



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL PARISH

in the care of the Carmelites since 1937

www.mtcarmelcoorparoo.org.au

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MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL

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Third Sunday of Lent—28th February 2016 Reflection

Parables puzzle us, surprise us, change our thinking. They're meant to. No wonder Jesus (ultimate Doctor of the Soul) so often used them to enable ordinary folk to consider/experience ever deeper understandings of God, of themselves, of others. Today's parable from Luke's Gospel is a case in point, a Lenten gift if you like:

Once upon a time a man planted a fig tree. After a more than reasonable length of time, the man returned looking for fruit from the tree but always he was disappointed. Finally the man said to the gardener, "I've had enough of this fig tree. I've been waiting for three years and still it produces nothing. Cut it down." However, the gardener responded, "Sir, how about giving it another chance? I'll put on some manure and give it special attention. After a year, if it's producing fruit, well and good, but if it's still not producing anything then you can cut it down."

As you have read, the fig tree seems a failure. Tired of waiting for it to fruit, the owner gives up. In contrast the Gardener (the Creator), close to all the plants in his care (us) and speaking from the compassionate heart of God, the Gardener suggests a quite different approach: How about giving the fig tree another chance?

In common with all Jesus' parables, this parable is talking directly to us in the here and now of our real lives. The parable both comforts and confronts us. Comforts because we know God is always giving us a second chance (multiple chances if necessary) yet at the same time confronts us because the story also makes clear that none of us has forever to do something productive with our lives.

At its heart the parable is asking us to consider what aspect of our lives is most in need of a different approach? How about enlisting the Gardener's help (the Holy Spirit) by asking yourself: Am I doing what I know, deep down, I am meant to be doing with my life? If not, what's stopping me?

Whatever your situation, remember the reality of the Gardener...

Heather Stabler, Parishioner.

PARISH MASS TIMES

Weekends: Saturday Vigil: 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am & 5.30pm

Weekdays: Monday to Saturday 9am

The first Wednesday of each month, a Mass of Anointing is held at 10am. This replaces the 9am Mass.

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 9.30am – 10am

**Rosary: Mondays –
after 9am Mass**



Sacrament of Confirmation 2016

A Parent Information Session will be held in the Church on

Tuesday 26th April from 7pm-8pm

The **Sacrament of Confirmation** will be on **Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th June.**

For further information, please refer to the parish website, or contact the Parish Office.

We ask God's blessings on the following children who are being Baptised today.

Lucy Thomson, daughter of Luke and Sallyanne &

Coraline and Luella Cook, daughters of Joel and Megan.



Next Sunday's Readings:

Year C: 4th Sunday of Lent

Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21

Gospel: Lk:15:1-3, 11-32

Thoughts for Lent :

Jesus challenges us to look closely at the way in which we are living. This week, think about your life. Take stock of your attitudes and actions, the way you think about things, and the way your faith does or does not play a role in your decision-making. What needs pruning in your life? Perhaps it is a relationship that draws you away from Christ or the Church; maybe it is a negative habit that needs to be addressed; perhaps it is a negative self-image, or a judgmental attitude toward others.

Invite God to open your mind and heart to the ways in which these things may be pruned from your life, turning your life more toward holiness.

Forgiving God, who doesn't need second chances? Help us never give up on ourselves because you never give up on us. Amen.



Mt Carmel Seniors' Social Club Excursion, St Patrick's Day, Thursday 17 March.

Everybody is Irish on St Paddy's Day so bring on your Irish and join us ! Bus will depart Mt Carmel at 8.30am for Maleny. You are promised, as always, a splendid morning tea, local sight-seeing, and an Irish-influenced buffet lunch with plenty of Irish music and entertainment - Cost \$45. For bookings please call - Bernie (3394 1465 / 0409 954 667) or Rita 3397 6802 *(and don't forget to wear your green)*



Enrolments for Prep at Our Lady of Mt Carmel 2017

Enrolments are now being accepted at Our Lady of Mt Carmel for Prep in 2017. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website (www.mtcarmelcooparoo.qld.edu.au) or collected from the school office. Our enrolment policies can be viewed at our website.

Interviews for places at Mt Carmel in 2017 will commence 21st March 2016 (last week of Term 1).

Enrolment forms need to be submitted by the 18th March, 2016.

The table below indicates age eligibility dates for Prep for 2017 enrolments. Please contact the schools should you have any further enquiries.

Children born	Eligible for Prep Year in
1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012	2017
1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013	2018

LENTEN PRAYER

Prayer: *Let us be renewed in God's mercy,*

Let us be loved by Jesus,

Let us enable the power of His love to transform our lives;

And let us become agents of this mercy, channels through which God waters the earth, protects all creation,

and makes justice and peace flourish. (Pope Francis: Urbi et Orbi)



Lenten Theme: Pope Francis in this Year of Mercy has called for us to be 'missionaries of mercy'; to be people who know and live forgiveness, faith and love. Lent is the time when, through prayer and penance, we renew our commitment to follow Jesus. We believe in this time we have been given the Spirit to help and guide us in our choices; this Lent we will reflect and pray as a community for a greater depth and insight through the Spirit's gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Right Judgement, Courage, Knowledge, Reverence and Wonder and Awe in God's Presence.

Lenten Image: We will continue the image of the Door of Mercy begun in Advent. Also, beginning with the gift of Wisdom on Ash Wednesday and following on the successive Sundays of Lent - we will reflect on one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

We remember those in God's care...

Recently Deceased:

Rod Kemp, Kevin Palmer, Sr Eliane OCD, Tess Crammond and all who have died recently.

May they Rest in God's Peace.

Anniversaries and Memorials:

Fr Gerry Iverson, Henry & Catherine Geary, Peter & Mary Josephine Murphy

We pray for our sick....

Ille Uscinski, Kathleen Horne, Patrick McErlean, Brian Cochrane, Kathleen Horne, Brian Sykes, Joan Logan, Maryanne Faulkner

To have someone included in the Newsletter, please phone or email the Parish office

Names for the sick will be removed after two months, unless notified for them to continue.

Working Bee

We are seeking your assistance at our

School & Parish Working Bee next **Sunday 6th March—2pm to 4.30pm** followed by a barbecue

Please meet outside the school hall armed with your gardening tools !

Last year's was a great success and we are sure this one will be too.

Thanks in advance for helping to keep our school and parish grounds looking great !



Next Week's Rosters - 5/6th March

Ministers of the Word

6pm: P Nunan, T Murchison

8.30am: S Mulligan, J Tracey

5.30pm: C Clark, S Norris

(Facilitator: Christine Clark)

Ministers of Communion

6pm: G Brown, M Downey, V Evison, T Laing, M Tom

8.30am: R Branch, G Connors, T Eckersley, G Keating, M Liddy, M Martin

5.30pm: D Austin, C Bach, J Connolly, R Dall'alba, L Egan, J Fitzgerald, C Holmes

Communion to the Sick

A nna Nano, Cathy Agis, Tracey Laing, Mike Dale, Teresa Tong

Children's Liturgy of the Word

K Newton, M McCosker, S Hales

The **Hospitality Roster** for **Mass Welcomers** is now out.

The roster has been emailed and there are also copies available at the back of the church.

Thank you !

Mount Carmel Parish acknowledges the Turrbal people as the traditional owners of the land on which we live.