



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 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.

mtate@bigpond.com

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Parish of St John's (est. 1906)

Anne Street, Walkerston.

PO Box 323, Walkerston, 4751

Phone: 4959 2241

Email: stjohnswalkerston@hotmail.com

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,

Parish Priest: Fr Alex Kannikattu Varghese

Emergency contact: anointing of the sick 0400 874 807

*****PLEASE NOTE PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** The Parish office will be Mon & Fri 10.30 –2.00. Please feel free to phone and leave a message or send an email. Office contact details are listed on the front of the bulletin.

WEEKDAY MASS & SERVICES:

Please note: There will be limited Masses celebrated this week due to Priests being away for the Pre Easter Gathering.

Friday 26th March

St John's Church, Walkerston 9.00am
Holy Rosary Church, Marian 9.00am

Healing Mass Mirani 1st Thursday of each month

SUNDAY MASS:

NEXT WEEKEND:

Palm Sunday

Saturday 27th March

St John's church, Walkerston 5.15pm
Holy Rosary church, Marian 6.30pm

Sunday 28th March

Holy Cross, Eton 7.30am
Immaculate Conception Mirani 7.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Marian Saturday 10am - 10.30am
Before Tuesday and Friday Mass-St John's
Saturday from 4.30pm to 5.00pm

Register for Saturday Vigil and Sunday Mass: Online: <https://www.trybooking.com/BKACF>. Online bookings commence 7.00pm each Sunday and close at 11.00am the following Friday. Phone only for those not online: St Patrick's, St Francis Xavier, St Mary's and St Michael's: 4957 4807 from 9.00am to 1.00pm Mon to Thu & 9.00am to 11.00am on Friday.

Safeguarding: The Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton abides by the principles of the *National Catholic Safeguarding Standards* (2013), and is committed to safeguarding, with a specific focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults.

Response line: 1800 830 113 (free call) or email: pssoadmin@rok.catholic.net.au

WEBSITES: Diocesan: www.rok.catholic.net.au

Plenary Council: www.plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au

Parishes of Southern Cluster, Pioneer Valley & Walkerston: www.mackaycatholics.net

Holy Land Collection will be held on Good Friday 2nd April 2021. This collection supports the missionary work of the Church in the Holy Land. For centuries the Franciscan Friars have cared for the churches and shrines of the Holy Land. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 25th March 2021 at St Joseph's Cathedral commencing at 10.00am. The Priests and Deacon of the Diocese will be joining Bishop Michael at the Chrism Mass to bless the Sacred Oils and to consecrate the Oil of Chrism.

Bishop Michael invites you to join with him on this day, either in person or via the YouTube live stream that can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJosephsCathRton/featured>
As always during these COVID times pre-registration is essential. Please book online at <https://www.cposj.com/chrism-mass-registration> or contact St Joseph's Cathedral Office on 4927 6744.



WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Sharon Johnson, Grace Mifsud, Cathy Stevenson Knezyvic
(permission of people needed for names to be printed)

THE FAITHFUL RECENTLY DEPARTED

Valda Mason, John Vassallo, Gorge Camilleri, John Caruana, Maria Grima (Malta), Brian Hicks,
Mary Falzon, Mark Stevenson, Mary De Thomasis

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Robert Haynes (Ikey) Robinson (17/3), Nola Curry(7/4)

WE REMEMBER THOSE FOR WHOM MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED

Ruth Gaviglio, Glen Ellwood, Samuel Borg, John Paul Borg Jnr. Vincent Colby, Patrick Camilleri, Charlie Borg, Mary Vella, Anne (Vella) Fowke, Veronica Vezzoli, Doris Tweddle, Chas Bugeja, Vince Colby, Ben Agius, Anthony Scriha, Peter, Tony & Mary Camilleri, Joe (Lizzy) & John Borg, Dec'd members of the Borg & Vella Families, Emanuel & Tessie Falzon, Richard, Clare, Sandra Jacobsen, Angela, Salvatore, Patrick & Randy Galea, Albert, Norma & Agnes Sammut, Charlie Deguara, Trish Hardy, Greg Willoughby, Desmond Bradshaw, Damon Young, Jim & Marianna & Lily Grima, Joe & Vicki Stivala, Pat & Doreen Young, Kerrie Johnson, Matty & Mary Vella, Antonio & Guiseppa Axiak, George & Rose Bezzina, Brae Fry, Manuel Fenech, Jean Sciberras, Charles, Mary, Sam, Victor, & Adrian Camilleri, Mary Deguara, Jean Sammut, Derek Van Kerckhof, Joe Galea, Chris Vella, Pat Frazer, Kathleen Doyle
Deceased members of the Batros, Galea, Grima, Portelli, Cutajar, Vassallo, Muscat, Mason, Borg, Vella and Golz Families.

Stations of the Cross: Each Wednesday evening, 7.00pm, in St John's Church

SEMINAR: What does the Church teach about Euthanasia? Because of its belief in the holiness of life, the Church holds Euthanasia to be a gravely immoral act. Fr. Don will outline why the Church has come to this belief and will offer an explanation of recent church documents on this important and current moral issue in a one-hour seminar on April 27th at 10am at St. Joseph's Parish Centre, North Mackay and again at 6.15pm at the Jubilee Hall at St. Patrick's College. Fr. Don will especially draw on the 2019 Church document called "The Good Samaritan" which outlines a vision of care for people drawing near the end of their earthly life. There will be some time for discussion. With the Queensland Parliament likely to legalize Euthanasia this year, it is important for all in the Church to understand our Catholic perspective on this matter. Please register with the parish office, preferably by email for this seminar.

Catholic Men's Dinner: Our Guest Speaker for the Men's Dinner on Monday 29th March is Nathan Harding, Community Engagement Manager, Diocesan Office Rockhampton. What's ahead on the post-COVID road? Join us at the Boomerang Bistro Nebo Rd. Mackay. It's 6:30 for a 7pm start. Please RSVP to Kevin; phone or text 0487747412 by pm Sunday 28th March.

Halima is raising two children in a Bangladeshi refugee camp while caring for her mother, who has a disability. A Caritas Australia-supported program helped her with a shelter, cooking equipment and hygiene training. Halima now earns a small income as a trainer, helping to maintain the health and cleanliness of her community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.