

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us
his only Son, that all who believe in him
might have eternal life.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

God sent his Son into the world that we might be saved through him.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

‘The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost

but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.

No one who believes in him will be condemned;

but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already,

because he has refused to believe in the name of God’s only Son.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light

because their deeds were evil.

And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it,

for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth

comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



God loved the world so much. “Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.” These words must never be forgotten because this is God’s ultimate decision to love us. No power is given to sin but there is power in forgiveness. God takes initiative to come to us and not because of the sin that God forces to act. Jesus is the revealer of God’s love. God’s love will lead Jesus to the cross where he will be lifted up. Johannine Gospel recalls a similar ‘lifting up’ the serpent during the exodus in the desert around 1250 BC. God instructed Moses: Make a fiery serpent, and set on it on a pole; everyone who sees it, shall live (Nm 21.8). Jesus being lifted up on the cross, His resurrection and exaltation is the new birth in the spirit. God’s love for the world is so deep and magnanimous that nothing is spared, not even God’s only Son. True light expresses the idea of Christ. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it (Jn 1.5). Light brings to exposure who we are, you and I are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live a good life as God intended us during His creation. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals, indeed God is determined to save the world. However, we, sometimes, condemn ourselves. We shut ourselves off from the relationship with God. Sometimes because of our pride, ego, and selfishness that could block God’s grace. God’s glorious sign of victory over sin is through the mystery of passion, death, and resurrection. The word mystery in Greek word is ‘Mysterion’ originated from “Muo” means “to cover” and “Terion.” means ‘a place of something happens.’ The mystery is a place where we are speechless and it is hard to grasp this mystery that God gave His only Son for our sake. Only through faith, we begin to understand God’s love for us. In what way did Jesus come into our world to bring light to the darkness? What are His Lights for you?



ST MARTIN DE PORRES & ST JOHN BOSCO'S
Catholic Parishes
Avondale Heights & Niddrie



4th Sunday of Lent, Year B

10 March 2024

First Reading 2 Chron 36:14-16. 19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of his people.

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, ‘Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.’

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: ‘Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. ‘Sing to us,’ they said, ‘one of Zion’s songs.’ (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

When we were dead through sins, he brought us to life.

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God’s work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Parish Priest Fr. Nhân Le
St Martin de Porres Parish

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St Martin de Porres School

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Website: www.smavondaleheights.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday English 8:00am & 9:30am
Italian & Vietnamese Cancelled 17th March
Communion Service Tuesday 9:15am
Wednesday 9:15am followed by Adoration
Mass Thursday & Friday 9:15am
Stations of the Cross - After Mass
Thursday Vietnamese Mothers' Group
Friday English
Reconciliation Wednesday 9:45am
Saturday 5:30pm

St. John Bosco's Parish

29 Muriel Street, Niddrie 3042

Priest in Residence: Fr Thomas Toretkiu

Parish Secretary: Faye Colaco
Phone: 9337 9994
E-mail: niddrie@cam.org.au

St. John Bosco's School

6 Teague Street, Niddrie 3042

Principal: Peter Monaghan
Phone: 9337 2314
E-mail: principal@sjbniddrie.catholic.edu.au

Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am
Weekday Masses Tuesday - Thursday 9:00am
Friday 9:15am
Stations of the Cross Friday 7:00pm
Reconciliation Saturday 5:30pm

The Augustinian Sisters

Convent: 2 Venice Court, Avondale Heights
Phone: 9337 4595
E-mail: spinelli@bigpond.net.au
Website: www.asjmooz.org

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick: Veronica Dovey; Peter Falzon.

Recently Deceased:

Antun Raspudic; Mary Camilleri; Sr Rosanna Bonnici asjm; Sr Gisele Isp; Maria Antonia Romeo (Italy); Nella Salemi (Italy); Gabriele Di Martino; Nayara Ramos Gonzaga (Brazil); Frank Testa.

Anniversaries and Remembrances:

Giuseppe Romeo (1st); Domenico Iacobucci (1st Italy); Rocco Pisanelli; Manfredo Del Cimmuto; Ellen Sepala; Betty Riley; Maureen Thompson; Sam Cimino; Bridget Johnson; Charlie Sciberras; Francis, Bernarda, Joseph & Maria Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa, Filomena Sammut; Carmelo & Rita Debono; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Dominic Cumbo; Tonina Darmanin; Kenneth Pinto

ST JOHN BOSCO'S INFORMATION

Collections:

Thanksgiving: \$531 Loose: \$840
Presbytery: \$243 Credit Cards: \$1,120

Easter Reconciliation

Thursday 14th March 7pm

Bible Study Group

Exploring the wonders of God's word through the guidance of the Holy Spirit will truly enlighten and uplift our hearts. Join us at 4pm in the Presbytery for our next meetings on 6 April & 27 April.

Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please ring the office on 9337 9994 if you could help take Communion to those unable to attend Mass.

Statue of Our Lady

Please contact the office if you wish to have the Statue of Our Lady in your home for one week.

ST MARTIN DE PORRES' INFORMATION

Collections: Parish Support Programme:
Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$1,850 Shortfall: \$738
Loose: \$823 Presbytery: \$1,466



Christian Meditation

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus
All welcome: Mondays 10 - 11am in the Church Parent's Room. March 18

St Martin's Parish Picnic Sunday 17 March
11am Brimbank Park - Car Park A. Bring chairs, and food to share. Activities provided for the kids.



St Martin's Prep Enrolments for 2025

Please apply at the School Office or phone 9331 9000.

Lenten Programme

Easter Reconciliation

Vietnamese Monday 18th March 7pm
English & Italian Tuesday 19th March 7pm

Easter Rosters in the Church Foyer

Please indicate where you can help.



Reflection Sessions with Sr Connie

Tuesdays after Mass in the Pastoral Centre Meeting Room. All welcome.

Lenten Faith Film Nights in St Martin's Hall

Symbolon - the Catholic Faith Explained

7pm - Tuesdays 12th, 19th, 26th March.
Next episode - Who is Jesus? All Welcome!

Easter Cards at the back of the church

Please take a bundle or 2 to deliver this weekend or during the week to streets listed in the letter.

Seminarlan Assigned to Our Parish

The Society of the Divine Word Australia Province invites you to the joyful celebrations of

Cuong Quoc Dang SVD

Profession of the Final Vows
10am Saturday 16 March 2024 &
Ordination to the Diaconate
10am Sunday 17 March 2024

St Paschal Chapel, 98 Albion Rd, Box Hill
Everyone is invited to bring a plate for sharing.
RSVP by 10 March to
dmc.admin@divineword.com.au

Cuong Dang svd is assigned to our parish till September this year and I am pleased to forward this invitation to our parishioners.

Fr. Nhân Le



Devotion to Divine Mercy

Mondays 2:30pm in the church.
All Welcome!



Caritas
AUSTRALIA



Fourth Sunday of Lent 9/10 March

As the eldest child in a low-income farming family in rural Malawi, Memory faced many barriers to her education. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, she enrolled in a technical school and became the first female carpenter in her village. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

Please donate to Project Compassion through Project Compassion boxes & envelopes, or call 1800 024 413 or go to caritas.org.au/project-compassion



Project Compassion Prayer 2024

God of all hope,
we pray for our world with all its beauty and need.
We thank you for the love in our lives that is a mirror of your unending love.
May all creation know your compassion this Lent and may we take courage to share it, especially with those who don't have what they need.
In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses:
'I will be with you,'
when you ask us to do courageous things.
Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving, move us to act in the company of your Spirit, showing compassion and acting for justice to renew the face of the Earth, now and for all future generations.
We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen

Save with CDF Community Fund - It's In everyone's best interest

Email Anton Pan-Cassin apancassin@melbcdf.org.au or Bernard Docherty bdocherty@melbcdf.org.au visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer for competitive interest rates.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility.

The Parishes of St Martin de Porres and St John Bosco, and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community. Child protection and the dignity of every person is the responsibility of everyone.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you and ask that you make yourself known to us by completing this form and leaving it in the collection basket.

Parish of: _____

First Name: _____

Surname: _____

Phone No. _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

PARISH SUPPORT PROGRAMME

We encourage you to join our programme. Please ring the Parish Office or visit our website.