SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
4th March 2012

First Reading:
Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Responsorial Psalm
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the Land of the living.

Second Reading:
St Paul to the Romans 8:31-34

Gospel Acclamation:
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father’s voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel:
Mark 9:2-10

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>School Lenten Prayer-All welcome</td>
<td>8.30-9.00am</td>
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| Wednesday | Mass                                     | 9.30am  
|         | Exposition of Blessed Sacrament            | 7.00pm  
|         | Mass                                      | 7.30pm  |
| Thursday | Mass                                      | 9.30am  |
| Friday  | Mass                                      | 9.30am  |
| Saturday | Mass                                     | 6.00pm  |
| Sunday  | Mass                                      | 10.00am |

LENTEN PRAYER
On Wednesday evenings of Lent we shall have Exposition of Blessed Sacrament at 7.00pm and Mass at 7.30pm. This is in addition to the Wednesday morning Mass.

Baptisms
Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

Marriages
(6 months notice) Arranged by appointment.  
(Enquiries and information brochure available from Parish Office)

Reconciliation
Celebrated at 5.30pm on Saturday or by appointment with the Priest.

WELCOME
St Ambrose Parish community warmly welcomes visitors and new parishioners. We invite new parishioners to fill in a card found on the table at the church entrance and place it on the collection plate. A member of the Parish will visit you as soon as possible.
COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

This service is available to sick, elderly and housebound members of our parish community and there are many special ministers of the Eucharist who would deem it an honour to provide this service to such people. If you know of any parishioners who would like someone to call for this purpose contact the office on 5427 2690 and we will make the necessary arrangements.

WE PRAY FOR...

Please keep in your prayers all the members of this community who are sick, especially Charlie Cefai and all the sick of the Parish. God bring them peace of mind and a recovery to good health and guide those who care for them. We pray today for all those who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries are at this time, especially Joseph Cefai and Johann Pristov and for all those who have gone before us from this world to the fullness of life with God. May God have mercy on them all and help us to be faithful to their memory.

CHURCH ROSTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reader/s</th>
<th>March 3rd</th>
<th>March 4th</th>
<th>March 10th</th>
<th>March 11th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Angela Grinton</td>
<td>Michael Petruccelli</td>
<td>Frank Donavan</td>
<td>Ann-Marie Elliot &amp; Mary Welch</td>
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<tr>
<th>Special Ministers</th>
<th>March 3rd</th>
<th>March 4th</th>
<th>March 10th</th>
<th>March 11th</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any Special Minister Present</td>
<td>Kate Mason &amp; Rhonda Loret</td>
<td>Denise Radic</td>
<td>Mary Welch &amp; Mary Larnach Jones</td>
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<tr>
<th>Church Cleaning</th>
<th>March 5th</th>
<th>March 12th</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael &amp; Karen O’Loughlan</td>
<td>Bernadette Petruccelli</td>
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<tr>
<th>Church Flowers</th>
<th>March 9th</th>
<th>March 16th</th>
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<td>Parish Office</td>
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COLLECTIONS

Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
(This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.) $459

Church (envelopes) collection
(This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.) $517

ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP QUOTES

These quotes explore the spirituality and personality of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. She had much wisdom and insight and her words will help us to live the Gospel in TODAY’S world.

The little crosses are harder to bear patiently than the big thumping ones
17/12/1899

Mary MacKillop’s Daily Quotes

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.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Like Abraham, and later, Peter, James and John, we are called to leave everything behind and climb the mountain, where God will speak to our hearts. In the midst of our everyday lives, we can get bogged down, even with good things. When we let God speak to our hearts, we will find inner peace and strength for our own journey, even when it involves suffering.

MONDAY AT THE MANOR

Call in at Judy and John Wills’ house at Lot 6, Adam Close, around midday this Monday for a sandwich and a chat. Everyone welcome. Anyone needing transport can call Judy and John on
**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2012**
Preparations are starting now for this year's sacramental program. If you know anyone wishing to join our Reconciliation, Eucharistic or Confirmation groups this year then they need to contact us A.S.A.P at the parish or school office.

**BAPTISM**
This weekend we welcome into our Parish and Christian community Edward Gerald Sullivan son of Gerald & Corrie, Phoebe Elena Borg daughter of Dean & Christine, Myles Weng Chui Poon Courtney son of Laurence & Melia, Ava Domenique Brassel daughter of Caitlin and Caellan Gabriel Kurukulasuriya Bryan son of Paul & Manisha.
May God bless their families always.

**PROJECT COMPASSION**
Your donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion support long term partnerships for justice and transformation around the world. This week we meet Khin, 10, one of an estimated two million people who have fled poverty, violence and instability in Burma. Caritas Australia supports a range of programs on the Thai-Burma border for these communities made vulnerable by displacement, including learning centres offering primary education for students who cannot attend Thai schools. Khin attends one of six centres Caritas Australia provides with infrastructure, books, tables and uniforms, textbooks, stationery and lunch for students.

**ST MARY’S ANGLICAN CHURCH GUILD**
St Mary’s Anglican Church Guild will be holding a “Sewing Together the Squares” for the Salvation Army’s Blankets for the Homeless Project on Wednesday 21st March, from 11.30am to 2.30pm.
To date over the years we have donated 305 blankets.
The venue is at St Andrews Uniting Church Forrest Street, Woodend. There will be a light lunch of finger food and fancies at the cost of $6 per person.
If anyone wishes to come along please contact Maria Arnold on 0434436 430 or Norma Richardson on

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND**
We all do things to enhance our lives; Fitness programs and diets to improve our health; Professional Development programs to improve our job skills. We offer you an opportunity for married couples to give a wonderful gift to your children by enhancing your marriage through a Marriage Encounter weekend. Good marriages need some attention occasionally. Please join us in 2012. take a look at our website on www.wwme.org.au Our weekends in 2012 are: 20-22 April, 15-17 June, 10-12 August and 12-14 October.

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES**
Join with families of the world as they meet with the Holy Father to explore ‘Work and Celebration’ - the challenges and blessings of modern family life.
A Theological and Pastoral Congress, Festival Vigil and Papal Mass.
A 10 day pilgrimage with optional 7 night Italy extension.
Details: www.harvestpilgrims.com
Inquiries: Ron & Mavis Pirola 02 93491710

**CATHOLIC CARE**
CatholicCare’s Heavenly Gala Ball Thursday 24th May at the Plaza Ballroom, 191 Collins St, Melbourne.
This is your exclusive opportunity to be part of this very special evening and raise urgently needed funds for families and individuals experiencing alcohol and other drug issues in our community.
Cost:$200pp

**THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES**
The new set of Thanksgiving envelopes are available at the back of the church.
Please stop and pick them up on your way out to save us the postage.
Anyone wishing to join our thanksgiving program can contact Bernadette at the Parish office or fill out a card found in the church foyer place in envelope provided and place in either collection.
First Reading   Gn 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18
A reading from the book of Genesis
The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. ‘Abraham, Abraham,’ he called. ‘Here I am’ he replied. ‘Take your son,’ God said ‘your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.’

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. ‘Abraham, Abraham’ he said. ‘I am here’ he replied. ‘Do not raise your hand against the boy’ the angel said. ‘Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.’ Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. ‘I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of those who hate you. And you will drive them out of your enemies’ land, and all the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.’

The word of the Lord.

Second Reading   Rom 8:31-34
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation   Mt 17:5
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father’s voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel   Mk 9:2-10
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. ‘Rabbi,’ he said ‘it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what ‘rising from the dead’ could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection
by Greg Sunter

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week’s gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples’ experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus’ power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus’ identity to the disciples, but still they don’t really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the ‘high’ of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God’s love and mercy.

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Draw a line from each of the following statements to either Moses or Elijah.

God’s law was revealed to him

He challenged King Ahab for worshipping a false god

A great prophet mentioned in the first book of Kings

He rescued God’s people from Egypt

Elisha became his successor

He became the leader of the Israelites