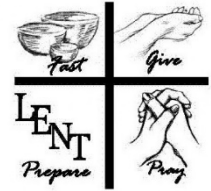




## SUNDAY TABLE SERVICE

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 Third Sunday in Lent  
*Let us watch Songs of Praise together on the ABC  
and then set the table for our shared meal.*



### **Setting our table for our Sunday lunch service.**

Sometimes we eat, in front of the TV either together or alone; we eat on the run; we eat out in restaurants or even in our car; but today we sit at a table that we have set for our Sunday lunch meal. It is our everyday altar of life-giving food.

### **Prayerful and intentional preparation for a meal**

As we worship at home today let us give some thought to the presentation of our meal, let our table reflect the importance of the season of lent, a time of reflection, prayer and fasting.



In this gospel reading Jesus lets rip in the temple with a whip and some violence. The temple leaders would condemn Jesus for healing a blind man in the temple but let financial extortion run rampant. The reverence and honour to God was turned into a lucrative business. It was denigrating the meaning of worship.

They asked Jesus for a sign that gave him the right to do what He did. Yet all along He called the temple His Fathers house. Jesus Himself was the sign. He knew they were out to kill Him. So he said, destroy this temple, meaning Himself, and in three days He'd raise it up.

### **opening prayer — consciously drawing together in our mind our Parish community around our table.**

*Be still and silent. Visualise in your mind, those whom you invited to share with you. Pray:*



***In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

***Here, and throughout the world, We adore you O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Amen***

***Bless this food, both physical and spiritual. Bless all who gather at your table, both seen and unseen, In Jesus' name we pray. Amen***

### **• Let us read and reflect on our cycle of readings**

#### **A reading from the book of Exodus, Chapter 20 beginning at Verse 1**

<sup>1</sup> Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep <sup>7</sup> my commandments. <sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord

your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.<sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labour and do all your work.<sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work - you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.<sup>11</sup> For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

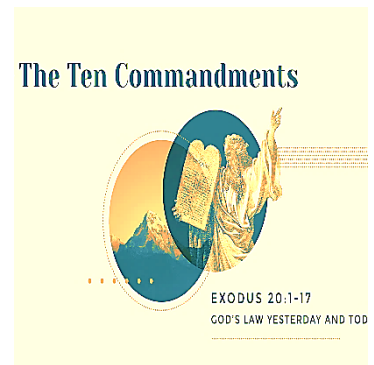
<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

[NRSV Exodus 20:1-17]

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God***



## Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God:

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;

<sup>2</sup>One day tells it to another: and night to night communicates knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech or language: nor are their voices heard;

<sup>4</sup>Yet their sound has gone out through all the world:

and their words to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>There he has pitched a tent for the sun: which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.

<sup>6</sup>Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound: and nothing is hidden from its heat.

<sup>7</sup>The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul: the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart:

the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever:

the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant taught: and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> Who can know their own unwitting sins?: O cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup> Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me: so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.

<sup>14</sup> May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight: O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.



## A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, Chapter 1 beginning at Verse 18

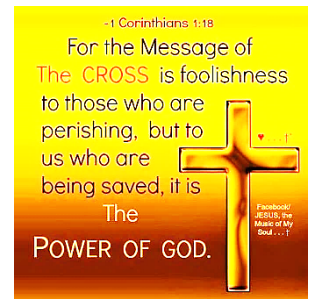
<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the

scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness

Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

[NRSV 1 Corinthians 1:18-25]

Hear the word of the Lord, *thanks be to God.*



## **The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John, Chapter 2 beginning at Verse 13 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup> His

disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. [NRSV John 2:13-22]

This is the Gospel of the Lord, *praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

### **Sentence**

God spoke these words and said, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.' Exodus 20.1

- ***Let us now engage in some quiet reflection, or conversation and sharing, responding to the Gospel passage. We may like to write down some key thoughts for further reflection.***

**Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"**

**The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.**

It all seems like Jesus was kind of being a bit foolish; giving the Pharisees an excuse to kill Him. He could have been a bit more diplomatic. But that's just it, what we think is foolish and unwise in Jesus, is actually seeded with God's kind of wisdom. A wisdom and strength that gets results. Results that bring us lasting consequences for our benefit.

We are coming up to Easter where everything about what faith is starts with a man's death on the cross. Again, something that seems so unpalatable to us. Through a death, a door would open up for us to find a life worth living. No words can explain the Spiritual power behind this. The only way to know this, is by going through that open door into the foolishness of God.

**prayer-time** Now let us continue to offer our prayers and thanksgiving. We pray for healing of the world; Lord, we ask for peace in these nations and throughout the world . We pray for all those suffering from the effects of natural disasters, floods, fire and storms.

Protect all those who are vulnerable to the effects of war and displacement from their homes. Give those in authority the patience, humility, wisdom and endurance to persevere in bringing about positive solutions for their nations. Amen.

We pray for family; for members of the parish and wider community, for the life and ministry of the Church, for encouragement in our journey of faith.

We continue to pray alongside those in our parish asking for prayer, Bettys family, Matthew, Ann , Kathryn and Keiran, Ruth, Jean N, Brendas family, Colin, Allison, Pat Foord, , Georgia (Sunaras Mum). Pat V David, Brenda, Joanie, Jo Jan, Joy I, Leanne, Daniella, Joyce and Ted, Mary R, Jac Bishop; Eileen Cook; Yvonne S; Ursula Pridham; Trish McD; Barbara Webber; Tom Arnold; Nicholas & Ben; Sue & Frank Thomas; Gordon Russell; Emily and her family; Trish Simon; Christina and any others we wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

**Let us say the Lord's Prayer Together. Our Father**

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**Prayer of the Day**

Lord our God,  
by your Holy Spirit  
write your commandments upon our hearts  
and grant us the wisdom and power of the cross,  
so that, cleansed from greed and selfishness,  
we may become a living temple of your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



**Conclude the meal with the following prayer together.**

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be amongst us and remain with us always.  
Amen.***

**Intentional connection beyond your home**

After our Table Service, make contact with others who may be alone and would welcome a call or message from you. Use the time to catch up with your family and friends who are interstate or overseas. Use your phone or email or face time or SMS, write letters or notes - keep in contact. Let God guide you to the person or persons with whom you should connect. Contact them. Start a conversation and share with others the Joy of knowing Jesus and his promise of a brighter and better future if we follow Him.

