



## Tea Tree Gully Parish - St David's Catholic Church

Incorporating - Our Lady of Hope Chapel - Greenwith

Under the care of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate

email: [pp@stdavidsttg.org.au](mailto:pp@stdavidsttg.org.au)

8264 4694



18th February 2024

### First Sunday of Lent Yr B

Readings next weekend 2nd Sunday of Lent— Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18, Romans 8:31-34, Mark 9:2-10

## Praying the Psalms

*God behaves in the psalms in ways that God is not allowed to behave in theology.*

That quip comes from Sebastian Moore and should be highlighted at a time when fewer people want to use the psalms in prayer because they feel offended by what they sometimes find there. More and more, we see people resisting the psalms as a way to pray (or desire to sanitize them) because the psalms speak of murder, revenge, anger, violence, war-making, and patriarchy.

Some ask, how can I pray with words that are full of hatred, anger, violence, speak of the glories of war, and of crushing one's enemies in the name of God? For others, the objection is to a patriarchal coloring in the psalms – where the divine is masculine and the masculine is too-much deified. For yet others, the offense is aesthetic. Their objection: “They’re bad poetry!”

Perhaps the psalms aren't great poetry and undeniably do smack of violence, war, hatred of one's enemies, and the desire for vengeance, all in the name of God. Admittedly, they're also patriarchal in character. But does that make them a bad language for prayer? Let me suggest something to the contrary.

One of the classical definitions of prayer says “prayer is lifting mind and heart to God.” Simple, clear, accurate. I suggest that the actual problem is that we seldom actually do this when we pray. Rather than lifting up to God what is actually on our minds and in our hearts, we tend to treat God as someone from whom we need to hide the real truth of our thoughts and feelings. Instead of pouring out mind and heart, we tell God what we think God wants to hear – not murderous thoughts, desire for vengeance, or our disappointment with God.

But expressing those feelings is the whole point. What makes the psalms particularly apt for prayer is that they do not hide the truth from God but express the whole gamut of our actual feelings. They give an honest voice to what's actually going on in our minds and hearts.

Sometimes we feel good and our spontaneous impulse is to speak words of praise and gratitude, and the psalms give us that voice. They speak of God's goodness in everything – love, friends, faith, health, food, wine, enjoyment. But we don't always feel that way. Our lives also have their cold, lonely seasons when disappointment and bitterness simmer or rage under the surface. The psalms give us honest voice where we can open up all those simmering feelings to God. Also, there are times when we are filled with the sense of our own inadequacy, with the fact that we cannot measure up to the trust and love that's given us. Again, the psalms give us voice for this, asking God to be merciful and to soften our hearts, wash us clean, and give us a new start.

As well, there are times when we feel bitterly disappointed with God and need some way to express this. The psalms give us voice for this (“Why are you so silent?” “Why are you so far from me?”) even as they make us aware that God is not afraid of our anger and bitterness; but, like a loving parent, only wants us to come and talk about it. The psalms are a privileged vehicle for prayer because they lift .

However, there are a number of reasons why we struggle with that. First, because our age tends to eschew metaphor and taken literally, some of the images in the psalms are offensive. Second, we tend to be in denial about our actual feelings. It's hard to admit that we feel some of the things we sometimes feel – grandiosity, sexual obsessions, jealousies, bitterness, paranoia, murderous thoughts, disappointment with God, doubts in our faith. Too often our prayer belies our actual thoughts and feelings. It tells God what we think God wants to hear. The psalms are more honest.

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To pray with full honesty is a challenge. Kathleen Norris puts it this way: If you pray regularly “there is no way you can do it right. You are not always going to sit up straight, let alone think holy thoughts. You’re not going to wear your best clothes but whatever isn’t in the dirty clothes basket. You come to the Bible’s great ‘book of praise’ through all the moods and conditions of life, and while you feel like hell, you sing anyway. To your surprise, you find that the psalms do not deny your true feelings but allow you to reflect them, right in front of God and everyone.” Feel-good aphorisms that express how we think we ought to feel are no substitute for the earthy realism of the psalms which express how sometimes we actually do feel. Anyone who would lift mind and heart to God without ever mentioning feelings of bitterness, jealousy, vengeance, hatred, and war, should write slogans for greeting cards and not be anyone’s spiritual advisor.

Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI



**Oblate Youth SA**  
(all youth 16-30 are welcome!)

**Gospel Session**

Thursday 22nd February  
St David's, Tea Tree Gully  
6:30pm - 8:30pm

**Youth Mass & Dinner**

Sunday 10th March  
St Pius X, Dernancourt  
5:30pm Mass, Dinner to follow

**Games Night**

Tuesday 19th March  
St David's, Tea Tree Gully  
6:30pm - 8:30pm



Saint David's  
PARISH SCHOOL

Join us for a...

# SCHOOL TOUR

Thursday, 15 Feb 9.30am  
Wednesday, 6 March 9.30am  
Wednesday, 6 March 5.00pm

**REGISTER NOW:**

[STDAVIDS.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU/TOURS](http://STDAVIDS.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU/TOURS)

**Happy 80th Birthday**

to two of our lovely ladies from the Widow/ers Group— Nimfa and Greta  
Widow/ers group meet every third Thursday of the month with Mass at 11am followed by a shared lunch.



**Fr James 30th Anniversary of Ordination**

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate Fr James’ 30th Anniversary last Sunday. Special thanks to Roman for all his help with the organizing and for the speech and photo slides. Thank you to all who brought food and drink to share.

Fr James had a lovely day and was overwhelmed by the generosity, love and support of his parishioners.

## **DIARY DATES**

### **PARISH LENTEN GROUP**

Held in the Gerard Room from 7pm to 8pm, every Thursday during Lent.

### **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Held every Friday evening at St David's beginning at 7pm

### **ACH NURSING HOME**

Mass with the residents at 10.30am Wednesday 21st February

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

1st March at 1.30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1215 Grand Junction Rd, Hope Valley (Lutheran Homes)

### **OBLATE YOUTH DATES**

Gospel Session Thursday 22nd February at 6.30pm

### **PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES AND ENVELOPES**

Are available from the foyers.

### **REGIONAL 2ND RITE OF RECONCILIATION**

To be held at St David's Church Wednesday 13th March at 7pm

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY FEBRUARY 2024**

St David's Church at 10:30 am - 25<sup>th</sup> February

OLOH at 9:00 am – 18<sup>th</sup> February

If anyone is interested in becoming a leader, please contact Amanda Bartels by email – [gfdb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gfdb@bigpond.net.au) with your contact details.

## **CHILDREN'S/YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHOIR**

If you would like to join the children's/young people's choir, Parents, please email – Amanda Bartels [gfdb@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gfdb@bigpond.net.au) with your contact details.

## **ALTAR SERVERS**

If your child has received their First Communion and Confirmation and would like to serve at Mass, please contact Fr James.

**MINISTERS ROSTERS FOR ST DAVID'S ARE NOW DUE FOR RENEWAL** Please advise if you will not be available from March through to the end of May. If you wish to be trained as a Reader, Commentor or Extraordinary Minister, please speak to Fr James or David Reynolds.

## **RCIA PROGRAM**

Our RCIA group this year consists of 5 candidates (to be received into the Church) and 3 catechumens (to be baptised and receive their sacraments of initiation).

They have completed now several weeks of catechesis and looking forward to the next stage of their sacramental preparation. On Sunday 18th February, the 3 catechumens will be enrolled in the Book of the Elect at a ceremony at St Francis Xavier Cathedral with Archbishop O'Regan. This will begin a more intense period of prayer and reflection for them as they journey through the Lenten Scrutinies and towards the Easter vigil where they will be baptised. Our candidates will also continue their own spiritual journeys towards being received into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to keep the RCIA group in your prayers.

**The Diaconate Ordination of Br Luan Ha OMI** is now available for you to view by using the link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNGdVmaerBg>

## TEA TREE GULLY PARISH

Parish Office Phone: 8264 4694 Email: [secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au](mailto:secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au) Web Page: <https://www.stdavidsttg.org.au>  
Church Office & Presbytery: 2-4 Vizard Rd, Tea Tree Gully 5091 [facebook.com/ttgparish](https://facebook.com/ttgparish)  
Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Cnr Golden Way & Golden Grove Rd, Greenwith. Contact via St David's Parish Office

### STAFF

Priests: Fr James Jeyachandran OMI - Parish Priest ([pp@stdavidsttg.org.au](mailto:pp@stdavidsttg.org.au))  
Fr Joshua Nash OMI—Assistant Priest ([jnash@omi.com.au](mailto:jnash@omi.com.au))

Office Manager/Secretary - Denise Crawford - [secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au](mailto:secretary@stdavidsttg.org.au)  
Church Sacristan - David Reynolds - contact via Parish Office

Child Safe Contacts: St David's Church - Amanda Bartels - contact 0414255458 or Parish Office  
OLOH - Leah Tunks - contact 0431049947 or Parish Office

CH&S Officer:- Rina Borlace— contact Parish Office

### MASS TIMES

St David's Church **Weekday Mass times:** Monday - Saturday 9.15am Rosary - 8.50am daily  
**Weekend Mass times:** Saturday Vigil - 5.30pm, Sunday 7.00am & 10.30am  
Our Lady of Hope Chapel: Sunday 9.00am

**Reconciliation:** Saturday morning after Morning Mass and Saturday evening from 5pm- 5.20pm.

**Exposition:** first Saturday of the month after morning Mass



We are a 'Child Safe'  
Organisation

### Mass Intentions and Feast Days for week commencing 17 February 2024

**Saturday 17: 9.15am** - Vincent Manuel - RIP  
5.30pm:

**Sunday 18: 7am: for the people of the parish**  
9am:

10.30am - John Hunt -RIP

**Monday 19: 9.15am** -

**Tuesday 20: 9.15am** -

**Wednesday 21: 9.15am** -

**Thursday 22: The Chair of St Peter 9.15am:**

**Friday 23: 9.15am - Prayer Book Intentions**

7PM - Stations of the Cross

### Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

names are on the list for a short period, unless parish is notified

John Williams, Judith Murray, Ros Rimmer, Bob Culshaw,  
Gloria Grew, Ron & Clare Cashin, Sally Perry, James Perry,  
Pauline Read, Brenda Crawford, Colleen Wallace, George  
and Mary Willcox, Cathy Cullen

### DECEASED ANNIVERSARIES

David Sandford, Josph Cini, Arthur Grocock, John Lawlor,  
Betty Wilkie, Janos Jasko, Pat Taylor, Edward Dunlea,  
Fr Ian Mackintosh OMI, Catherine Woof, Patrick Kavanagh,  
James Goodfellow, Robert Zannetino, Ed Clifton, Leonard Edwards,  
Jeffrey Howett, Lydia Godden, Edna Iuliano, Arthur Rawlings,  
Fr Brian Harris OMI, Bevan Frances, Aileen Reardon,  
Gerard Turnbull, Shirley Gray



### Vinnie's TTG Conference.

#### FOOD ITEMS REQUIRED: RICE, TINNED CORN, SUGAR, TINNED BEETROOT

Many people are turning to Vinnies for help for the first time as the ongoing cost of living crisis continues to take a toll. We have already helped 14 families in the first two days back this year.

As we move into the season of Lent we are encouraged to serve others and learn what it truly means to live out the love of Jesus so get motivated and consider joining our members in providing these vital services.

Your continuing support will provide shelter, food, clothing and long term support for families in their time of need.

Wasim Saman, *President TTG Conference*

#### R.I.P. Margaret Grubits

Funeral Mass will be held at St David's Church on Friday 23rd February at 11am.

### Baptisms: Saturday 17th February at 11am

Tobias Sison Bradley, son of Timothy & Cindy

### Cleaners Roster: Feb 24 - Saturday Group

*please come to the Parish Office to collect keys*

### Linen for February— M Perry

*please take dirty linen, at least twice per week*

### Counting Roster: Next Weekend -25/2- Group 1

### Morning Tea Hosts: Feb 25th

St David's - Widow/ers Group.

OLOH - Hanger

If you would like to help with any of these ministries, please contact Parish Office.