



# St. Mary's Cathedral

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## This Week 7<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – Third Sunday of Lent

Readings: Yr C/2 – Ex 3:1-8, 13-15; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9; or

The resource I use to help couples prepare for marriage has questions for them to think about and discuss in between sessions. One of the questions at the end of one of the chapters is, “What effect would adultery have on your marriage?”



In one sense this hypothetical question is absurd. Dealing with the consequences of any sin requires time and place, context and contrition. It is even tougher to imagine the effect of any destructive behaviour in one's marriage even before the marriage has begun. Still, it never ceases to amaze me how this question usually leads the couple to have a very fruitful and frank discussion, not about adultery, but about their values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growing old together.

Sometimes, however, I cringe when the prospective bride or groom seems to give the green light to their future spouse by saying, ‘Well I guess if he or she went looking elsewhere it would be my fault’ or ‘I love him or her so much that I know we could go on regardless’. Others say very clearly that it would alter the trust and respect of the relationship, but they hope they could look at the circumstances and rebuild the relationship.

The most mature couples do not wipe over the seriousness of the sinful action, but want to hold on to compassion, forgiveness and a commitment that it will not happen again. Couples like these have clearly understood the power of today's readings. The third Sunday of Lent is all about second chances. In Exodus we have a bush that is alight but does not burn and in Luke we have a fig tree that does not bear fruit, is earmarked for the chop and saved by the gardener. In both cases where we would expect to find destruction we find new opportunities for growth, nurturance and flowering.

Over the centuries the goodness of God that always gives us another chance has not been proclaimed as vigorously as it should have been. We have focused on God's justice as though it was a once and for all, shape up or ship out sort of message. These ideas can be deducted from today's second reading where Paul seems to argue that God killed the chosen people for their complaining and infidelity. Paul was a tough man and for him Christian commitment was no picnic. He was aware of how people were suffering and dying for the Gospel, so he was at pains to teach the people of Corinth that the commitment demanded from the Gospel could entail everything they had. His reading of why the Israelites died in the desert, however, needs to be read against the second chances of the other readings, especially the Gospel.

We believe in Lent that we enter a holy time in our year and visit a holy place in ourselves where the fire of God's love should burn brightly within us. We are offered these weeks to re-examine our values, family history, commitment, fidelity and growth so as to chart how best we can grow old with God. To do this sometimes requires facing up to our sinful behaviour and making choices to change our lives. We can only do this when we trust that the fire of God's love is not about destruction, but compassion, forgiveness and a second chance.

May this Eucharist be nurturance for the foundations of our lives and a moment to take stock and to assess with honesty the fruitfulness of how, as a sign of Christ's light within us, we live out our faith in our

*Mass Times: Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm Sunday: 7.00am, 9.00am, 10.30am (Solemn High Mass) & 6.00pm Youth Mass*

*Monday to Friday: 6.45am, 1.10pm & 5.30pm; Saturday: 9.00am & 12noon, Public Holidays: 12noon*

*Reconciliation: Monday-Friday 12noon -1.00pm & 5.00pm to 5.25pm EXCEPT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS*

*Saturday 11.30am-11.55am, 4.30-5.30pm- NO SUNDAY TOUR UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE*

*St Columbkille's McElhone Street Woolloomooloo - Sunday Mass 9.00am - Rosary at 8.40am*

*Friday Divine Mercy Novena - with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 12noon, Divine Mercy Novena Prayers 12.30pm. Devotions will conclude at 1.00pm with Benediction in the Lady Chapel behind the Main Altar.*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

1. Draw nigh, and take the body of  
our Lord,  
and drink the holy blood for you  
outpoured,  
saved by that body, hallowed by  
that blood,  
whereby refreshed we render  
thanks to God.
2. Salvation's giver, Christ only Son,  
By that his cross and blood the  
victory won:  
offered was he for greatest and for  
least,  
himself the victim, and himself the  
priest.

3. Victims were offered by the law of old  
that, in type, celestial mysteries told:  
he, ransomer from death and light  
from shade,  
giveth his holy grace his saints to aid
4. Approach ye then with faithful hearts  
sincere,  
and take the safeguard of salvation  
here,  
He that in this world rules his saints  
and shields,  
to all believers life eternal yields;
5. with heavenly bread makes them that  
hunger whole,  
gives living waters to the thirsty soul.  
Alpha and Omega, to whom shall bow  
all nations at the doom, is with us now

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

1. As pants the hart for cooling  
streams  
in parched and barren ways  
so longs my soul for you, O God,  
and your refreshing grace.
2. For you my God, the living God,  
my thirsting soul will pine:  
O when shall I behold your face,  
Your majesty divine?

3. God of my strength, my tears have  
been,  
by day and night my food;  
the mockers taunt continually  
and say: 'Where is your God?'
4. Why restless, why cast down, my  
soul?  
Hope still, and you shall sing  
the praise of him who is your God,  
your health's eternal spring.

**GET YOUR CATHOLIC WEEKLY FOR JUST \$2. 00**

**Welcome Bishop Anthony Fisher, Bishop of Parramatta – four page wrap**  
**Good confession a good Lenten practice, says Cardinal**  
**Big jump in indigenous students in Catholic schools**  
**SCENE set for young, old to share Gospel message**  
**Champion of laity paved way for women in Curia**  
**Why Fr Michael has a keen regard for catechists**  
**Judi's 'fighting the fight' for modesty, ethics**

**Choir to lend 'musical wings to prayer'  
1200 at dedication of Padre Pio Church  
Big steps for tiny feet**

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

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| <p><b>1. The God of Abraham praise<br/>Who reigns enthroned above,<br/>Ancient of everlasting days,<br/>And God of love:<br/>To him uplift your voice,<br/>At whose supreme command<br/>From earth we rise and seek the joys<br/>At his right hand.</b></p> <p><b>2. The God who reigns on high<br/>The great archangels sing,<br/>And 'Holy, holy, holy' cry<br/>'Almighty King!'<br/>Who was, and is the same,<br/>And evermore shall be:<br/>Eternal Father, great I AM,<br/>We worship thee.'</b></p> | <p><b>3. Before the Saviour's face<br/>The ransomed nations bow,<br/>O'erwhelmed at his almighty grace<br/>For ever new:<br/>He shows the prints of love -<br/>They kindle to a flame,<br/>And sound through all the worlds above<br/>The slaughtered Lamb.</b></p> <p><b>4. The whole triumphant host<br/>Give thanks to God on high:<br/>'Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost'<br/>They ever cry:<br/>Hail, Abraham's God and mine!<br/>(I join the heavenly lays)<br/>All might and majesty are thine,<br/>And endless praise.</b></p> |
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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

**The Lord is kind and merciful**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**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!**

**A PRAY FOR PRIESTS**

**Lord Jesus, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and living perpetually among us through Your Priests, grant that the words of Your Priests may be only Your words, that their gestures be only Your gestures, and that their lives be a true reflection of Your life.**

**Grant that they may be men who speak to God on behalf of His people, and speak to His people of God.**

**Grant that they be courageous in service, serving the Church as she asks to be served.**

**Grant that they may be men who witness to eternity in our time, travelling on the paths of history in Your steps, and doing good for all.**

**Grant that they may be faithful to their commitments, zealous in their vocation and mission, clear mirrors of their own identity, and living the joy of the gift they have received.**

**We pray that Your Holy Mother, Mary, present throughout Your life, may be ever present in the life of Your priest. Amen.**

**Cathedral Staff:**

Father Paul Hilder -

**Dean**

Father Huy Trong Phan

Father Arthur Givney

Father John Flynn

Chris Backhouse - *Cathedral Sacristan*

Peter Kneeshaw - *Principal Organist*

Dominic Moawad - *Assistant Organist*

Thomas Wilson - *Director of Music*

Elizabeth Swain - *Assistant Director*

The God of Abraham praise -

As pants the hart – Nicholas Brady 1659 – 1726 alt.

Draw nigh, and take the body of our Lord – John Mason Neale 1818 - 66

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The Australian Hymn Book

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**The Director of Music is Thomas Wilson and the Assistant Director of Music is Elizabeth Swain.  
There is no Assistant Conductor.**

**EMBRACE:** The youth group meets each Sunday after the 6pm Youth Mass. This Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2010, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Crypt. Please look for us outside the Eastern Transept after Mass. Please visit <http://www.embrace-stmarys.org> for further information.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Recruitment Drive on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010 at St Mary's Cathedral at all Masses. Please be generous with your time.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Friday 5 March 2010. Venue: Wesley Mission, 220 Pitt Street, Sydney at 12 noon followed by a light lunch. Speaker: Reverend Ian Pearson (Minister of Pitt Street Uniting Church).

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS:** The Easter prayer vigil, The Way of The Cross, will be held in Hyde Park on Good Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The Way of the Cross is a dramatised version of the Stations of the Cross. It will commence at 5pm next to the Archibald Fountain. The Cross will process along Central Avenue. Prayers and hymns will be sung at each of the fourteen stations. Embrace, the young adults group at St Mary's Cathedral is assisting at this event. Everyone is welcome.

**THINKING OF BECOMING A PRIEST?** Vocation Enquiry Day ... Sunday 14 March 2010 at the Seminary of the Good Shepherd 50-58 Abbotsford Road, Homebush. Registration essential! [vocations@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:vocations@sydneycatholic.org) or 9390n 5287

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2010:** Since 1911 International Women's Day has been celebrated as the global day connecting all women around the world and inspiring them to achieve their full potential. This day is an opportunity to reflect on the dignity and role of all women; in the family, society and the Church.

The Letter of Pope John Paul II to Women reminds us that Jesus Christ provided a wonderful example of treating women:

*When it comes to setting women free from every kind of exploitation and domination, the Gospel contains an ever relevant message which goes back to the attitude of Jesus Christ himself. Transcending the established norms of his own culture, Jesus treated women with openness, respect, acceptance and tenderness. In this way he honoured the dignity which women have always possessed according to God's plan and in his love. (n.3)*

**We pray that we, the Church, ensure that women are encouraged to flourish within the Catholic Church in Australia and that all women are appreciated for the contribution they make to the fullness of the Church.**

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND: Of Life and Love weekend at the Catholic Adult Education Centre. Preparing for the vocation of marriage? Book your place for March 13-14. \$220 per couple. For more information, telephone 02 9646 9010 or go to [www.caec.com.au](http://www.caec.com.au)**

**SACRED THREADS FOR SACRED SERVICE: Saturday March 20 and 27 at the Catholic Adult Education Centre, Keating Street, Lidcombe. A new workshop series for parishioners engaged or seeking to engage in the making and care of sacred linens and vestments for Holy Mass. Participants will be guided through an interesting history of embroidery and related crafts before being taken through the making of a corporal, purificator, lavabo towel and pall. They will among other things learn how to prepare and care for linens and vestments used for Holy Mass; restore the interior of a Tabernacle; transfer designs to fabric and make a ciborium cover. This is an opportunity to focus on the prayerful beauty of gifted hands, busy as an art, committed to a sacred purpose. A \$25 fee is payable for this workshop to offset the expense of supplying practicum materials. For further information contact the Liturgy Office on 02 9390 5801 or visit [www.liturgy.sydney.catholic.org.au](http://www.liturgy.sydney.catholic.org.au).**

<b>LOSE YOUR CHILDREN – AND YOU – LOSE YOUR CHURCH</b>
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