

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! / From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: / this is my beloved Son, hear him. / Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**GOSPEL**

Mk 9: 2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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# Reflections on the Gospel

**'LISTEN TO MY SON!'**

A common thread runs through all three readings today: a parent's sacrifice of a beloved child. Many may find troubling God's testing of Abraham's faith and obedience to such an extreme degree. But the story finds new meaning in the context of the other two readings.

In language that echoes Abraham's near-sacrifice of his son Isaac, St Paul makes clear that what God did not in the end require of Abraham, God did require of himself: to redeem the human race, he 'did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all' (Rom 8:32).

The Transfiguration focuses upon the same divine gift. Shortly before, Peter had responded to Jesus' question, 'Who do you say that I am?', by correctly confessing him to be the Christ. But when Jesus went on to detail what kind of Messiah he will be—namely, one who will work salvation by entering into the pain and suffering of this world—Peter protested, earning a sharp rebuke.

Now the Father's voice, affirms the true messianic status of Jesus: 'This is my Son, the Beloved', but adds, 'Listen to him!'—listen, that is, to what he has been saying about going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Being God's 'Beloved Son' does not exempt Jesus from suffering but draws him to it in order to save the world.

The disciples, and all of us, as we continue our journey through Lent, are invited to enter ever more deeply into this mysterious blend of divine love and suffering that lies at the heart of the Paschal Mystery.

**Brendan Byrne, SJ**

**FIRST READING**

Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

*The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

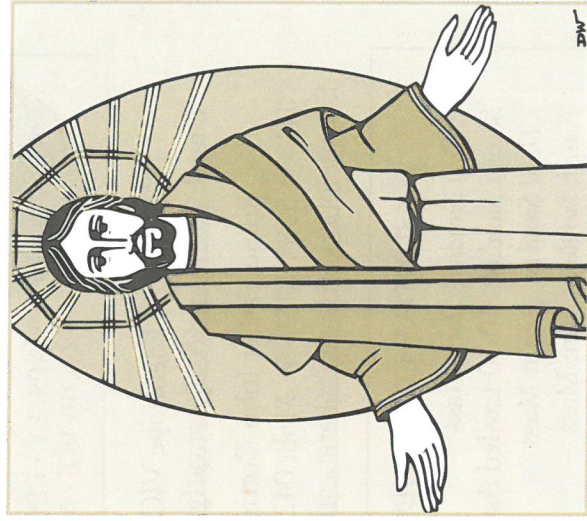
■ **The word of the Lord.**

**RESPONSORIAL PS** Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

**R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord / in the land of the living.**

**I.** I trusted, even when I said: / 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**

# THE SAVING WORD



2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

Rom 8: 31-34

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

*God did not spare his own Son.*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us. ■ **The word of the Lord.**



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**SUNDAY LITURGIES**

*First Sunday:* 9am Mass

*Second Sunday:* 10:30 Lay-led Assembly

*Third Sunday:* 11am Mass

*Fourth Sunday:* 5pm Mass

*Fifth Sunday:* 10am Ecumenical Service

*View the whole area schedule at [bit.do/mass-times](http://bit.do/mass-times)*

**Please pray for the recently deceased:** Phillip

Cass. (Phillip's funeral is at St Malachy's at 2pm tomorrow, Monday 26 February.)

**And those whose anniversaries occur at this**

**time:** Lizzie Pahl, Veronica Kealy, Bill McCann, John Mahoney.

**Collections:**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

Presbytery \$93.00

Planned Giving \$120.00

For Total (Financial Year) \$7,764.00

**THIS WEEK: Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 5pm Mass**

Leader:	N/A
Reader:	C. McCann
Psalms/Intercessions:	A. Wait
Gifts:	A. Wait family
Communion:	C. Heenan
Cleaning:	F. Baxter & G. Clarke
Linen:	G. Clarke
Lawns:	D. Brooke
Collection:	R. Burgess & G McDonnell

**NEXT WEEK: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 9am Mass**

Leader:	N/A
Reader:	P. Clarke
Psalms/Intercessions:	C. McFarlane
Gifts:	R. & M. Burgess
Communion:	
Cleaning:	F. Baxter & G. Clarke
Linen:	C. McFarlane
Lawns:	A. Wait
Collection:	D. Brook & T. Heenan

**This week at  
St Malachy's School**

<b>Monday</b>	Parents' Association Meeting at 7:30
<b>Tuesday</b>	Matt and Gabi at OLSEL PD
<b>Wednesday</b>	Matt and Gabi at OLSEL PD
<b>Thursday</b>	Clyde is in Education Consultant visit
<b>Friday</b>	

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** 2pm at St Malachy's Church, on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. If attending, a plate of afternoon tea would be most appreciated.

**WEEKDAY MASSES:**

- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 6pm Mass St Malachy's Church, Edenhope
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 6pm Mass Senior Citizens Club, Goroke
- Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 10am Mass Sacred Heart Church, Casterton

**CHRISM MASS ON MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018:**

The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday 26 March. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. All members of the Diocese are invited to participate in this celebration which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church. If you would like to attend, please organise with Fr John.

**SACRED HEART COLLEGE 1962-1966**

**REUNION:** There is to be a reunion of the Yr 12 class of 1966, the final year of students at SHC (before the grand opening of St Martins in the Pines), day pupils and boarders inclusive, on 14 April at GC's (opposite St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat). RSVP asap (to secure a venue) to Barbara Ford (Meich), text/phone: 0424 503 244.