4TH SUNDAY OF LENT—YEAR C
10th March 2013

First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

Responsorial Psalm: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel Acclamation: Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him:
Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!


YEAR OF GRACE—PRAYER
Gracious God,

You have blessed this ancient land with many gifts, especially its people.
We thank you for the Year of Grace, a time to start afresh from Christ.
You invite us to contemplate the face of Jesus your Son, that we may experience a
new wave of grace, and that the light of Christ may burn more brightly in our lives.
Attune our hearts and minds to the presence of your Holy Spirit, that our Church
may be transformed, our relationship be healed, and our nation grow in
compassion and justice.

We make our prayer through the intercession of St Mary MacKillop, who showed us
new ways of living the Gospel.
Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us.

www.yearofgrace.catholic.org.au/

MASS TIMES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Lenten Prayer—All welcome</td>
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<td>Mass</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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Baptisms: Are arranged by appointment and are held on the first Sunday of the month.

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.
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 Vincent Kelly, Shannon Hanah-Merit and Sam Barker 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, especially Brian Kelly and Michael Henry and for all whose anniversaries are at this time especially 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

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<th>March 9th</th>
<th>Angela Grinton</th>
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<td>March 10th</td>
<td>Martin Prior &amp; John Connor</td>
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<td>March 16th</td>
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<td>March 17th</td>
<td>Julian Fraser &amp; Allan Hebb</td>
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<td>Special Ministers</td>
<td>March 9th</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<td>March 10th</td>
<td>Mary Welch, Mary Larnach Jones &amp; Bruna Bombig</td>
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<td>March 16th</td>
<td>Pat McHenry or Angela Grinton</td>
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<td>March 17th</td>
<td>Vicky Carrick, Bruna Bombig &amp; Rhonda Loret</td>
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<td>Church Cleaning</td>
<td>March 18th</td>
<td>Bernadette Petruccelli</td>
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<td>March 25th</td>
<td>Marg Flett</td>
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<td>Church Flowers</td>
<td>March 15th</td>
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<td>March 22nd</td>
<td>Parish Office</td>
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COLLECTIONS
Presbytery Collection (1st collection)
{This collection covers running costs of Presbytery and Priest’s stipend.} $457
Church (envelope) collection
{This collection covers the Church capital costs, and on going maintenance.}$798

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.

During the day remember, “There where you are you will find Me.” 1874
The Little brown book by Sue & Leo Kane

VOCATION VIEW
Each Lent should bring us closer to our God. There is no failure, except that of no longer trying. You can still follow Jesus more closely.

STEWARSHIP REFLECTION
Throughout the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land the Manna ceased. Likewise, God’s blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.
PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
Our Stewardship Program is coming to a close and again we wish to warmly thank everyone for their involvement during the Program and for the generous response we have had. A special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped with the program. The Time & Talent sheets are currently being processed and parishioners will be contacted shortly by either Bernadette, Fr Martin or one of our Group co-ordinators.

Your new Stewardship Envelopes are available today in alphabetical order. The new pledging period begins next weekend, Sunday 17th March. Please note that all Envelope numbers have been changed so please destroy your old Envelopes and commence using the new ones as of next week. Pledge cards are still available in the church foyer if you have not yet had a chance to complete one. Completed cards can be left in the collection plate or dropped off to the Parish office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2013
Preparations are starting now for this years sacramental program. If you know anyone wishing to join our Reconciliation, Eucharistic or Confirmation groups this year then please make contact with the parish or school office.

CHOIR
Currently we have a number of new singers joining the choir. Great time to start if you want to sing Contact Sharon 54271177 or Ann-Marie 54271519.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
Your donations to Caritas Australia’s Project Compassion help create the just and compassionate world that God desires. This week we meet Vannak, 17. In 2006, his family and thousands of others were driven from their homes and placed in Andong Village, the largest slum in Cambodia. Battling illness and debt, Vannak’s parents relied on him to provide income and food, so he gave up school to work; earning just $3 a day. With help from Youth for Peace, Vannak is now receiving an education and learning livelihood skills. Please donate to Project Compassion today so partnerships like this can continue and grow.

HABLA ESPANOL SPANISH COURSE
Six-weeks of Spanish for young adults Wednesday 1 May - 19 June, 7:30–9pm
Whether you’re a total newbie or want to brush up on your conversational skills, join us for eight weeks of Spanish language classes with the AOV! All proceeds go towards the Pamplona staircase building project in Peru, a Victorian mission preceding the upcoming World Youth Day in Rio. All ages welcome!

Where: Thomas Carr Centre, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne
Cost: $100 for eight weeks including course materials, payable on the first evening
Register: Head to www.cam.org.au/youth to register until 24 April or contact the office directly.
Contact: AOV on 9412 3300 or at aoy@cam.org.au

MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE
OPEN DAY Saturday 16 March, 10–4pm
Walk reflectively in the footsteps of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop and be challenged in your own life by Mary’s example.
Open Day Dates for 2013: Saturday 16 March, Saturday 3 August, Saturday 19 October Saturday 23 November
Where: Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne
Contact: 9926 9300 or visit www.mmhc.org.au

FUNDRAISING CONCERT FOR MGLS SISTERS
SUNDAY 24 MARCH, 2:30PM
This fundraising concert will feature Michael Lapina and Donna–Maree Dunlop both of whom are principal artists with leading Opera Companies in Australia. All funds will go towards the Missionaries of God’s Love Sisters (MGL) Novitiate House Appeal. The MGL Sisters are a new group of consecrated women who live primarily by God’s providence. Their mission is to bring God’s love to the young, the marginalised and the unchurched.
Cost: Adults $20.00 Concession $15.00 Bookings: www.trybooking.com/CGJE (credit card option available)
Where: St Dominic’s Church 816 Riversdale Road East Camberwell
Contact: MGL Sisters 9857 8177 or mgl.srsmelb@iinet.net.au Richard Stone 9886 0902 or richard.stone10@bigpond.com
First Reading  Jos 5:9-12
A reading from the book of Joshua
The people of God went to the promised land and there kept the passover.

The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.’

The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped failing. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9
(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)
2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name.

Second Reading  2 Cor 5:17-21
A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
God reconciled us to himself through Christ.

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God’s work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men’s faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ’s name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation  Lk 15:18
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel  Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Your brother here was dead and has come to life.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. ‘This man’ they said ‘welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ So he spoke this parable to them:

‘A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, “Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me.” So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

‘When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, “How many of my father’s paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.” So he left the place and went back to his father.

‘While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.” But the father said to his servants, “Quick! Bring on the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found.” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about.

“You brother has come” replied the servant “and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound.” He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, “Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me something as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening.”

“The father said, “My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection by Greg Sunter
Today’s gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the ‘lost’ of his society. Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God’s love that will be poured out for any ‘sinner’ who returns to God.
Ss Perpetua and Felicity were martyrs of Roman Carthage, c 204. Perpetua, a young married woman with a newly born son, was arrested for refusing to offer sacrifice to the Emperor. Also arrested was a slave-girl called Felicity, who was advanced in pregnancy and gave birth to a girl while in prison. Perpetua and Felicity and several men were all found guilty of treason and were taken to the arena to be killed by wild beasts. According to tradition, Perpetua and Felicity showed great bravery and faith and survived their encounter with a mad heifer, but at the request of the jeering crowd were eventually put to the sword.

**CROSSWORD**

1: jewellery worn on the finger
2: squandered, used poorly
3: discovered
4: happy
5: likeable, easy to get along with
6: to have done what you were told to do
7: very hungry
8: asked for charity with humility
9: to have a party for a special occasion
10: land that belongs to someone
11: a person who has to work for no wages
12: consumes food

**Across**

4: happy
7: very hungry
8: to have done what you were told to do
9: asked for charity with humility
11: to have a party for a special occasion
12: a person who has to work for no wages

**Down**

1: jewellery worn on the finger
2: squandered, used poorly
3: discovered
5: likeable, easy to get along with
6: land that belongs to someone
10: consumes food

Can you help the prodigal son find his way back to his father?
First Reading  1Sm 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.
The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go, I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ Then he asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm  Ps 22 R. v.1
(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; My cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading  Eph 5:8-14
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be cleansed and anything illumined turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation  Jn 8:12
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel  Jn 9:1-41
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?’ ‘Neither he nor his parents sinned,’ Jesus answered, ‘he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

As long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’ So they said to him, ‘Then how do your eyes come to be open?’ ‘The man called Jesus’ he answered ‘made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, “Go and wash at Siloam”; so I went, and when I washed I could see.’ They asked, ‘Where is he?’ ‘I don’t know’ he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ ‘Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, ‘Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don’t know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.’ His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, ‘He is old enough; ask him.’

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, ‘Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.’ The man answered, ‘I don’t know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He replied, ‘I have told you once and you wouldn’t listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?’ At this they hurled abuse at him: ‘You can be his disciple,’ they said ‘we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don’t know where he comes from.’ The man replied, ‘Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes and you don’t know where he comes from! We know that God doesn’t listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn’t do a thing.’ ‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.

Jesus said: ‘It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.’

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, ‘We are not blind, surely?’ Jesus replied: ‘Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, ‘We see”, your guilt remains.’

The Gospel of the Lord.