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~ PARISH NEWSLETTER ~

25 FEBRUARY 2024:
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
(Year B (II); Psalter: Week 2)

Mass Readings

1st Reading: Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Resp. Psalm: 115 (116): 10, 15-19
2nd Reading: Romans 8: 31-34
Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10

Date	Details	Liturgies	Time
Sunday 25 February	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 186)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am
Tuesday 27 February	Tuesday of Week 2 of Lent Mass Intention: Nigel John Leahy, RIP (Anniversary on 25 February)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Thursday 29 February	Thursday of Week 2 of Lent Mass Intention: Mary Mackinnon RIP (Anniversary on 26 January)	Sacrament of Confession Stations of the Cross Live-Streamed Holy Mass	6.15 pm 6.45 pm 7.30 pm
Saturday 2 March	Saturday of Week 2 of Lent Mass Intention: Ronald Macleod, RIP (Passed away on 1 January)	Sacrament of Confession Eucharistic Adoration Live-Streamed Holy Mass	8.15 am 8.45 am 9.30 am
Sunday 3 March	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (p. 191)	Live-Streamed Holy Mass	9.30 am

Second Sunday of Lent: Bonds Loosed

The Lenten season continues with another story of testing. Last Sunday, we heard the trial of Jesus in the desert. In this week's First Reading, we hear of how Abraham was put to the test. The Church has always read this story as a sign of God's love for the world in giving His only-begotten son.

In today's Epistle, Paul uses exact words drawn from this story to describe how God, like Abraham, did not withhold His only Son, but handed Him over for us on the Cross (see Romans 8:32; Genesis 22:12,16).

In the Gospel today, too, we hear another echo. Jesus is called God's "beloved Son"—as Isaac is described as Abraham's beloved son.

These readings are given to us in Lent to reveal Christ's identity and to strengthen us in the face of our afflictions.

Jesus is shown to be the true son that Abraham rejoiced to see (see Matthew 1:1; John 8:56). In His transfiguration, He is revealed to be the "prophet like Moses" foretold by God—raised from among their own kinsmen, speaking with God's own authority (see Deuteronomy 18:15, 19). Like Moses, He climbs the mountain with three named friends and beholds God's glory in a cloud (see Exodus 24:1, 9, 15). He is the one prophesied to come after Elijah's return (see Sirach 48:9-10; Malachi 3:1, 23-24). And, as He discloses to the Apostles, He is the Son of Man sent to suffer and die for our sins (see Isaiah 53:3).

As we sing in today's Psalm, Jesus believed in the face of His afflictions, and God loosed Him from the bonds of death (see Psalm 116:3). His rising should give us the courage to face our trials, to offer ourselves totally to the Father—as He did, as Abraham and Isaac did. Freed from death by His death, we come to this Mass to offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and to renew our vows—as His servants and faithful ones. (Scott Hahn)

Thought for the Day with Pope Francis

The Transfiguration helps the disciples, and us too, to understand that the Passion of Christ is a mystery of suffering, but it is above all a gift of love, of infinite love on Jesus' part. The event of Jesus transfiguring himself on the mountain enables us to better understand his Resurrection. (Angelus, 25 February 2018)

PARISH NEWS

Today's Liturgy: Second Sunday of Lent, Year B (p. 186)

p. 521: Introductory Rites
p. 186: Readings & Proper Prayers
p. 540: The Creed

p. 160: Preface of the Transfiguration of the Lord
p. 603: Eucharistic Prayer II
p. 631: Communion Rite

Lenten Resources: booklets on the Stations of the Cross, Prayer, Devotions, and Lenten Reflections are on sale, on the table in the entrance foyer.

Parish Lenten Course: "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through the Passion" – Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage, led by Professor Edward Sri, who will guide you through the last hours of Christ's life. You'll walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. The second meeting will take place on **Wednesday 6 March at 7.00pm.**

Lenten Station Masses 2024 – Masses will take place each Friday in Lent at 7.00pm, at the following locations:
1 March St. Mary's, Nairn (**Bishop Hugh**)** 15 March St. Joseph's, Invergordon (**Bishop Hugh**)**
8 March St. Aidan's, Aviemore 22 March St. Ninian's, Inverness

Tesco Tokens – St. Joseph's RC Primary School in Inverness needs your help! We have been selected by Tesco's as one of three schools that can benefit from up to £1500 of funding for a project of their choosing. As a city centre school without much green space we are hoping to use the money to build a school garden where the children can grow their own vegetables. We might even make them into some delicious meals! If you can drop a token into the St Joseph's box next time you're in Tesco we would really appreciate it. As Tesco say, "every little helps!"

A Pilgrimage with the Northern Saints, 25-31 August 2024 – A pilgrimage to northern England is being organised for the end of August, leaving from St. Mary's, Inverness. The trip, for up to twenty people, will include visits to the shrines of Blessed Dominic Barberi (St Helens); St. Margaret Clitherow (York) and St. Aidan (Lindisfarne) on their patronal feasts; plus excursions to St. Winefride's shrine in North Wales; Durham Cathedral, Ushaw (former seminary); as well as time in Chester, Manchester, Liverpool and Skipton. In order to minimise the expense, it is hoped that four or five cars could be taken, and the cost of the fuel divided. The approximate overall cost for six nights' (25-31 August) bed and breakfast accommodation in mostly religious retreat centres (some sharing in twin rooms may be necessary) plus fuel will be around £600. Lunch, dinner and other expenses are not included. Anyone interested should contact the office at St Mary's, Inverness, on 01463 233519."

90 Club: Draw after Mass today, 25 February! – Anyone who has yet to pay their dues: please see Amanda MacNeil. If you would like to try your luck, it only costs £2 monthly, and you could win one of 3 prizes.

Prize Bingo will return on Friday 26 April – Doors open: 6.30pm; eyes down: 7.00pm. Items to give as prizes are always needed, and gratefully received; thank you for your support. There is a box in the entrance foyer, under the Piety Stall, in which you can place your donations. NB. We are still looking for someone to take over the Bingo – can you help us? If so, speak to Don, or to Fr. Domenico.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Sick: Anna Black, Angus Johnson, Laura Johnstone, Kathleen Macpherson, Chris Hamilton, Rina Herbison, David Munro, Ellen Williams, Rose Corbett, Esther Smith, Linda Macdonald, Pat Peteranna, Lauren Marsh, Katie MacCormick, Brian Hamilton, Dorothy Macdonald, Cathy Grant

R.I.P: Fr. Joachim Zok, Czesław Mojścik, Moreen Gibson, Ronald MacLeod, Angus Buchanan, Marian Ellis

Anniversaries: John Armstrong, Donald John MacMillan, Margaret & William Donnelly, Alex Mackintosh, Alexander Anderson, Nigel John Leahy, Mary Mackinnon