

IN THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL WE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick: Isidro Manuel and those of our community.

Recently Deceased: Johnny Ferrazzini (Mylene's father)

Repose of the Souls: Those whose anniversary occur about this time and those whose names are on the memorial wall.

Church Cleaning	Saturday 5th April — Spanish Community
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Safeguarding of children and vulnerable young people.

St Dominic's Community holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children as a fundamental responsibility of the church. This commitment is drawn from, and inherent to, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and dignity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel. A cultural of safety within the Church ensures that children can actively and fully participate in the life of the Church and realise their potential in a faith community. **We are committed to upholding the safety and dignity of each child and young person and ensuring that they are able to grow and develop in a caring and supportive environment in our Church.**

Thanksgiving Envelopes:

Dear Parishioners please collect your envelopes from the church as we can not post them any more. If you can distribute them in your neighbourhood, it will be much appreciated. Thank you.



Next Sunday 6 Apr 2025 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, 6 April 2025, 3:00am clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to 2:00am.

Working Bee—Saturday 12th April after 9.00am Mass

Please keep this day free so you can come along to help to clean up the Church, Church grounds and decorating the church in preparation for the celebration of Palm Sunday and the Holy Week.



Next Sunday—Baptism Information Preparation
At 3.00pm in the Church for Parents, Carers & Godparents.
Please call the office to register your attendance.

THANKSGIVING OFFERING ONLINE TO: ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH

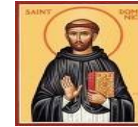
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PLEASE TYPE YOUR THANKSGIVING
ENVELOPE NUMBER WHEN YOU DO
THE TRANSACTION.

ST DOMINIC'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Peter Njau, CSSp; Email: njaup2560@gmail.com

PARISH SECRETARY: Ana Miriam Guardado

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays from 8.00am-2.00pm

ST DOMINIC'S SCHOOL—ACTING PRINCIPAL: Katie Broadbent, Phone: 03 9309 4146



PARISH MASS TIMES

Sundays: 6.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday evening)
9.00am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Vietnamese Mass
9.00am 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays: English Mass
11.00am: English Mass
1.00pm: Spanish Mass

Weekdays: Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am Mass

Morning Prayer of the Church: Tuesday to Saturday at 8.25am

Rosary: Tuesday to Sunday before Mass.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Every Wednesday from 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Benediction: Every Friday following the 9.00am Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesday to Saturday before or after Mass.

Baptism Information/Preparation: Every First Sunday of the month at 3.00pm.

Anointing of the Sick: Every Third Friday of the Month at 9.00am Mass.



Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year C

30th March 2025

First Reading: Joshua 5: 9-12
The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the Passover.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33: 2-7
R/ Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21
God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32
Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS: Isaiah 43: 16-21; Philippians 3: 8-14; John 8: 1-11

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the ‘lost’ of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God’s love that will be poured out for any ‘sinner’ who returns to God.

Historical Context – Customs and culture: The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

Have you thought? The Prodigal: Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word *prodigal* is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father’s money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father’s extravagance echoes God’s extravagant and abundant grace and love.

From the perspective of ... The Older Brother: We might have a little sympathy for the position of the older brother who was stuck by his father and done all that was required of him. All of a sudden his wayward brother returns and his father pulls out all the stops to welcome him home. The older brother is like the Pharisees and scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love.

Permanent Diaconate Information Session 3 May 2025

Following the success of the permanent diaconate information sessions in 2024, we will be holding another session for those interested. The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The information session is open to **everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate**. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session. Wives most welcome. The session will be on Saturday morning, 3rd May and will be in person. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison. Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.



Lenten Reconciliation Service

Thursday 10th April at 7pm in English and Spanish

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a most natural way to celebrate God’s forgiveness and love.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the opportunity to grow closer to God.



Fourth Sunday of Lent

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family. **Please donate today.**



Passion and Easter Liturgy 2025

13th April: **Passion/Palm Sunday**—Blessing of Palms at all Masses

Processions:

6.00pm Saturday Vigil Mass

9.00am & 11.00am English

1.00pm Spanish



17th April: **Holy Thursday** (Combine Celebration)

Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7.00pm

Holy Hour Adoration:

8.30pm to 9.30pm: All Communities

9.30pm to 10.30pm: Spanish Community

10.30pm to 11.30pm: Legion of Mary

11.30pm to 12.00 Midnight: Silent Reflection

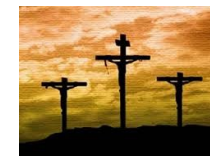


18th April: **Friday of the Passion of the Lord**

10.00am Stations of the Cross

3.00pm The Lord’s Passion—English

5.00pm The Lord’s Passion—Spanish



19th April: **Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday Evening)**

7.00pm— Mass in English

10.00pm— Mass in Spanish



20th April: **Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

Masses: 9.00am and 11.00am English Mass

1.00pm. Spanish Mass



Station of the Cross every Friday at 7.00pm

Jesus’ seven words from the cross:

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Forgiveness is beautiful in theory but far more difficult in practice. Rather than forgive, we entertain angry, vindictive thoughts in response to the smallest slight against us. Yet Jesus taught his followers that we must love even our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, and forgive those who sin against us, no matter how often they do it.

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

All four Gospels mention that Jesus was crucified between a pair of criminals. But only Luke adds that one of the men turned to Jesus in faith during his final moments, and that in response, Jesus promised him they’d be together in paradise that same day.

“Woman, behold, your son! . . . Behold, your mother!”

It’s hard to imagine what Mary must have felt, watching her son die like he did, but there’s a hint of it in Simeon’s prophecy to her when the infant Jesus was brought to the temple: “a sword will pierce through your own soul also.” And in the midst of this grim scene, Jesus turned to his mother and said, “look at your son” and told John, “look at your mother.” Mary was a widow by this time, and Jesus was telling her and John that they were now family. It’s a heart-melting moment in which Jesus cares for his mother and also shows his concern, even to the end, to provide loving family relationships and community for those who follow him.