

LIVINGTHEWORD

- ❖ Abram has 3 conversations with God about a promise made to him. This is the second and Abram is upset. He has left his home, is in a foreign land, and the promise to be the Father of a large nation is almost laughable as he and his wife are now so old. They do not have a child. Abram asks for a sign. God makes a covenant. In the Old Testament a covenant was a solemn promise between two parties. Both parties would walk through the middle of the split animals as a symbol of what would happen if either party broke the promise. God is the only one to walk through the animals, symbolised by the fire (v17). What do you think this means? Can you identify with Abram in your life? What does God's covenant faithfulness mean for you today?
- ❖ St Paul loved the Philippian community. They were his first community. They were being pressured politically. To be acceptable they needed to partake in civic ceremonies and the worship of the emperor cult. They were worried about their image of acceptability. St Paul reminds them their citizenship is in heaven. What pressures do you face to be acceptable in the eyes of the world? How can you live more fully for heaven during this time of Lent?
- ❖ The Transfiguration of Jesus, appearing dazzlingly white, symbolises a heavenly reality. Jesus is indeed the Messiah. Fulfilling the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). Jesus' divine nature shines through. While glorious, the ministry in Galilee is now over. Jesus will soon 'set his face like flint' (Lk 9:51) towards the 'exodus' — his suffering, death and resurrection in Jerusalem. Peter wants to stay in glory on the mountain. Is there anything you have heard in prayer that requires costly obedience? Where would the 'journey down the mountain' (from prayer) and confronting evil (to the cross) lead you?
- ❖ Making tents and sleeping in them was part of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles. It reminded Jewish people of the special time when God pitched his tent among them in the desert. It was a symbol of wanting God to be with them again. Jesus is revealed as the very presence of God among his people in the transfigured bright whiteness, like Moses had experienced on Mt Sinai. Peter doesn't get it. He seeks to build tents hoping for a future coming of God. Peter does not know what he is saying or doing. Are you mucking around with tents or going down the mountain to work?
- ❖ The 'Divine Voice' of the Father from heaven speaks only a few times in the Gospels. 9 words are shared today: *'This is my chosen Son, listen to him'*. During the season of Lent, how could you 'listen' more? What is the best way you have found in the past to 'listen' to God?

Dilexit Nos — an Encyclical from Pope Francis (continued)

Chapter 5 – Fraternity and Mysticism

Saint Bernard, in exhorting us to union with the heart of Christ, draws upon the richness of this devotion to call for a conversion grounded in love. Bernard believed that our affections, enslaved by pleasures, may nonetheless be transformed and set free, in response to the delectable love of Christ. Evil is overcome by good, conquered by the flowering of love: *“Love the Lord your God with the full and deep affection of all your heart; love him with your mind wholly alert and intent; love him with all your strength, so much so that you would not even fear to die for love of him... Your affection for the Lord Jesus should be both sweet and intimate, to oppose the sweet enticements of the sensual life. Sweetness conquers sweetness, as one nail drives out another”*.

Saint Francis de Sales was particularly taken by Jesus' words, “Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart” (Mt 11:29). Even in the most simple and ordinary things, he said, we can “steal” the Lord's heart. “Those who would serve him acceptably must give heed not only to lofty and important matters, but to things mean and little, since by both alike we may win his heart and love ... I mean the acts of daily forbearance, the headache, the toothache, the heavy cold; the tiresome peculiarities of a husband or wife, the broken glass, the loss of a ring; the sneer of a neighbour ... Be sure that all these sufferings, small as they are, if accepted lovingly, are most pleasing to God's goodness”. Ultimately, however, our response to the love of the heart of Christ is manifested in love of our neighbour: “a love that is firm, constant, steady, unconcerned with trivial matters or people's station in life, not subject to changes or animosity... Our Lord loves us unceasingly, puts up with so many of our defects and our flaws. Precisely because of this, we must do the same with our brothers and sisters”.

Saint Charles de Foucauld sought to imitate Jesus. Only by being conformed to the sentiments of the heart of Christ could he fully achieve this goal. Here we find the idea of “love for love”. In his words, “I desire sufferings in order to return love for love, to imitate him ... to enter into his work, to offer myself with him, the nothingness that I am, as a sacrifice, as a victim, for the sanctification of men”. The desire to bring the love of Jesus to others, his missionary outreach to the poorest and most forgotten of our world, led him to take as his emblem the words, *“Jesus-Caritas”*, with the symbol of the heart of Christ surmounted by a cross. Nor was this a light decision: “With all my strength I try to show and prove to these poor lost brethren that our religion is all charity, all fraternity, and that its emblem is a heart”. He wanted to settle with other brothers “in Morocco, in the name of the heart of Jesus”. In this way, their evangelising work could radiate outwards: “Charity has to radiate from our fraternities, as it radiates from the heart of Jesus”. This desire gradually made him a “universal brother”. Allowing himself to be shaped by the heart of Christ, he sought to shelter the whole of suffering humanity in his fraternal heart.



CALENDAR

MONDAY

March 17

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

TUESDAY

March 18

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

WEDNESDAY

March 19

*St. Joseph,
Spouse of the
Blessed Virgin
Mary*

2 Sm 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

or Lk 2:41-51a

THURSDAY

March 20

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

FRIDAY

March 21

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43,
45-46

SATURDAY

March 22

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

SUNDAY

March 23

Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15

1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

Lk 13:1-9

ANNOUNCEMENT

During the coming Sundays of Lent, we will offer the opportunity to pray the Way of the Cross. This is a long-held prayer within the Church. My understanding is that this devotion arose within the Church in the Middle Ages, as a way of allowing the faithful to make a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, without actually — physically — going there. So, for us, the Way of the Cross is a Pilgrimage we can make this Lent in faith.

John P. Murray osa
Pastoral Leader, 10 am Mass Community

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MASS SCHEDULE:

Mon-Fri : Thai 06:00 hrs.
Sat : Thai 06:00; 17:00 novena followed by
mass
Sun : Thai 07:00; 08:30 and 17:00 hrs.
English 10:00 hrs.

BAPTISM:

Thai : **First Sunday** during 8:30 am mass.
English : **Second Sunday** during 10:00 am mass.

CONFESSION:

Sundays : Before all masses (Thai).
English before 10:00 am mass.

CATHOLIC CENTER:

For religious articles, please visit the center opposite the entrance of the Cathedral.

Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri : 08:30 – 17:00 hrs.
Sat : 08:30 – noon
Sun & public holidays : Closed

Dear Padre

March 16, 2025

Does the Church teach how we should dress to go to Mass? Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but the way some people dress seems very disrespectful.

Church teaching, dogmas, doctrines, and creedal formulations are not the specific resources to consult in order to answer this question. It is properly a matter of discipline and practice, although the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does direct that “bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey respect” (1387). There are many commentaries on what exactly “respect” might mean.

It would be very difficult to establish a universal dress code. The many different cultures, climates, and particular circumstances of a specific Catholic community make a dress code unmanageable. It seems that you judge the local practice not up to your standards. Your judgment may be correct, or you may have unreasonable expectations. There was a time when “Sunday best” was the established norm. In other communities, the expectation would be “business casual” as a bare minimum. Now, it seems standards and practices are very fluid and flexible. All of this being said, it is ultimately a pastoral concern, not doctrinal or dogmatic. Try not to allow how other people dress distract you from your purpose at Mass. While they may not look like you imagine they should, their prayer might be genuine and heartfelt. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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HOLY – Belmont Mass

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION – Belmont Mass

Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

GREAT AMEN – Belmont Mass

Amen, amen.

COMMUNION RITE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (No. 387)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil; graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.

LAMB OF GOD – Belmont Mass

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (Repeat)
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

PLEASE KNEEL

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION: MERCIFUL GOD (No. 489)

FINAL: TREE OF LIFE (No. 475) PLEASE STAND

Second Sunday of Lent (Year C)

Sunday, 16 March 2025

ENTRANCE: THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS (No. 481) PLEASE STAND

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Priest: I confess to almighty God,

All: and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do;

– and, striking their breast, they say –

Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Therefore I ask blessed Mary, ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON – Belmont Mass

Kýrie, eléison. Kýrie, eléison. Christe, eléison. Christe, eléison.
Kýrie, eléison. Kýrie, eléison.

FIRST READING: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them. As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces. It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 27: THE LORD IS MY LIGHT

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid? (R)
2. Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call; have pity on me, and answer me.
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. (R)
3. Your presence, O LORD, I seek. Hide not your face from me;
do not in anger repel your servant. You are my helper: cast me not off. (R)
4. I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD in the land of the living.
Wait for the LORD with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. (R)

SECOND READING: Phil 3:17—4:1**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:**

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things.

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – Belmont Mass PLEASE STAND

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**All: From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him.**

GOSPEL: Lk 9:28b-36

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the Good News according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus

that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Priest: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED**THE APOSTLES' CREED PLEASE STAND**

Priest: I believe in God,

All: the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

**RESPONSE TO THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:
"Transfigured Lord, hear our prayer."**

PLEASE BE SEATED**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST****PROCESSION OF THE GIFTS**

OFFERTORY: THE CROSS OF JESUS (No. 482)

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS PLEASE STAND

Priest: Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER