

Lent IS A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

At the end of *The Laws of Our Fathers*, Scott Turow has one of his characters, Seth Weissman, preach at a memorial service. The text for that service is today's first reading and his words capture the challenge before us.

'I always return to the story of Abraham and Isaac ... the founder of the Western faiths ... He was a visionary, a prophet ... But despite this, Abraham's God decided to test him. He asked Abraham to make a sacrifice of his and Sarah's only child, Isaac, their miracle, who was born to them when Sarah was ninety years old and Abraham was one hundred. And ... Abraham complied.'

'He did not ask what was wrong with a God who would demand such a thing, or question whether He was worth worshipping. He did not, so far as the Bible tells us, even beg for Isaac's life, as he had done for the people of Sodom. Abraham simply walked his child up Mount Moriah. I imagine he even made the boy carry the wood for the fire ...'

'... I have regarded for some years now the story of Abraham and Isaac a strange story, a grim tale of how a father would sacrifice his son to his own faith ... What kind of a starting point is this for ... all the Western faiths? ... Why do we re-tell this story? Is it to remind us that every parent since has been better?'

'... One of the thousand morals of the story of Abraham and Isaac is that ... it is also a tale of survival and of mercy. In the end Abraham heard his God instruct him not to set his hand against his son ... Isaac survived ... He became a parent, blind to Jacob's defects, but one who, pointedly, attempted no sacrifices of his own ...'

'So let us think of Isaac ... the first son of the Western faiths - and think about the story that is told again and again. We hear it first as children, and repeat it throughout our lives. We tell it by way of apology. And warning. We tell it with some measure of hope. We tell it because we have all been the child, we have all been Isaac, and we know the part of the story that is never mentioned. For the Bible does not record Isaac's responses. We do not know if he, like Jesus, asked, "Father, why have you forsaken me?" We do not know if he begged the way most of us would, for his life. We know only this: that he obeyed ... That because he knew nothing else, he did as his father required. We know he allowed himself to be bound in rope. We know that he let his father lay him on the altar of pyramided firewood which together they had raised to God. We know he watched his father on the mountaintop raise the gleaming knife above his breastbone. We know ... he was a child, the son of a man with a Big Idea, who in his longing and confusion, even in his final instant, could only look to his father with that eternal if foundering hope for love.'

May this story and our Eucharist give us hope that no matter what altar of sacrifice we feel sometimes laid upon, God does not abandon us in our need, and never wants us to sacrifice ourselves, or anyone else. Lent is about mercy and survival because true obedience to God, even in its demands for a hard love, ALWAYS leads to life.

Richard Leonard SJ

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish email address
info@scp.org.au

Parish Website
<https://scp.org.au>

Parish phone number
07 5510 2222

Parish address
31 Edmund Rice Drive
Ashmore Qld 4215
PO Box 216
Ashmore City 4214

Parish Office

Leeanne Human
(Parish Manager)

Daloras Howes
(Parish Secretary)
dalorash@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Maria Blanca
MariaB@scp.org.au

Priests of the Parish

Fr. Gerard McMorro (PP)

Fr Stephen Camiolo
*(Parish Ministry
& Hospital Chaplaincy)*

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SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC
PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE**

[https://www.facebook.com/
southportcatholicparish](https://www.facebook.com/southportcatholicparish)



Bookings for Sunday Mass essential to register on line <https://scp.org.au/>

St. Joseph the Worker Church
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Masses
7:00am & 8:30am
(Please book on line)

Weekday Masses
Monday & Wednesday
7:00am
**(No need to book for weekday
Mass)**

Gold Coast University Hospital
Friday Rosary 10.00am

Guardian Angels' Church
99 Scarborough St., Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation : 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30 pm
Sunday 7:00am & 9:00am
(Please book on line)

Prayers & Adoration
Wednesday 12.00noon -1.00pm

Weekday Mass
Friday 12:30pm

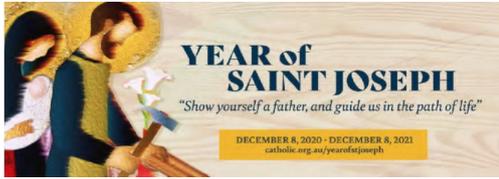
Mary Immaculate Church
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses
Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm
Sunday 9:00am & 5.30pm, including
the Korean Mass
(Please book on line)

Weekday Masses
Tuesday 9:00am
Thursday 9:00am
No need to book for weekday Mass

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Continued.....



Joseph, who Luke says was thought to be the baby's father (see Luke 3:23), allows the child to be named "Jesus" (Lk 2:21) as the angel who appeared to Mary had instructed (Lk 1:31). All these actions by Joseph show that he is a man of his word who has remained with the woman to whom he is engaged, despite a pregnancy for which he is not responsible. More than that, he has seen that woman through childbirth in hard circumstances and has given her and her son a respectable identity in the world. All these small pieces of information, when put into the larger, divine scheme of events that Luke offers us, also suggest that Joseph is a man with a distinct role in God's desire to restore the world to right relationship with Godself. Joseph's descent from King David, the anointed one, makes it possible for Jesus, despite his humble birth, to be truly the long-awaited Messiah of the Jewish people. While he does not know the full picture, by choosing generously and courageously to accept Mary as his betrothed in difficult circumstances, Joseph enables God's will to be fulfilled. More than this, Luke 2:22 indicates that Joseph is, in fact, a devout Jewish man who intentionally lives by God's word. The verse states that Joseph and Mary deliberately made an arduous journey to Jerusalem to complete the requirements of the law of Moses for a new-born son. To understand this verse we need to do two things. First, we need to read it in context, as part of a long sentence that goes to the end of v. 24. Second, to receive the rich meaning of these verses we need to be aware of Old Testament texts, the Word of God, that are referred to in Luke 2:22-24. 3 First, then, although the sentence of verses 22-24 begins and ends talking about the religious purification of a mother after giving birth as required by the Jewish law (see Lev 12:6), the main statement of the sentence is that Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, according to a particular law of the Lord (Exod 13:2, 12, 13), which is quoted for us in the middle of the sentence. There are also other Old Testament texts that may be echoed in this presentation of Jesus to the Lord, especially the story of Hannah presenting her son Samuel to the Lord in 1 Sam 1:24-28 (but see also Exod 22:29; Neh 10:35-36). Thus, Joseph and Mary perform two religious acts when they take Jesus to Jerusalem: they present Jesus to the Lord and they also offer a sacrifice for the purification of the mother of Jesus. Both of these acts are based in the Word of God. In fact, in the course of verses 22- 24, Luke refers three times to God's Word, calling it "the law of Moses," and twice "the law of the Lord." Clearly, Joseph is presented as responding most attentively to the Word of God as expressed in the Scriptures.

HEALING MASS "Are you in need of healing? Register to attend the first Friday of the month Healing Mass at St. Mary Magdalene's, Cecil Road, Bardonia, Friday, 5th March, 2021, at 7.30pm. Fr. Leonard Uzuegbul, CCR Chaplain, will be the celebrant. Personal healing prayer will be available. COVID restrictions will be followed. Register attendance by contacting Len Airey on 0421977849 or by email to lenpatairey@gmail.com"

EASTER MASS TIMES

HOLY THURSDAY - 1st April 2021

Guardian Angels Church - 6pm
Mary Immaculate Church - 6pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 2nd April 2021
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Guardian Angles Church - 10am
Mary Immaculate Church - 10am

Good Friday - Passion of Christ

Guardian Angels Church - 3pm
Mary Immaculate Church - 3pm

Easter Vigil - Saturday 3rd April 2021

Guardian Angels Church - 6pm
Mary Immaculate - 6pm

Easter Sunday - 4th April 2021

St Joseph the Worker - 7am & 8.30am
Guardian Angels - 7am & 9am
Mary Immaculate - 9am

No 5.30pm Mass at Mary Immaculate Church

Easter Monday

St Joseph the Worker Church- 9am

Please note it is essential to register on line
<https://scp.org.au/>



WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR AT GUARDIAN ANGELS

Special Lenten program 12noon - 1pm every Wednesday. During Lent we will be praying the Way of the Cross with meditations by 'Venerable Fulton J Sheen and Saint John Henry Newman' and sung Stabat Mater commencing at 12 Noon. Confession available during this time. Immediately following the Way of the Cross, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed followed by time for silent prayer and Benediction concluding at 1pm.

Please join us for an hour with Our Lord in preparation for Easter. No bookings required.



The World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu and the service will be held at **Southport Uniting Church on Friday the 5th March at 9.30am.** Location 23 Short Street. For all those attending it will be necessary to register by phoning the Church Phone No. 55 32 5915. There will be no morning tea due to Covid-19 restrictions, bottled water will be supplied by the Church. We look forward and hope we get a good representation from our three churches.

Liturgy of the Word for Next Sunday Year B/1
1st Reading - Exodus 20:1-17 - 2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Gospel - John 2:13-25

**STOPLINE RECEIVES INFORMATION ABOUT SUSPECTED ABUSE,
MISCONDUCT & SERIOUS POLICY BREACHES BY ARCHDIOCESAN CLERGY, EMPLOYEES OR VOLUNTEERS.**
PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: AOB@stoline.com.au ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com
Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Guardian Angels Church
Rebecca - 0414 994 928

Mary Immaculate Church
Raphaelle - 0414 915 047

St Joseph the Worker Church
Cathy - 0414 982 749 (Chinese)

*Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy.
We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers
and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.*

Recently Deceased:

Gilman dos Santos
Elizabeth Halcro, Bob Cozens,
Barry Smith, Boyd Barrett

*The names of our sick and
deceased family & friends
Will be recorded in these books*



Second Sunday of Lent
28th February 2021

Margret, 39, is a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment. The school faced water shortages that often left staff and students without safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables. Then Tropical Cyclone Harold damaged the school and its vegetable garden as the threat of COVID-19 loomed. With Caritas Australia's support, the school installed water tanks, provided cyclone-proof building materials, and helped to implement COVID-19 prevention measures. Margret's school now has enough water for its students and the capacity to cater for more, and is now planning to boost food security through increased agricultural production.

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Online registration has now closed for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered to those candidates who are baptised Catholic and who are at least 10 years of age in 2021 (School Year 5).

Reconciliation Meetings:

Rite of Enrolment

Saturday, 27th Feb @ 4:30pm Mass
Sunday, 28th Feb @ 9am Mass
Sunday, 28th Feb @ 5:30pm Mass

All Masses are held at the Mary Immaculate church

Preparation Session

Sunday, 7th March @ 10:15am (after 9am Mass) Or
Thursday, 11th March @ 4pm

All meetings are held at the Mary Immaculate church

Reconciliation (1st Rite)

Monday, 15th to Friday, 19th of March 2021 @ 4pm to 5pm. Estimated group of 10-12 people per day.

The Sacrament of First Communion will be offered in **Term 2, 2021** and will be available to candidates who are 9 years of age (Year 4) or older.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered in **Term 3, 2021** and will be available to those candidates who are 8 years of age (Year 3) or older.

Please contact Maria Blancia on 5510 2222 for further information in regards to Sacramental Program.

WALKING GROUP. At **St Joseph the Worker church, Imperial Parade, Labrador.** **Saturday at 6am.**

Interested persons wishing to join us should ring **Janece** on **0408 763 772.**



A VOCATION VIEW: If you need an example of a person responding to a vocational call, look at Abraham – called in old age to leave his country, father a child, then asked to sacrifice the child. What faith! Vocation is a risky response to a unique call from God

New Arrivals

ANGELS ON SCARBOROUGH

Greeting Cards with Preserved Flowers Design for All Occasions!

**OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9AM TO 4PM**

SHOP 2/115 SCARBOROUGH STREET. SOUTHPORT

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

From Ashes to the Living Font

From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord
baptised in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

Through fasting,
prayer, and charity,
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might,
we might transfigured be.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM- SUNG

Grant to Us O, Lord

Refrain:

*Grant to us O Lord,
a heart renewed.*

*Recreate in us
your own Spirit, Lord.*

Behold, the days are coming,
says the Lord our God,
when I will make a new covenant with
the house of Israel. **R**

Deep within their being
I will implant my law.
I will write it in their hearts. **R**

I will be their God,
and they shall be my people. **R**

And for all their faults
I will grant forgiveness.
Never more will I remember
their sins. **R**

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus, praise and honour Lord
Jesus Christ*

From the shining cloud the Father's
voice is heard,
"This is my beloved Son, hear Him".

*Praise and honour to you,
Lord Jesus, praise and honour Lord
Jesus Christ.*

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GIFTS PROCESSION

Return to God

Refrain

Return to God

*with all your heart,
the source of grace and mercy.
Come, seek the tender faithfulness of
God.*

Now the time of grace has come,
the day of salvation.
Come and learn now
the way of our God. **R**

I will take your heart of stone
and place a heart within you,
a heart of compassion and love. **R**

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Publications

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

When we eat this bread and drink
this cup we proclaim your death, O
Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts,
shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church
gathered today.*

Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone
has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. **R**

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread,
broken for others,
shared until all are fed. **R**

Longing for shelter,
many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **R**

Many the gifts, many the people, many
the hearts
that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. **R**

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RECESSIONAL HYMN

Tree of Life

Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
in your death we are reborn,
though you die in all of history,
still you rise with every morn,
still you rise with every morn.

In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true.
May we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do,
Christ as Lord of all we do.
Martyr Haugen,b,1950 ©1984 GIA Publications
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. **R**

Martyr Haugen,b,1950 ©1984 GIA Publications

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible
and invisible.**

**I believe in one
Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in
accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.
He will come again in glory to
judge the living and the dead and
his
kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**