

St. John Bosco's Parish 29 Muriel Street, Niddrie 3042 Parish Priest: Fr David Cartwright Phone: 9337 9994 Email: niddrie@cam.org.au Website: https://www.melbatholic.org/s/niddrie Parish Secretary: Charles Meneze Office Hours: 10am – 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	 Dear friends, As we approach the halfway point of Lent, perhaps it is a good time to think about how we are going with our Lenten penances and observances. Today's Gospel reminds us that it is never too late to try again, so perhaps this can be an encouragement to us to renew our Lenten practices and prepare ourselves for the coming Easter celebrations. The fig tree gets another chance to bear fruit and so do we!	Lenten Timetable <u>Fridays of Lent:</u> - 7pm: Stations of the Cross (in the church) <u>Tuesdays of Lent</u> - 6.30pm to 6.50pm: Adoration and confessions - 7pm: Mass <u>Confessions during Lent</u> - Wed — Fri: 9am — 9.20am - Saturdays: 4.30pm — 4.50pm - Sundays: 10am — 10.20am	 Our Spiritual Life “Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life” (Rom 5:19). That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God's grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.” <i>“Forbidden fruit creates many jams.”</i>
Mass Times Wednesday – Friday: 9:30am Saturday: 5:00pm Vigil Sunday: 10:30am Prayer and Devotions The Rosary is recited before weekday Mass Benediction after 9.30am Mass First Fridays Reconciliation Saturday: 4:30pm First Fridays 9 – 9:20am Or any time by arrangement or request, please call Fr David Baptisms 11:45am (after Mass) First Sunday of the month Please contact the Parish Office House Blessings Please contact the Parish Office	You will see in the bulletin the times for the Easter ceremonies, as well as on the Facebook Page and the large board in front of the presbytery. Let us all resolve to celebrate Easter together, as a community of faith, and perhaps consider inviting some family members or friends to join us. Perhaps this may be the opportunity to mention it to the person you are holding in prayer during our Jubilee Prayer Campaign. You will note the new statue of St John Bosco on the side altar of Our Lady. We blessed this statue last Wednesday- thank you to the generous parish-ioner who donated this to the parish. It was good to enjoy morning tea together on this day. It was also good to see many of our senior parishion-ers for our Anointing Mass on Friday morning. Next Saturday evening we will welcome the Year 4 students and their families to the 5pm Mass, where they will publicly commit to their prepa-ration for their First Holy Communion next term. You will notice the Jubilee sign of Hope above the front door of the church. The same sign is on display in many churches and other places in Mel-bourne this Jubilee Year. It is an external reminder of the Jubilee Year and the hope that we are called to have, despite the burdens and troubles that we carry. This hope is also an important part of our Jubilee Prayer Campaign. Don't forget the person that you have adopted (it's not too late to start), and are praying for, and spiritually bringing to Mass each week. Our prayers and small sacrifices are a sign of the hope that we have that God will touch their hearts and lives, perhaps in ways that we will never know. On Tuesday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. I am sure that nobody wants reminding that this signals nine months to Christmas! This Feast is a reminder that God's presence comes to us in unexpected ways and times, as it did to Mary in Nazareth. Please make the most of the time of Lent to say 'yes' to the Lord as Mary did, in your lives and families- with your Lenten practices, and the extra times of prayer we have as a parish. Let's continue to pray for each other and ask St John Bosco to pray for us.	Easter Timetable <u>Palm Sunday</u> - Saturday 12 April - 5pm Vigil Mass - Sunday 13 April - 10.30 am: Blessing of Palms, Procession and Mass <u>Holy Thursday - 17 April</u> - 10am: Confessions - 7pm: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Adoration until 9pm <u>Good Friday - 18 April</u> - 10am: Confessions - 11am: Stations of the Cross - 3pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion <u>Holy Saturday - 19 April</u> - 10am: Confessions - 6pm: Solemn Easter Vigil <u>Easter Sunday - 20 April</u> - 10.30am: Easter Mass	Our Liturgical Life The Liturgy of the Word  During the proclamation of the sacred scriptures, we sit with our attention on the word that is being proclaimed. A hand missal or sheet may help our attention on the Word. During this part of the Mass, God is speaking to us through the words of the Bible. It requires our attention to hear the message and not just the words being spoken. The Liturgy of the Word should not be rushed; along with the Liturgy of the Eucharist, it is one of the principal parts of the Mass. Bible Study Group The St John Bosco's Bible Study Group has monthly meetings in the church. The next meeting will be at <u>2.30pm on Saturday 29 March</u>. This coming week the parish office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday. We will be closed on Wednesday. Jubilee Prayer Campaign <u>3rd Sunday of Lent</u> - Read ten minutes of the Bible this week for the person or intention in the Jubilee Prayer Campaign
St. John Bosco's School 6 Teague Street, Niddrie 3042 <u>Principal:</u> Peter Monaghan <u>Phone:</u> 9337 2314 <u>Email:</u> principal@sibniddrie.catholic.edu.au		Divine Mercy Novena Commences Good Friday after Stations of the Cross, 11am ● Holy Saturday: Rosary & Novena Prayers 9.30am ● Easter Sunday: Rosary & Novena at 9.30am, followed by Mass at 10.30am ● Easter Monday (21 April) – Easter Saturday (26 April): Rosary at 9am, followed by Mass & Novena each day. ● Divine Mercy Sunday (27 April): Rosary & Novena at 9.30am, fol-lowed by Mass at 10.30am. - Confessions: 9am – 10am - Drawing of Easter Raffle & Morning Tea after 10.30am Mass	
Mass Offerings Envelopes for Mass Offerings are available in the narthex of the church. These can be handed in to the presbytery, given to Fr David, or placed in the collection at Mass.		Wisdom from the Saints Saint Gabriel the Archangel: “Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.”	
Stewardship <u>Presbytery:</u> \$1,138 <u>Thanksgiving:</u> \$1,578 <u>Loose:</u> \$171 The 1st Collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, Retired and sick priests, priests in needy parishes and the Archbishop. The 2nd Collection is for parish expenses such as wages, utilities, insurance, etc.		Funeral Notice The funeral for Margaret Lane will take place on <u>Thursday 27 March at 11.30am</u> in the Church.	Stewardship Corner Thank you for your generosity towards our parish - spiritually, physically and financially. If you are not a current contributor, we invite your participation: please visit our website or contact the parish office. <i>Direct credits can also be made:</i>
With St John Bosco we pray for... Sick: We pray for all the sick in our community Recently Deceased: Margaret Lane; Sue Carrick Anniversaries and Remembrances: George Eugene Kearney; Trevor Claudius; James Sheridan; Patsy D'Cunha Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available in the church foyer.	Jubilee Prayer Campaign Prayer God our loving Father, In this Jubilee year we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope. Together we pray for those whom we especially commend to you in this Jubilee Prayer Campaign. <i>(pause for silent prayer)</i> Lord, we ask you to touch their hearts with your grace and love and peace. May each our us continue to be Pilgrims of Hope to all those we meet and bring your Good News to the world in this Jubilee Year, especially those most in need at this time. We ask you to hear these prayers, in union with St John Bosco and all the saints. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	Easter Raffle Thank you to all those generous people who donated to our Easter Raffle. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend until Easter. Tickets cost \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or 15 for \$10. The funds raised will go towards the costs of Easter in the parish and the new altar cloth and vestments in the church. Thank you to all parish and school families who donated prizes for the raffle. A special mention to Best Health Meat Co, Tokaiya Japanese Restaurant and Niddrie Central Seafood for their donations. Remember to support local! Mass Intentions this week Wednesday 9.30am: <i>Jubilee Prayer Campaign</i> Thursday 9.30am: <i>Private intention</i> Friday 9.30am: Sat 5pm: <i>Jubilee Prayer campaign intentions</i> Sunday: <i>Pro popolo (for the people of the parish)</i>	Parish Account (for the parish expenses, our 2nd collection) BSB: 083 - 347 Acct No.: 6568 74974 Presbytery Account (for clergy & presbytery support, our 1st collection) BSB: 083 - 347 Acct No.: 6616 52479 An option is now available for electronic card contributions to the Parish & Presbytery accounts. These terminals are available for use in the Church foyer before & after weekend Mass & electronic receipts are available via QR code. You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code: 
<i>Don't Forget to 'Like' us on Facebook! St John Bosco's Catholic Church Niddrie</i>		<i>The Parish of St John Bosco's and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.</i>	

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:17
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Lk 13:1-9
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.
Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, ‘Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.’

He told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, “Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?” “Sir,” the man replied “leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.”’

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HOMILY
PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED
Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I OR II OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.
All: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .
R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON cf. Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young; by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from

on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

A CHANGE OF HEART

Last week our Lenten focus was on prayer. This Sunday is about conversion and a change of heart. In the first part of today’s reading, Jesus reminds his audience that suffering or persecution is not the result of guilt or sin. Terrible events remind us to have a spirit of repentance. “Repentance” is more of an openness of heart and mind to God, the essential and primary quality of a disciple, and less the codified legalistic need to address one’s infringement of ethical or moral standards.

The second part of today’s Gospel moves in an ecological direction. Repentance implies ecological conversion. The parable of the fig tree and its owner highlights the attitude of its owner to what is grown on his property. He sees the tree as unproductive and therefore unable to provide a cash return. The owner is greedy. Earth’s gift, the tree, is seen as a commodity whose lack of fruitfulness means for the landowner that it is to be “cut down” because it is “taking up the ground” (literally in the Greek, “using up Earth”).

What appears as ecological sensitivity is rather an economic or materialistic agenda. But the one who cares for the Earth and the tree, its gardener, offers a more viable and environmental friendlier solution. Leave the tree, offer it fertiliser, and it may bear fruit in the future. He pleads for patience for Earth’s fruitfulness. This is instructive for contemporary disciples: tender horticultural practice that cares for Earth is preferred to pragmatic, utilitarian destruction.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 707. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / C

UNLESS YOU REPENT. When misfortune strikes people considered to be sinners, others might say: ‘They had it coming! God is punishing them!’ In today’s Gospel Jesus criticises such attitudes on two grounds. Firstly, it is wrong to see the wrath of God in every tragic event. Secondly, we need to recognise that we are all guilty of sin and in need of conversion. Instead of judging others, let us ask God to forgive our sins and help us as we undertake the difficult task of reform.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 24:15-16
My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, by your mercy. 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.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ex 3:1-8, 13-15
A reading from the book of Exodus
This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. ‘I must go and look at this strange sight,’ Moses said ‘and see why the bush is not burnt.’ Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. ‘Moses, Moses!’ he said. ‘Here I am’ he answered. ‘Come no nearer’ he said. ‘Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,’ he said ‘the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, ‘I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.’

Then Moses said to God, ‘I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you.” But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?’ And God said to Moses, ‘I Am who I Am. This’ he added ‘is what you must say to the sons of Israel: “The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.’

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v. 8
R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. R.



2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. R.
3. The Lord does deeds of justice, / gives judgement for all who are oppressed. / He made known his ways to Moses / and his deeds to Israel’s sons. R.
4. The Lord is compassion and love, / slow to anger and rich in mercy. / For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. R.

SECOND READING 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12
A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.