

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Henley Beach

On the Traditional Lands of the Kurna People

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT (Year C)

30th March 2025

Parish Priest: Fr Manu Kumbidiyamackal MSFS

Pastoral Care: Sr Helen Armstrong OLSH

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Office Hours: Mon & Tues: 9am–12pm;
Wed & Thurs: 9am–2pm;
Fri: 9am–3pm.



Star of the Sea Primary School: Phone: 8115 7400 Email: info@star.catholic.edu.au

Web: <https://www.star.catholic.edu.au/news-events/enewsletters>

Mass Times: Monday 8 pm Candlelit Mass (except on Public Holidays)

Tues: 9:15am, Wed: 8:00am, Thurs & Fri: 9:15am, Reconciliation Saturday 8:45am – 9:10am

Sat 9:15am (qualifies as a Sunday Mass); Vigil Saturday 6:00pm; Sunday 9.30am; 5:30pm

COMING UP:

Parish Lenten Retreat

Saturday 5th April
9.15am onwards

Stations of the Cross

Fridays during lent at
7pm

Knit & Natter

Thursday
10th April
10am– 12

Alpha Youth

Sundays
6.30pm–8.30pm

Candlelit Mass

Mondays
8pm

Readings

4th SUNDAY of LENT

Joshua 5: 9-12
Ps 33: 2-7
2 Cor 5: 17-21
Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

5th SUNDAY of LENT

Is 43: 16-21
Ps 125:
Phil 3: 8-14
Jn 8: 1-11



The Mercy of God: The Reason for us to Rejoice

This Sunday is set aside for us to recall God's graciousness and to rejoice because of it. In the Gospel, the joy is that of a young son's "coming home," where he discovers and is healed by the reality of his father's forgiving and gratuitous love. It is also the story of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son. It is really the Parable of the Forgiving Father, the story of Divine love and mercy for us sinners, a love that is almost beyond belief.

The parable of the prodigal son is called "the greatest short story in the world" (Charles Dickens), "the gospel of the gospels", "the gospel of the outcasts," and the "parable of the prodigal father" (because the father is generous, excessive and extravagant with his love and because the Father's prodigal love finds its completion in Jesus Christ). In this parable Jesus outlines the three aspects or dimensions of repentance, by presenting three characters in this parable: 1) the repentant younger son, 2) the forgiving father and 3) the self-justifying elder son. This is a double-edged parable. The lesson of Divine mercy to sinners is shown by the Father's reception of the returned younger son. A stern warning is given to the self-righteous people by presenting the dialogue between the father and his older son.

The repenting younger son: He began by wanting freedom from his father. Hence, he forced his father to give him his right to one-third of his father's property (as stipulated in Dt 21:17). The son then sold his property and travelled to a far-off city where he realized all his wild dreams of a carefree life. Finally, bankrupt, abandoned by his "friends," and faced with a local famine, he was forced to take up the job of feeding pigs – a job forbidden to the Jews. At last, awakened by his sufferings, he gathered enough courage to return to his father and confess his sin, thus becoming the model for repentant sinners. He had resolved to become a "hired servant" of his family, thereby regaining a measure of honour and freedom, but with a social status matching his guilt and failure.

The prodigal and forgiving father: The father in the story represents God the Father. According to the law and customs in ancient Palestine, a father could dispose of his property by making a will that would be executed when he died (Nm 36:7-9), or he could give his possessions to his children while still alive.

Cont...

Usually, the eldest son received a double share or twice the amount that each of the other sons would receive. But in the parable, the father promptly gave a share of his property to his younger son, bid him a tearful farewell, and waited daily for his return. Finally, after squandering his money, his morals, and even his Jewish religious heritage, the boy returned in rags. He confessed his sins, and his father promptly forgave him, kissed him on the cheeks, and healed the broken relationship between them. Although the story of the prodigal son is often given as an example of repentance, it is actually the story of how God forgives and heals the repentant sinner. Like God, the father in the parable was ready to forgive both of his "sinful" sons even before they repented. St. Thomas Aquinas explains that God already forgives us as soon as we repent, even before we go to confession or perform any penance. The forgiveness the father offers in the parable parallels the forgiveness God offers in real life. That is why Jesus in the Gospels frequently describes God more like a defense attorney than a prosecuting attorney. Let us not ration God's mercy, because he is a "prodigal" lover (CCC #2845). Nor should we ever judge another as unworthy of our forgiveness or of God's mercy, because all love is unconditional (CCC #2843,44).

The self-justifying elder son: The unforgiving elder son represents the self-righteous Pharisees. He had no feelings of sympathy for his brother. He played the part of a dutiful son, but his heart was not in it. He was resentful, bitter, and angry. He was so jealous of his younger brother that he never wanted to see him again. He levelled a series of allegations against his prodigal brother, whom he viewed as a rival. Instead of honouring his father by joining him in accepting his brother and playing an appropriate role at the meal, the elder son publicly insulted and humiliated his father. Jesus includes this character in the story to represent the scribes and Pharisees "who began to complain, saying, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'"

Today, let us consciously accept the fact that we are all prodigal children who have squandered our inheritance from our Father. We shall resolve to make use of this Lent as a time to "pass over," from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation, with God and with each other.

Janet Sambiramalake

Parish Retreat for the Lenten Season



The Parish Pastoral Council is happy to let you know that this year we are having a parish retreat and reconciliation day on Saturday 5th April 2025.

2025 being the Jubilee year it is very important that we have some special spiritual celebrations in the parish throughout the year. The season of Lent is a special time and so it is good for all of us to gather together for a one day retreat. **Fr Roderick O'Brien** has kindly consented to be the animator for the day.

There will be opportunities for confessions. **(Please note that we will not conduct another second rite reconciliation during lent.** So if you cannot make the whole day retreat please make sure that you find some time to attend the reconciliation service.) Please mark your diaries well in advance for making yourself free for the day. The day will be organised as follows:

- 09.15 am: Holy Mass
- 10.15 am: Coffee break
- 10.45 am: Back in the Church (Music)
- 11.00 am: Talk by Fr Roderick
- 11.45 am: Silence, Personal Reflection and Group Sharing
- 12.30 pm: Lunch Break
- 01.15 pm: Back in the Church (Music)
- 01.30 pm: Preparation for Reconciliation
- 02.00 pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Individual Confessions

Benediction when the confessions are over
Coffee, tea and biscuits in the Hall

We invite you to be part of the whole day. However, if you can't make it to the whole day you are welcome to choose and participate in part of the programs for which you are able to be present.

Please use the sign up form at the back of the church to make it easy for catering purposes

Please Remember in Your Prayers this Week:

Recently Deceased:

Carlos Vaschetto, Joaquin Morea Branca, John Kennedy, Gerald Dee, Michael Tambakis, Holly Leiper, Carlos Vaschetto, Gerald Victory, Annette Smith, David Bampton, Shirley Rowberry, Terence Byrne, Fr Chris Murphy MSC, Padma Mathavan (Father of Fr Krish Mathavan), Betty Hill, Denis Chaplin, Graham Bruce,

Anniversaries

Carlos Vaschetto, Joaquin Morea Branca

Sick Parishioners

Gerald Sutton, Sani Strehovski, John Boeyen, Peter Stevens, Sean Kennedy, Wendy Boeyen, Graham Blacket, Brian Fitzgerald, Margaret O'Connor, Peter Tierney, Sonia Bennie, Amelia D'Aloia, Terry Cashin, Rene Young, Brendan Taylor, Rose Oteng, Julie Green.

Henley and Grange RSL Anzac Day Service for 2025

This year the service will be held at:



Place: Soldier's Memorial at the Henley Town Hall

Address: Corner of North Street and Seaview Road Henley Beach

Date : Friday 25th April 2025

Time : The Dawn Service will commence at 6.30 am.

To commemorate 110 years since the Gallipoli landing, surf life saving cadets will be doing a beach landing and joining the march with our veterans and the Catafalque Party

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Stewardship Reflection Fourth Sunday of Lent

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." - JOSHUA 5:12

Over 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.



Social Justice Action Group Restocking the Vinnies Bunker

Over the next 4 weeks, can you please bring the following items to church and place in the containers? This will help the Vinnies to restock the Bunker and those in need in our community.

Please bring:

- Peas and Carrots 420 gram
- Tins of fruits 825 grams
- Tuna Cans 425 grams
- Long grain rice 1 kilo
- Jam 375 gram
- Vegemite 220 gram
- Coffee 100 or 200 grams

Thank you for your Support

Candlelit Mass



Please note that Candlelit Mass Is held every Monday at 8pm, except on Public Holidays when there is no Mass

Alpha Youth



Alpha Youth is for High School aged students from years 7-12 and is held in the Church Hall, on Sunday evenings from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

Alpha Youth creates a space for young people to have meaningful conversations about life, faith, identity & purpose. Every Alpha Youth session includes time to connect, over food and games. It is all about creating spaces for open and honest discussion. Nothing is off limits and you can say whatever you think. Seriously!

Parents will need to complete a google form (QR code on poster and invite card) to show interest in your child attending and also complete a Registration Form at the Launch event.

Project Compassion

Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available at the back of the church.



Social Justice Action Group



Our recent book sale was a great success. Many thanks to all who contributed and bought books. There were several books left over so we sourced good homes for these. The adult books were taken the Rotary Book Mart in Woodville West. This group had donated books for our book sale. The children's books went to the South Pacific School Aid Inc based in Underdale. This amazing group send pallets of children's books, stationery and teacher resources to many developing countries in the South Pacific and beyond. All these books will bring much joy to adults and children. Thank you for your on-going support of the Henley Parish water projects.

Lift Up: Good Friday Night Walk A Journey of Reflection & Hope



Good Friday, April 18, - you are invited to walk together in the spirit of a pilgrimage, inspired by the 2025 Jubilee Year theme 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 with young people in mind by COYYA (Catholic Office for Youth and Young Adults). Our journey begins at The Monastery in Urrbrae at 7.30pm. From there, we will walk towards the city. Along the route, we will pause for reflection at St Raphael's in Parkside before continuing towards our final destination - St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. The walk is roughly 6.5km total.

Please register at:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CZHVW> to secure your spot as well as nominating for transportation provided from the Cathedral back to The Monastery should you require it. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.cathoyouthadelaide.org.au/liftup2025>

Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent commencing from Friday 7th March at 7pm until Friday 11th April 2025. The Stations of the Cross is a very beautiful way for us to prepare our hearts by reflecting on Jesus's journey to Calvary for the coming of Easter. We hope you could all take some time to join us every Friday or even on any one of the Fridays in Lent. Look forward to seeing you there!

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!

Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers



The Jubilee of the Sick and Healthcare Workers is on 5-6 April 2025. Resources, including a prayer card for this Jubilee will be sent out to Parishes and Communities in the days leading up to the event.



Keys to the Parish Facilities

As part of insurance requirements we are updating our key register. All those who have keys to any of the Parish facilities (Church, Office, bunker etc) please return it to the office to be registered. Those who do not require keys due to a change in circumstances, please return them permanently.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Marriage Encounter



Put the spark back into your marriage by making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

Schedule a live-in weekend for 2-4 May 2025 at the Lyndoch Motel or book onto the next live-out weekend 31 Oct-2 Nov – venue tbc.

Call Jo & Jon on 049 3747 478 or email: sabookings@wwme.org.au.

Alternatively, visit WWME.org.au and apply online today

Henley Beach Parish HOLY WEEK

Mass Times

Second Rite of Reconciliation: Will ONLY be available at the Parish Retreat Day on Saturday **5th April** or individual confessions on Saturday mornings during LENT at 8:30am.

PALM SUNDAY:

Saturday 12th April:

- 9:15am and 6:00pm

Sunday 13th April:

- 9:30am and 5:30pm

HOLY THURSDAY: 17th April: 7pm

Please remember to bring with you:

- Non-perishables for Vinnies
- Flowers to dress the altar
- Bells for the Gloria

GOOD FRIDAY: 18th April

- 10:30am - Stations of the Cross
- 3:00pm - Passion of the Lord

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL: 19th April

- 7:00pm Please note there is No morning mass on Holy Saturday.

EASTER SUNDAY: 20th April •

- 8:00am
- 9:30am

Please note there is No evening mass on Easter Sunday

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Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

If you know anyone who is housebound and would like to receive this Sacrament during the season of Lent, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you.



Giving App



Download the Adelaide Archdiocese's Find a Mass App on your mobile phone and set up direct giving to the first and second collections, as well as special appeals.

Or go to adelaide.goodgiving.com.au to set up direct giving from your computer.

Please note: 1st, 2nd and Special Collections are available on the app.

The QR code will automatically select the Henley beach parish.



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