

Gospel John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too.

If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.



REFLECTION by Fr. Thomas Toretkiu

The Hour has Come: Everything that happens, happens in God's timeline (Ecc 3.1). No one knows the hour, not even the angels in heaven but only God (Jn 24:36). Before the hour no one could arrest him nor lay their hands on him because the hour had not yet come (Jn 7.30). 'Now the hour has come (Jn 12:23). God's moment of eschatological fulfillment gathers together in His time, in the sense of the past, present, and future. It is all about the moment of decision and it was for this purpose that the Son of man came to be glorified. The hour brings a new covenant, an interior relationship with God. It is a commitment of the heart to hold life for self-centeredness or to pass it on to the will of God. The Gospel passage begins with some Greeks; Andrew and Philip, non-Jews came to 'see Jesus' trying to perceive Jesus. This is a response to a possible future. The hour brings blessings with a price, "I tell you most solemnly unless a wheat of grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest" (Jn 12:24). Jesus is that grain of wheat buried in the earth, which rises to new life, fruitful for you and me and the whole of humanity. Jesus was lifted on the cross and triumph over his enemies. His enthronement is a true King, not only of Israel but of the whole world which has been under the rule of evil. The uplifted bronze is the emblem that brought healing from the poison of deadly stung vipers, rebellion, and disobedience (Nm 21:9). Jesus in anguish said "now my soul is troubled," "Father, save me from this hour?" But it was for this very reason that He had come to this hour, to glorify God's name. He could have chosen to avoid the cross, the scandal, and shame, but for our sake and for our salvation. He courageously chose to suffer and die. Jesus our Savior and Lord draws all humanity to Himself. Jesus shows and gives us new hope and joy in all the days of our life. What are the images of a grain of wheat-related to your life? Do you hope in the Lord and follow joyfully the path he has chosen for you?



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



5th Sunday of Lent, Year B

17 March 2023

First Reading Jer 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive - it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest - it is the Lord who speaks - since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

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1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading Heb 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

**Glorify to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the
Lord; and where I am, my servant will
also be.**

**Glorify to you, Word of God,
Lord Jesus Christ!**

Parish Priest Fr. Nhân Le
St Martin de Porres Parish

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Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil 6:00pm
Sunday English 8:00am & 9:30am
 Italian 11:00am
 Vietnamese 12:30pm

Weekday Masses Tuesday - Friday 9:15am
Adoration & Benediction Wed after Mass

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

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St. John Bosco's School

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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.asjmoz.org

IN OUR PRAYERS

Sick: Veronica Dovey; Peter Falzon.

Recently Deceased:

Antony Maugeri; Rob Brennan; Ron Munro; Mary Camilleri; Sr Rosanna Bonnici asjm; Sr Gisele Isp; Maria Antonia Romeo (Italy); Nella Salemi (Italy); Gabriele Di Martino; Nayara Ramos Gonzaga.

Anniversaries and Remembrances:

Ivana Barbis (1st); Maria Bonapat (1st); Domenico Franco Iacobucci (1st); Peter & Myles A'Hearn; Ana Dokmay Viraphon; Valda Cahir; Nikola Maglic; Desmond Slattery; Carl Mazzone; Mary Comerford; Francis, Bernarda, Joseph & Maria Consiglia Grima; Emmanuel, Teresa, Filomenu Sammut; Carmelo & Rita Debono; Emmanuel & Nazzarena Farrugia; Charlie Sciberras; Dominic Cumbo; Tonina Darmanin.

ST JOHN BOSCO'S INFORMATION

Collections:

Thanksgiving: \$264 Presbytery: \$150
 Loose: \$894 Credit Cards: \$680

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 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

No Mass at 11am or 12.30pm this Sunday

Join us for our Annual Parish Picnic

11am Brimbank Park - Car Park A

Bring chairs, and food to share.

Activities provided for the kids.

Collections: Parish Support Programme:

Pledge: \$2,588 Received: \$1,853 Shortfall: \$735
 Loose: \$678 Presbytery: \$1,392



Christian Meditation

Maranatha ... Come Lord Jesus

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



St Martin's Prep Enrolments 2025

Please apply at the School Office or phone 9331 9000.

CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEKEND

Baptism: James Malgioglio

First Reconciliation Children:

Year 3 Reconciliation children will recite the Penitential Act at the 6pm & 9.30am Masses.

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.

Easter Cards at the back of the church

Please take some bundles to deliver this weekend or during the week to streets listed in the letter.

Palm Sunday: Needed Saturday 23 March

Please bring Cypress, Palms and Olive branches to the church by 10am.

We kindly need people to help from 10am to move chairs & decorate the church.



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 19th, 26th March.

Next episode - The Paschal Mystery. All Welcome!



Fifth Sunday of Lent 16/17 March

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with generous supporters and the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. 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



New Life in God's Spirit

St. Monica's Prayer Group presents the opportunity to deepen your Baptismal Graces and increase the Gifts of the Holy Spirit conferred at Confirmation. The 8-week seminar begins Thursday 4th April 7-9pm Symons Centre Mt. Alexander Rd, Moonee Ponds. Contact Gerald 0415 275 446 or Frank 0415 144 916 or Adrian 0403 512 936.

Feast of St Joseph

19th March

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 in you Mary placed her trust;
 with you Christ became man.
 Blessed Joseph, to us too,
 show yourself a father
 and guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace,
 mercy, and courage,
 and defend us from
 every evil.



Amen



Devotion to Divine Mercy

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

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.