# SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
# 1 MARCH 2026 YEAR A

Three key people of the Old Testament are given to us in today's readings: Abram, Moses and Elijah. Unfortunately most of what we know about these men is fairly sketchy. Who can blame the young children, then, who wrote down the following answers in an exam on the Old Testament?

'Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments. The First was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple. The Fifth was to always humour thy father and mother.'

The Jews of Matthew's community, however, would have been able to remember by heart every detail about Abram, Moses and Elijah. These men remain the Jews' greatest heroes. The first hearers of the Transfiguration story would have immediately made all the connections between Jesus' story and Abram, Moses and Elijah's experience of God on a mountaintop, where each has a life-changing encounter with the presence of God and is illuminated in every way. Each of them is called by God to fulfil a special task and so descend from the mountain with the strength to see it through.

Matthew is especially interested in the story of Moses. One of the refrains of the entire Gospel is that Jesus is the New Moses, the fulfilment of the law and the light that illuminates the darkest night. As interesting as the similarities are between Moses on Sinai and Jesus on Tabor, the differences are even more revealing for us on our Lenten journey.

Moses goes up the mountain alone, Jesus takes companions with him who share in the experience and witness to it. The face of God is hidden from Moses whereas on Tabor Jesus is given to us as the face of God for the world. On Sinai Moses receives a code of law and is told to make sure the people obey it. On Tabor Jesus receives a proclamation of God's love and we're told to listen to him. While Moses' face shines, Jesus' whole body is transfigured with light. Moses descends to enforce the law; Jesus comes down to die that we might live.

Just when some of us think Lent is a grim season of self-denial, the Church gives us the story of Jesus' Transfiguration to put our sacrifices in context. The only reason we deny ourselves anything or commit ourselves to actions of service for these 40 days is to grow more deeply in love with the God who loves us into life. Penance is not meant to attack our self-esteem, it's intended to help us sort out what really matters, to cast some light in the darkness of our lives and to focus on the relationship which gives meaning and purpose for this world and the next. The God of Mount Tabor is not interested in each of us feeling isolated as we fulfil the letter of a legal code. He wants all of us to have hearts that listen to the Gospel of love so that we can gain the power to transform the world through the sacrifices of our daily lives.

On a much gentler scale, Sunday Mass is meant to be a weekly mountaintop experience for us where we hear God call us by name and confess his love for us; where we feel re-energised for the commission we have to bear his light to the world. In this context anything we can do this Lent that helps remove the blocks in our full response to his love, must be worth effort.

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

**DONATIONS TO PHILERMOS HOUSE, DAVENPORT STREET SOUTHPORT through the Order of Malta can be made several ways:**

- Online through our secure payment facility
  **Direct Deposit** to BSB: 083 453 Acct: 44888 1897
  Please use 'Southport' as the description and email info@orderofmalta.org.au details to obtain a tax-deductible receipt
- **Phone** by calling 02 9331 8477 - please note the office is closed weekends.
- **Post** with cheques payable to '*Order of Malta*' and sent to Philermos House, Order of Malta, PO Box 79, Caringbah NSW 1495

**Readings - Third Sunday Of Lent - 8 March 2026**
**Exodus 17:3-7; Psalm 94:1-2. 6-9; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42**

## Social - Bus Trip

**Let's all be Irish on the 17 March 2026.**

Come and join us on St Patrick's Day starting with a bus journey to participate in Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral at 10.00am. Father Gerard will be the celebrant and the Mass includes Irish bagpipes. Morning tea next to the Cathedral is included after our spiritual celebration.
Then we head off to Western Districts Rugby Football Club Toowong for a 12 Noon lunch followed by Irish dancing and entertainment. On the way there and home, test your wits by joining in some Irish Trivia, receive prizes including the best Irish outfit and lucky seat. It will be a wonderful spiritual excursion with lots of Irish frivolity.

Please invite your family and friends as all are welcome.

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| Date: | Tuesday 17 March (RSVP: Monday 2 March) |
| Location: | The bus will depart and return to St Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador (44 Imperial Parade). |
| Times: | 8.15am for prompt departure at 8.30am and returning at about 4.30pm |
| Cost: | $30 for bus hire (dependent on numbers). Lunch and drinks are at your expense. |

*As with all SCL events, bookings are essential*. To register, email John Wintour at winlock1@optusnet.com.au or to get further details, please contact Christine by mobile on 0431 630 446.

**POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR LENT**

I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Join us for the Stations of the Cross every Thursday at 6.00pm throughout Lent at Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore. All are welcome to take part in this meaningful Lenten devotion.

**MASS OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

The first Thursday of each month at 9.00am at Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore. Everyone is warmly welcome to attend.

**WOMEN'S RECOLLECTION FOR LENT**

**BY FR MAX POLAK**

Where: Guardian Angels Church
When: Friday 6 March 2026 at 5.45pm

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST STEPHEN

*Archbishop Shane Mackinlay invites you to the annual*

CHRISM MASS

THURSDAY 26 March 2026
7.00pm
Cathedral of St Stephen
249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane
A celebration for
the entire Archdiocese
All Welcome
The undercover carpark will be available from 6.00pm

**FLOCKNOTE**
**NEW PARISH REGISTRATION**
**Stay connected**

We kindly invite you to register at your earliest convenience via our parish website https://scp.org.au or by scanning the QR code.

**PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH**

**New Program starts on the 1 April 2026**

If you would like to be part of the Planned Giving Program **please contact the Parish Office 5510 2222 Wednesday-Friday 9.00am to midday. Email: accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**
In making a commitment to be part of our planned giving program you are directly supporting and enabling the maintenance and growth of our parish's mission. Thank you Fr Gerard

**HELP SUPPORT SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH OFFICE** If you're looking for a simple but meaningful way to help ease the parish's day-to-day needs, consider donating a ream of A3 paper. This small gesture can make a big difference in supporting the parish's administrative work. **Donations can be dropped off at any of our three churches or the Parish Office Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and midday, thank you.**

## JOURNEY WITH US THIS LENT
## A Lenten opportunity for Spiritual Renewal
## Eucharistic Theology-Presenter:Fr John Madden

More detailed information can be found
at the entrance of each church.

**Wednesdays:** 7.00pm
**Dates:** 4 March, 11 March, 18 March
**Venue:** St Joseph's the Worker, Labrador

**Saturdays:** at 9.30am
**Dates:** 7 March, 14 March, 21 March
**Venue:** Mary Immaculate Hall, Ashmore

Everyone is warmly invited to participate in this enriching Lenten programme.
A contribution of $10 per session is appreciated.
Thank you to the parishioners
who have registered.
There is still time to register.

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Guardian Angels Church, Southport**

Each Thursday noon to Friday

ending with mass at 12.30pm

24 hour adoration

**Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore**

Thursday 7.45am- 8.30am

*Please help us by committing to a time either on Thursday or Friday. SMS our Timetable master on 0402812832 or email adorationgc@gmail.com*

**Cards & Gifts for SALE**
**All reduced**

**IN MARY IMMACULATE HALL**
**$1 - $2 - $5**

**Please select your items and place your money in the box provided or pay at the piety stall.**
**Thank you.**

## FAITHFUL DEPARTED

## ANNIVERSARIES

## BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE BOOK OF THE SICK

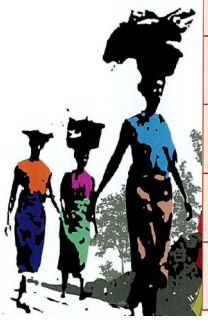
Each Church has both these books on display.
If you would like to include a name in either of the books, please seek approval from the parish office on 5510 2222.

## PIETY STALLS

Southport Catholic Parish has three Piety Stalls**.**
Your support would be greatly appreciated.
**Guardian Angels Church** - open after the 9.00am mass each Sunday.
**Mary Immaculate Church -** open after all masses. Also open first and third Saturday of each month at 10.30am pending baptisms.
**St Joseph's the Worker Church -** open after 8.00am mass each Sunday.

**GREAT NEWS Eftpos now available**
**at St Joseph's the Worker**
Each piety stall offers baptism candles, rosary beads, statues, prayer cards and other items for sale.

World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



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|---|---|
| Service date | FRIDAY 6th MARCH |
| Location | SOUTHPORT UNITING CHURCH |
| Address | 23 SHORT SOUTHPORT |
| Time | 10. AM |
| Contact | LIZ 0409 664590 |

## PARISH WALKING GROUP

meets every Saturday at 6.00am at St Joseph the Worker Church.
Contact Janeece on 0408 763 772

## SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

STOPLINE receives reports of suspected abuse, misconduct, or serious policy breaches involving Archdiocesan clergy, employees, or volunteers (reports may be anonymous). We uphold zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk. Our parish follows the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework, with strong recruitment, screening, and ongoing practices to ensure a safe ministry environment . Our Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) is **Catherine - safeguarding.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**

**07 5510 2222 / 1300 304 550**
**aob@stopline.com.au**
**www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com**

**St Joseph the Worker Church**
44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

**Sunday Mass**
8.00am

**Weekday Masses**
Monday & Wednesday 7.00am
1st Wednesday 7.00pm
1st Saturday 9.00am

**Rosary**
Monday & Wednesday 6.00am
1st Wednesday 6.00pm
1st Saturday 8.30am

**Novena**
Wednesday 6.00pm

**Guardian Angels Church**
99 Scarborough Street, Southport

**Saturday & Sunday Masses**
Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm
Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm
Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

**Filipino Mass**
1st Sunday 12.00pm

**Prayer & Adoration**
Thursday 12.00 noon (24 hours)

**Rosary & Mass**
Friday 12.00pm

**Mary Immaculate Church**
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

**Saturday & Sunday Masses**
Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm
Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

**Korean Mass**
Sunday 3.00pm
한인미사 일요일 오후 3시

**Weekday Masses**
Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

**Adoration & Rosary**
Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

**Gold Coast University Hospital**

**Rosary & Mass**
Friday 10.00am

**PARISH CONTACTS**

Ph 07 5510 2222
Webpage: https://scp.org.au

**safeguarding.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**

**Parish Office Ashmore**
Monday to Friday 9.00am-12.00pm
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

**Parish Reception/Secretary**
parish.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

**Sacramental Programme**
sacramental.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

**Finance Officer**
accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

**Associate Pastor**
Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

**Parish Priest**
Fr Gerard McMorrow PP