



### Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

I can observe a baby, but the parents 'see' their baby very differently. They gaze with total fascination, trying to perceive what this little bundle of flesh is really all about, trying to get an insight into its personality, visualising a possible future, hoping for a response.

This Gospel passage begins with a request from some Greeks 'to see Jesus', surely in all the ways parents see their baby. They were trying to perceive what this Jesus was really all about, trying to get an insight into his personality, imagining a possible future, hoping for a response.

And there was a response full of allusions to the future.

Jesus was as a grain of wheat. He died and was buried in the earth and that death was fruitful for the whole of humankind. He foresaw being nailed to the cross which would be dropped upright into a hole in the ground.

Our Lord says of that scene: 'When I am lifted up I will draw all people to myself.' How were people drawn to this scene?

People saw the length to which Jesus was prepared to go in order to persevere in his mission to live out the message that his Heavenly Father was full of mercy and wanted all people to share in Divine Life. This led to his being lifted up on the cross, being buried in the ground like a grain of wheat, only to rise to new life.

We could take a moment to pray that we will shortly see all this with the eyes of faith as we participate in the rituals of Good Friday and Easter.

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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.



## WELCOME TO ST BRIDGET'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY GREYTHORN

*St Bridget's Greythorn is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year B**

**21 March 2021**

### First Reading Jer 31:31-34

*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.

### Responsorial Psalm

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

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

1. Have mercy on my, 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

*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.

### Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

*Glory 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.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!*

### Gospel Jn 12:20-33

*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,

**ST BRIDGETS CATHOLIC PARISH GREYTHORN**  
48 Sweyn Street, Balwyn North 3104

<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr John Salvano <b>Assistant Priest:</b> Fr Lenin Thenamirtham (Contact the Parish Office of St Anne and St Bede on 9401 6355 for pastoral assistance) <b>Priest in Residence:</b> Fr Kevin Lenehan <b>Parish School:</b> Principal: Robyn Thomson Contact : 9857 6394	<b>Parish Secretary:</b> Mario Landini <b>St Bridget Parish Office:</b> Phone: 9857 6395 Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 9-3. Email: <a href="mailto:greythorn@cam.org.au">greythorn@cam.org.au</a> Web: <a href="http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au">www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au</a> <b>Parish Hall Hire:</b> Enquiries – 9857 6395	<b>Child Safety Co-ordinator:</b> Anne Credlin Contact 9848 5389 <b>Sacramental Program:</b> Contact the Parish Office 9401 6355 <b>Refugee Action Group:</b> Chair: Robert Stewart Contact via Parish Office <b>St Vincent De Paul Society</b> President: Anne Hartley Help Line 1800 305 330
<b>NOTE: Baptisms and Weddings by appointment only. Contact the Parish Office for details.</b>		

**Mass times at our affiliated Churches for this week:**

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>St Bridget</b>		9.00am			5.00pm	10.00am 5.30pm
<b>St Bede</b>	9.15am		9.15am	9.15am	9.00am 6.00pm	9.00am 11.00am
<b>St Anne</b>		9.30am		9.30am	5.00pm	10.30am
<b>St Joachim</b>						8.30am

Please arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass so you have time to register or be assisted.

Door marshals are required to monitor numbers and assist parishioners who may be having registration problems. If you can assist, please make yourself available when at Mass.

**COVIDSAFE REMINDER:**

A kind reminder that masks must still be carried when leaving home and social distancing practiced in Church. In particular, please ensure that you remain well apart when approaching to receive Communion. Ministers of the Eucharist distributing Communion must sanitise hands before and after distribution of Communion, and wear a mask whilst doing so.

Thank you for your cooperation in this to ensure everyone's safety.

*Fr John*

**Rosters for March 27 & 28 – Palm Sunday**

	Saturday @ 5.00pm	Sunday @ 10.00am	Sunday @ 5.30pm
<b>Lectors</b>	Lector M Stewart Reader 1 Sr P Keogh Reader 2 V Borg	Lector M Buxton Reader 1 R Canale Reader 2 S Hii	Lector G Khoo Reader 1 R Stewart Reader 2 G Khoo
<b>Minister of Holy Communion</b>	M Louis	L Wong	V Tozer
<b>Note: For the time being only one Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is required at Mass.</b>			

**We Remember** in our prayers all those who have died and those whose anniversary occurs at this time: may they rejoice forever with our Risen Lord. We also pray for the sick and housebound; may they come to know the healing power of God's love.

**Mass of Healing and Anointing:**

At St Bridget's on Friday 26 March at 8.30am followed by tea and coffee. QR code registration required. Assistance will be available.

**St Vincent De Paul Greythorn:** St Bridget's SVDP Conference joins with the parish and school community in welcoming the 2021 Mini Vinnies commissioned this Sunday. May God bless Minky, Xander, MacKenzie, James, Aiden Emily, Tilly, Kiera, Lucy, Ethan and Jenny with their work this year for those in need in our community.

We also acknowledge and welcome our new Emeritus members Heather Arnel and Ric Canale who have joined Vinnies Greythorn. May we all be His Hands at Work in our world.

**PROJECT COMPASSION 2021**

*Theme for 2021 is "BE MORE"*

In our 5<sup>th</sup> week of our Lenten journey we meet Halima. Halima, a widow is raising two young children in a Bangladeshi refugee camp while caring for her disabled mother. A Caritas Australia supported program helped her with shelter, cooking utensils and hygiene training. Halmina now earns a small income as a trainer, helping to maintain the health and cleanliness of her community.

Project Compassion is one way we can "Be More" by supporting and standing in solidarity with people who are vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice.

Project Compassion boxes are available for the last time this week. Pickup yours today!

**Feast Day this Week – Thursday 25 March** The Annunciation of the Lord.

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN**

**CATECHETICS PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING ONE OF THE AFFILIATED PARISHES' SCHOOLS of ST BRIDGET, ST BEDE OR ST ANNE.**

**Introductory Catechesis:** This programme is for Grade 3 children or above who intend to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation later this year, and First Communion in 2022, at any of the four affiliated churches. This introductory catechesis needs to be completed before beginning the sacramental programme. The programme will run for the Saturdays of 1, 8, 15 and 22 May, at 5.00pm and then participating in 6.00pm Mass at St Bede's.

**Confirmation Programme:** Students in Grade 6 or above who are not in any of the affiliated parish primary schools can now enrol for the Confirmation programme. Catechesis will take place on Mondays at 4pm beginning on 12 July. There will also be a full day retreat with the affiliated parish primary schools on a date to be finalised. Confirmation will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 15 August at 2.00pm for candidates from the affiliated parishes.

Enrolment forms are now available from the parish offices at St Bede's or St Bridget's, and **must be returned to either Parish Office by 26 March 2021.** Forms are also available on St Bridget's web page under the Sacraments tab: [www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au](http://www.stbridgetsgreythorn.org.au)

**Meditation Group** continues on Wednesday morning at 9.30am, and the combined **Scripture Reflection Group and Lenten Group** meet on Sunday morning at 11.15am. Both groups are via Zoom. Please contact Susie Hii for further information or connection details on: 0410981080 or [susiehii.hc@gmail.com](mailto:susiehii.hc@gmail.com)



## Holy Week Mass and Prayer Times

	St Bridget	St Bede	St Anne	St Joachim
<b>Holy Thursday April 1</b>	7.00pm	7.00pm	7.30pm	5.00pm
	<i>At St Bridget's adoration will be available until 9.00pm.</i>			
<b>Good Friday April 2</b>	3.00pm	3.00pm	10.00am Stations of the Cross 3.00pm	
<b>Holy Saturday Vigil - April 3</b>	7.30pm	8.00pm	7.30pm	
<b>Easter Sunday April 4</b>	10.00am	9.00am 11.00am	10.30am	8.30am

**NOTE:** There is no 5.30pm evening Mass on Easter Sunday at St Bridget's.

**Reconciliation** – Rite 2 of Reconciliation followed by private confession will be held on Wednesday March 31 at St Bede's at 7.00pm.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held at St Bede's Church, Balwyn North on Good Friday at 10.00am.

All of the services will be tailored to meet the COVID Safe requirements, but at the same time trying to observe as much of the Liturgy of the Day as we are permitted.

Attendance at any of the Masses is restricted by the COVID Density requirements. Consequently attendance at any of the above services (including Palm Sunday) will require booking using Trybooking.

Bookings will open for:

- **Palm Sunday** – bookings open on Sunday 21 March at 12 noon, and close when fully booked.
- **Good Friday and Holy Saturday Night Vigil** – bookings will open on Sunday 28 March and close when fully booked.

No pre booking required for Holy Thursday, but QR registration will be necessary.

Please arrive at least 15 minutes early so that you can be checked in without rushing and avoid delaying the start of the Service. Once a service has commenced we are required to lock the doors.

At St Bridget's we do require assistance at all services with:

- Door marshals – to tick people of the booking list,
- Parishioners with smart phones willing to QR code people who may not be on the list (numbers permitting). and
- Cleaning/sanatising after each service.

Please advise the Parish Office if you can help.

# Join us May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11.15am

**FOCUS  
GROUP**



**God's Work  
Our Hands**

**In the Parish  
Hall**

**Light lunch  
provided**

**RSPV Sunday  
April 25th**

**This is your opportunity to discuss the  
future of the strong, vibrant, faith filled  
community of St Bridget's.**

**Every parishioner's  
voice is important.**

**Transport is available – contact the parish office.  
Further information - contact the parish office.**

**To hope in God means that we  
have a vision for life that is far beyond  
what we ourselves can comfortably manage.  
When we hope in ourselves it limits our life  
to what we can imagine.  
When we hope in God there is no limit.**