



Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ  
Repent, says the Lord;  
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

Luke tells us that some among the crowds report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

**GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down. **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

With a heart filled with gratitude, I extend my sincere thanks to each of you for the past seven years of faith, fellowship, and love we have shared at St. Joseph's Church, Tranmere. Serving as your parish priest has been a true blessing, and I deeply appreciate your unwavering support, prayers, and kindness.

Together, we have journeyed through moments of joy and sorrow, celebrated the sacraments, and grown stronger in faith as a parish family. Your generosity, dedication, and commitment to the Church have been a constant source of inspiration, and I will always cherish the memories we have created.

To the best of my ability, I have sought to serve with love and sincerity. However, if at any time my words or actions have caused pain or disappointment, I sincerely ask for your forgiveness.

Please accept my heartfelt apology.

As I now embark on a new mission as the parish priest of Northern Light Parish in the Barossa Valley serving eight parishes, seven nursing homes, and four hospitals I humbly ask for your continued prayers. This new chapter brings both challenges and opportunities, and I trust in God's guidance and grace to lead me forward.

Though I may be moving to a new parish, my prayers and affection for the St. Joseph's community will always remain. May God bless you abundantly and continue

to guide this parish in faith and love.

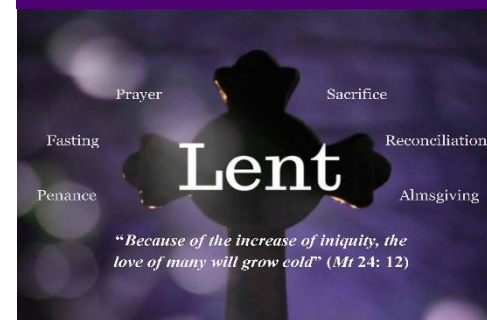
With deep gratitude and prayers,  
**Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM**

*Thank you SO MUCH!*



**Third Sunday of Lent, Year C**

**22/23 Mar 2025**



**UNLESS YOU REPENT.**

When misfortune strikes people considered to be sinners, others might say: they had it coming! God is punishing them! In today's Gospel Jesus criticises such attitudes on two grounds. Firstly, it is wrong to see the wrath of God in every tragic event. Secondly, we need to recognise that we are all guilty of sin and in need of conversion. Instead of judging others, let us ask God to forgive our sins and help us as we undertake the difficult task of reform.

**PRAYER BEFORE HOLY MASS**

Heavenly father, we are about to offer this wonderful memorial of the passion and death of your Son. Bless our Priest as he stands in the person of Christ and makes present for us the great sacrifice of Calvary. Bless our Ministers here present today-our ministers of the Eucharist, our readers, our Altar Servers, our musicians and ushers. When we reflect on the magnificence of these Sacred Ministries, we are somewhat overawed at our calling. But also we are overjoyed that You have asked us to stand at Your altar and serve You.

Help us to be reverent and to be faithful to our responsibilities. May this Eucharist that we are about to offer be a bond of unity and a sacrament of love for our people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING Exodus 3:1-8,13-15**

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This,' he added, 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.' **The word of the Lord**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

Psalm 102:1-4,6-8,11

**R The Lord is kind and merciful.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
All my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
And never forget all his blessings **R**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
Who heals every one of your ills,  
Who redeems your life from the grave,  
Who crowns you with love and compassion. **R**

The Lord does deeds of justice,  
Gives judgement for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses  
And his deeds to Israel's sons **R**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth  
So strong is his love for those who fear him. **R**

**SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12**

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall. **The word of the Lord**

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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5068

**Parish Priest**  
Fr Roy John Elavumkal SMM  
Email:  
parishpriest@stjosephsparish  
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**Parish Secretary**  
Pat Kwok – Tue to Fri

**Finance officer**  
Christine Sullivan – Monday  
& Tuesday

**WHS Officer**  
Angela Girolamo – Thursday

**Sacristan**  
Sundays: Terence Yeow  
& Roger Worth

**Parish Office Hours**  
Mon to Fri 9:30am – 12:30pm Ph:  
(08) 8431 6932  
info@stjosephsparishtranmere.org.au

**Mass Times**  
Sunday 9:30 am  
Saturday Vigil Mass 6:30 pm  
Tuesday to Friday 9:15 am

**Confessions**  
Saturday 6:00 pm

**Rosary**  
Tues to Fri 8:45am

**Adoration of the Eucharist**  
Friday before Mass 8:30am

**Novena to St. Joseph**  
Wednesday after Mass

**St. Joseph's Primary School**  
Principal - Adrian Grbin Ph:  
8431 2834

**Knights of the Southern Cross**  
Michael Boyle Ph: 8337 3270

**Parish Pastoral Council**  
Chair – Alan Tyson Parish  
**Finance Council Chair -**  
Edward Konieczny

**Child Safe Contact Person**  
Anne Dudzinski Ph: 0418 847 804

**Vinnies Assistance Hotline**  
1300 729 202 - 9:00am to 4:30pm

**Rosters—30/31 Mar 2025**  
4<sup>th</sup> Week of Lent

Time	Commentator/Readers
6.30pm Vigil	Josh Page Michelle Page Fil Ciancio
9:30am	Alan Tyson Antonetta Bartley Mikayla bartley
Children's Liturgy	Anne Angela
Count team	Peggy Buckler Gareth West Doreen Ryan Sedy Rahaley
Altar and Flowers	Dolores Arboit Christina Wong and volunteers

*All those who have volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that Mass*

SUNDAY COLLECTION SUMMARY	15/16Mar 2025
Planned Giving	\$727.70
Open Plate	\$384.40
<b>PARISH TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1112.10</b>

This week's contribution to the Diocesan Presbytery Fund: \$ 608.30

**Project Compassion Sunday 2025**  
This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



**UNITE AGAINST POVERTY**  
this Lent

**Please donate today.**  
You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.  
**Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion)

*Let's pray together*

**Please remember in your prayers**  
We pray for those listed and all the deceased relatives and friends of our Parishioners.

**For the Repose of the Soul:**

**Death Anniversary:**

*Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them; present them to God the Most High.*

**Sick:**

*We pray for the sick and housebound of our Parish and our relatives and friends who are unwell.*

**If you know of sick or elderly parishioners who are house-bound or in care and would appreciate a visit, please phone and leave a message with the parish office.**



"Our bodies are weak but, even like this, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being for each other, in faith, shining signs of hope." *Pope Francis*



**SAUSAGE SIZZLE**

By The Knights of the Southern Cross after 9:30 am Mass on Sunday 23 March 2025  
Thank you for your support!



**Chrism Mass:** We welcome all to celebrate Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 14 at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 6pm.

Please note **NO** onsite car parking will be available. If you would like more information regarding this event, please contact Community, Life and Worship on 8210 8130.

*What Kind of Fig Tree are You?*



In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a fig tree. The owner waited three years for it to grow some figs, but it still wasn't producing any. He told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener said he would try just for one more year to get it to bear fruit- and if it didn't give any then he would cut it down.

The fig tree is like a person who can do good things but doesn't. The owner shows the justice of God- he has given the tree enough chances so its time is up. But the gardener is like God's mercy. He wants to give the tree one more chance. And he's going to give it extra fertilizer to try to help it.



Lent is a good time to look at our own life and see if we are doing all the good things we can. Maybe there's something nice that we know we could do for someone but we just never bother to. Or maybe we aren't praying quite as much as we know we should. God is giving us a chance to become better people this Lent, and it's your job to make it happen!

Answer to Word-Find: Free Land

[www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com)

**The Kids' Bulletin**

Third Sunday of Lent  
March 23rd, 2025



*What's wrong with this fig tree?  
See what the two men want to do with it by reading what they say in a mirror.*

**Parish Notice**

**1. Transfer of Fr. Roy John**

There is a significant transition for both Fr. Roy John Elavumkal and Fr. Antony Adimai. Fr. Roy's new role as the parish priest of Northern Light Parish, Nuriootpa, Barossa valley will surely be a new chapter filled with blessings and opportunities for ministry. Meanwhile, Fr. Antony Adimai taking on the additional responsibility of St. Joseph's Church Tranmere. May God bless them abundantly in their new missions. This will take place after the Easter, on Thursday 24 April 2025.

**2. Tap & Go donation Machines**

We now have two **Tap & Go donation machines** available for your convenience. You can use your card to make a donation to the church by selecting one of the preset amounts: **\$5, \$10 or \$20**. Simply press the desired amount and place your card on top of the machine. If your wish to contribute more than \$20, please press the **OTHER** button and enter your preferred donation amount. Your generous support helps sustain our parish and its mission. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. **God bless you.** Fr. Roy John Elavumkal

**3. Project of compassion box**

As part of our Lenten journey, we invite you to participate in our Compassion Box Project. Compassion Boxes are available at each entrance of the church. We encourage you to pick up one, use it as a way to offer your Lenten sacrifices, and return it on Good Friday. Your generous contributions will help those in need and allow us to share Christ's love in a tangible way. Thank you for your kindness and support. May this season of Lent bring you closer to God through acts of mercy and compassion.

**4. Sacrament of reconciliation**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for our children will take place on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 7.00PM. This is a special moment in their faith journey as they experience God's mercy and love. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this sacrament of healing and grace.

**5. 'Lift Up' Good Friday Night Walk - A Journey of Reflection & Hope**

This Good Friday, you are invited to walk together in the spirit of a pilgrimage, inspired by the *2025 Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope*. This journey is an opportunity to step away from the everyday and reflect. Our Good Friday night walk is a meaningful way to connect with the Easter story, each other, and the deeper themes of resilience, forgiveness and hope. This event is open to all ages, however it has been inspired and designed