Third Sunday of Lent Year B First Scrutiny

This is my Beloved Son. Listen to him.

First Reading : Exodus 20:1-17. God delivered all these commandments
Psalm 115 Lord you have the words of everlasting life
Second Reading : 1Cor.1:22-25. We proclaim Christ crucified

Gospel Acclamation Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ King of endless glory.

Gospel: John 2:13-25. Stop making my Father's house a marketplace

Com. Verse: Blessed are they who dwell in your house for ever singing your praise.


Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: The commands of the Lord are clear, but his mercy is great. Let us pray to the Father, trusting in his wisdom.

Leader: We pray for the Catholic Church, through our leaders Pope Francis, Bishop Eugene, Fr Roy and Fr Binesh (pause)

All: May they guide us in the path of goodness, and bring us closer to God’s love.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy
All: Hear our prayer
Leader: We pray for all who are preparing for sacraments in the coming months (pause)
All: May God deepen their faith, their oneness with the community, and their call to mission

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy
All: Hear our prayer
Leader: We pray for all women as today we celebrate International Women’s Day (Pause)
All: May they be blessed for their contribution to a better society and to the Church, and for those who are still oppressed may they be liberated so as to enjoy equality and fairness.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy
All: Hear our prayer
Leader: We pray for our community here at St Paul’s (pause)
All: May we during this holy season of Lent turn to the Crucified Lord as ‘the power and wisdom of God.’

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy
All: Hear our prayer

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, your ways are not our ways. Hear the prayers we have gathered before you this day, and open our hearts and minds to the ways that you are calling us closer to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR POPE SAYS: “We are all masters, professors of self-justification: ‘No it wasn’t me, it’s not my fault, maybe yes, but not so much...that’s not the way it is...’. We all have an alibi to explain away our shortcomings, our sins, and we are often put on a face that says ‘I do not know,’ a face that says ‘I didn’t do it, maybe someone else did’ an innocent face. This is no way to lead a Christian life. It’s easier to blame others but something strange happens if we try to behave differently: ‘If we begin to look at the things we are capable of doing, at first we “feel bad, we feel disgust,” yet this in turn “gives us peace and makes us healthy.”’

Lenten Sermon Monday 23rd February.

Please Pray For the sick: Les and Clare Fern, Joe & Rosemary Valle, Br James Maher MSC; Josephine Di Lembo; Margaret McDonald, Margaret Heagney (Catherine Phillip's mother) Loretta Grimster, Mona Spain-Pedder, Arturo Bavato. Viviane Taranto.
Living the Gospel  Keeping Commandments

On this Sunday, halfway through Lent, the Readings invite us to take stock -- to look at how we are to live, and why.

At first glance, the Ten Commandments of the First Reading are a stark set of precepts without any of the qualifications and explanations we have come to expect when we deal with them. Moreover they are addressed to people whose nomadic way of life was very different and distant from our own. Yet these prohibitions and exhortations, these warnings against death and pointers to life are universally true.

They can easily be translated into our own age and society. The Israeliite flocks and herds are our offices and factories, their strangers are our migrants, our asylum seekers and refugees, their carved images our cars, our football team or our new spring wardrobe. These “Ten Words”, as the Jewish people called them, apply to the whole of human life. They are above all about relationships, to God, to each other and to all of creation; as Jesus pointed out: ‘You shall love the Lord your God; you shall love your neighbour...’ “Love” is the key word here, Jesus insisting that the warnings of the Ten Commandments are intended to help people transform their lives, not just to restrict them, and that it is love that transforms. In the words of the song: Love, love changes everything.

By the time of Jesus, following the letter of the law became more important than the spirit of the law – and, unfortunately, is still prevalent among some in our Church today. Jesus challenges this attitude in the Gospel, where he breaks many of the ‘rules’ when he physically attacks the traders in the Temple. There is no point in ‘keeping the commandments’ if we do so simply to be seen to be doing the right thing. At the Last Supper, Jesus provided the only commandment that he ever gave: ‘a new commandment’ that you love one another as I have loved you. All must be done in keeping with this ultimate commandment.

Our obedience to God’s law is essentially dishonest if we simply follow mechanical rules. There is nothing life-giving in that. Everything we do in our lives must be underpinned and transformed by our love for God and our neighbour. Only in this way can we be truly free.

Parish Notices and Coming Events

Collections: 1st Collection: $1,019.70
2nd Collection: $1,049.50 Direct Debit: $1,549.00 Syro-Malabar $454.55

St Vincent de Paul: If you would like to volunteer with, or join, the St Vincent de Paul Society or need the Society’s help please call the Society on 8948 8100.

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6.00 pm. Syro-Malabar at 7.00 pm

ACTIV8 every last Tuesday of the month for young people from years 9-12 from 6-8.30pm. $3 for pizza.

March Calendar

Sunday 8th March Third Sunday in Lent
Sunday 15th March Fourth Sunday in Lent
Thursday 19th 4.30/6.30 Reconciliation

HARMONY DAY. Saturday 21st following 6.00 pm Mass. Bishop Eugene main celebrant. Come in traditional dress and bring a traditional dish to share.

Sunday 22nd March Children’s Mass
Sunday 29th PALM SUNDAY. Ecumenical Blessing of Palms at 8.30 am Mass.