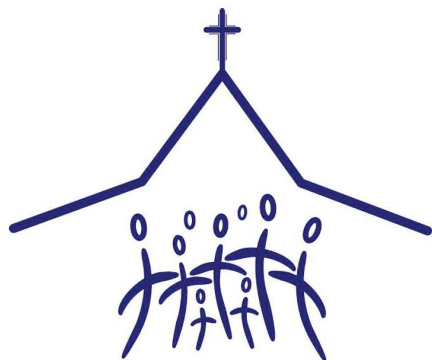
In the end God does provide, repeating, in still more generous terms the promise of a multitude of descendants and good fortune so great that it will become among all nations a byword for richness of blessing.

Any ambiguity regarding the image of God emerging from the First Reading falls away when Abraham's near-sacrifice is read in the light of New Testament texts that appear to make allusion to it. Such is the case with the brief extract from the Letter to the Romans that forms the Second Reading (Romans 8:31-34). Paul is here bringing to a climax an argument for hope in the face of suffering. All rests upon the fidelity of God, operating according to a kind of a *fortiori* logic that runs through this part of the letter (see also 5:6-8; 5:17): if God has already shown such an extremity of love in giving up his only Son for us all, how could we think that God would stop there and not see us through to the fullness of salvation? How could God abandon us 'half-way' to salvation, so to speak, or, after such sacrifice, let us fall out of the divine saving hand? We should not fail to pick up Paul's clearly deliberate echo of the divine address to Abraham in Gen 22:16: 'Because you have done this, and been prepared not to spare your son, your only son, ...'. Paul, in other words, is suggesting that what God did not in the end require of Abraham (the sacrifice of his only son, Isaac) God did, for love of us, in fact require of Godself: the sacrifice of his only Son, Jesus Christ. Paul sees Abraham's confidence that 'God will provide' fulfilled beyond all human imagining in this exercise of divine love.

The Gospel, giving Mark's account of the Transfiguration (9:2-10), admirably completes the picture. There are many aspects to the scene. Dazzling whiteness signals the heavenly (divine) status of Jesus. The appearance of two prophetic figures, Elijah and Moses, conversing with him affirms his messianic role. However, in continuity with the theme emerging from the earlier readings, I think it is best to interpret it in close connection with what Jesus has insisted upon in the episode just before (Mark 8:27-38). In response to Jesus' question, 'Who do you say that I am?', Peter has, correctly, confessed him to be the Christ. But when Jesus went on to detail what kind of Messiah he will be – namely, one who will suffer and die in Jerusalem, working salvation by entering into the pain and suffering of this world, Peter protested, earning a sharp rebuke (Mark 8:29-38). In the Transfiguration itself, along with the messianic witness of Elijah and Moses, the Father's voice, affirms the status of Jesus: 'This is my Son, the Beloved', but goes on to add, 'Listen to him!' – listen, that is, to what he has been saying about going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Being God's 'beloved Son' does not exempt Jesus from suffering but in fact draws him to it as part of the divine plan of salvation. The disciples, and all of us, as we continue upon our Lenten journey, are invited to enter ever more deeply into this mysterious blend of divine love and suffering that lies at the heart of the Paschal Mystery.

© Brendan Byrne SJ

Since returning from graduate studies in Oxford in 1977, Brendan Byrne has been Professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College in Melbourne, Australia, of which he was Principal (1992-97). He was Rector of Campion College, Kew (1979-84) and a delegate to the 33rd General Congregation of the Society of Jesus in 1983. He was a visiting professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, in 1993 and has also taught in East Asia and East Africa. He was a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission (Rome) (1990-96) and President of the Melbourne College of Divinity (2000-01). He was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1999. Brendan Byrne is the author of nine books, edits the theological journal *Pacifica* and regularly gives workshops on scripture to clergy and parish communities.



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**Pray for
the Unborn**



Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.