

Infant Jesus Parish

Welcome to Morley

8 March 2026

3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A.



Served by Teresian Carmelite Friars

Fr. Adalbert Imperial, OCD Parish Priest
Fr. John Pallipadan, OCD Assistant Priest



PARISH OFFICE:

47 Wellington Road, Morley

Office hours:

Monday - Thursday 9.30am -12.30pm

Ph: 9276 8500

www.infantjesusparish.org.au

[infantjesusmorley](https://www.facebook.com/infantjesusmorley)

✕ In Our Church

Morning Mass: Monday - Friday: 7am & 9am

Saturday and Public Holidays: 8.30am

Sunday Masses: 6pm (Saturday),

7.30am, 9.30am, 11.00am (English & Italian) and 6pm

Reconciliation: Saturday 10 - 11am and 5.00 - 5.30pm

Perpetual Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Wednesday 6.30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 9.30 - 10.30am

Baptisms, Weddings & Sacraments:

Please contact the Parish Office

enquiries@infantjesusparish.org.au

Ph: 9276 8500

✕ Our Parish Team

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Parish Inclusion Coordinator: Sue Baile

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✕ Supporting Our Parish Financially

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God bless you and all your family

Dear Parishioners,

Sometime last year, I was approached to lead a Lenten Retreat. Unfortunately, due to various factors, I could not deliver it. It, however, made me start thinking about how I would approach the task, and, after some time in prayer, I had the idea of exploring the three Lenten Observances of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving through the lives and teachings of the three Carmelite Doctors of the Church – St Teresa of Jesús (better known as St Teresa of Ávila), St John of the Cross, and St Thérèse of the Infant Jesus – respectively.

This Third Sunday in Lent, I would like to focus on St Teresa and prayer. St Teresa was the Spanish foundress/reformer of the Discalced Carmelite Order, a mystic of the highest calibre, and preeminent teacher of the spiritual life. With the distinction of being hailed *Doctor orationis* ("Doctor of Prayer"), St Teresa wrote profoundly on prayer. In her most famous definition of prayer, St Teresa understood prayer to be "nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with Him who we know loves us" (*Life*, 8.6).

For St Teresa, transformative prayer must be relational, Christ-centred, intimate, and ecclesial. She understood prayer to be both deeply personal and yet always oriented to the service of both the Other (God) and others (one's neighbours). Prayer, for her, is the foundation of the Christian life that moves one ever closer to the Father as one becomes more conformed to Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

St Teresa deftly employed many images to describe the transformative effects of prayer. At one time, she likened prayer to the silkworm that is transformed into a white butterfly. In this image drawn from nature, St Teresa saw how the one who dies unto oneself for the sake of Christ comes to be "taken to flight" through the "exquisite grace" of God. Another famous image she uses is that of the soul as a castle with many rooms; one reaches the heights of contemplation insofar as one goes deeper into the centre of one's soul where God dwells intimately.

Interestingly, St Teresa resonated with the Samaritan woman whom Jesus encounters at the well (what we explore in this Sunday's Gospel). In yet another one of her famous teachings on prayer, St Teresa speaks of four degrees of prayer related to drawing water – the living water! The degree of prayer progresses when one becomes more and more receptive to God's grace, turning one's prayer into the supernatural prayer that cannot but transfigure the person into God's glory. Above all, this is the invitation not just for religious and clerics, but for all people.

For those who would like to read more on St Teresa and her teachings on prayer, I would suggest beginning with her work, *Way of Perfection*, or even the autobiographical work, *Book of Her Life*, published by the Institute of Carmelite Studies. Her most mature work is, of course, *The Interior Castle*, which is one of the finest examples of Christian mystical literature. Another book I would personally recommend is, *The Intimate Sharing of Friends: Saint Teresa of Ávila on Prayer*, by Fr Mark O'Keefe, OSB.

This Lenten Season, may our prayer become deepened as we respond to the grace of Jesus Christ who longs, even more than we do, to transfigure our hearts in faith, hope, and love.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Ad.

THE SCRUTINIES

Over the next three Sundays (8 March, 15 March and 22 March 2026), our Church will celebrate rituals called the “scrutinies” during Mass. These are part of a series of rites of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) that are celebrated during Lent. For our “elect”, that is, those preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil, much preparation occurs before taking the final step, and part of this is their examination of their lives. Every time we celebrate the sacrament of baptism, we ask the questions, “Do you renounce Satan...and all his works...and all his empty promises?” These are serious questions. We should consider them carefully before answering. And that is what the elect, those preparing to be baptized at the Easter Vigil, spend much of Lent doing.

After the homily, in a litany of intercession, the power of Jesus over all sin is proclaimed. A prayer is then said over the elect asking for their deliverance and strengthening. Because the entire community will renew its baptismal promises at Easter, we all take this opportunity to examine our way of life and ask ourselves whether we are truly living as Christ's disciples, as people of the Gospel.

Parish Busy Bee – Saturday 21 March, 9:00am

Our Parish Busy Bee is happening on Saturday, 21 March, beginning at 9:00am, as we prepare our church and grounds for Easter.

There is plenty to be done — gardening and weeding, pruning, sweeping paths, cleaning windows, light maintenance and general tidying. There are jobs for all abilities, and many hands truly do make light work.

We are hoping for a wonderful turnout from our parish community, as a big effort is needed to have everything ready for the celebration of Easter. Even an hour of your time would make a real difference.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the church foyer and indicate where you are able to help. We would greatly appreciate as many helpers as possible!

Community / Christian service hours opportunity—High School students are welcome to use this opportunity to complete their community service hours. Please call Lucy at the parish office on 9276 5800 to register your interest.

Lenten Prayer Group

Join us each Friday at 9:30am in the Parish Library for our Lenten Prayer Group, using the *Compassio* resource. All are welcome and resources are provided.



Episcopal Visitation

We are honoured to welcome Bishop Sproxtton for an Episcopal Visitation on Saturday 28 March at 8:30am — the first visitation to our parish in 15 years. This Mass will also include the Installation of Fr Ad, making it a particularly significant moment in the life of our parish community.

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for this special celebration. Morning tea will follow outside the Parish Centre, offering the opportunity to meet Bishop Sproxtton and gather together as a community. This will be a bring a plate morning tea, and we kindly ask that you let the parish office know if you are able to assist with catering or set-up.

There will also be a further opportunity to meet with Bishop Sproxtton following the 9:30am Palm Sunday Mass on 29 March in the Parish Centre.



**PROJECT
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Third Sunday of Lent 7–8 March 2026

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Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

2nd Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 18 March at 7:00pm

Please take an information leaflet from the church foyer.

Join us for an hour of quiet reflection and healing as part of your Lenten preparation for Easter. The Word of God will be proclaimed three times in the spirit of Lectio Divina. In the silence, allow His Word to speak to your heart.

The priests will be in full view of all present. Confessions are to be kept brief, after which you return to your seat for prayer — please do not leave straight away. Remain to give thanks together as a community, rejoicing in our renewed friendship and new life with God.



Palm Sunday – Celebrated by Bishop Sproxtton

Sunday, 29th March 2026

We warmly invite all parishioners, together with your relatives and friends, to join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday. This year, our Masses will be celebrated by Bishop Sproxtton.

Please note that palms or branches will not be supplied at the church. As Scripture tells us, “...leafy branches that they had cut in the fields...” (Mark 11:8). We therefore invite you to bring a branch from your garden or a nearby shrub when you come to Mass.

Morning tea will be held in the Parish Centre following the Sunday 9:30am Mass. Please bring a plate to share as we gather together in community.



Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for the month of March

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.



*"At the end of life we will be judged on love alone."
— St John of the Cross*



PILGRIM STATUE OF OUR LADY

Is in the home of
Phil Christides 0411 362 080

Let Us Pray for One Another

Recently deceased: Jim D'Agostino, Herbert Freytag, Maria Antonia Del Rico, Iluminada (Lumy) Zinni;

Deceased: Arthur Chemello;

Anniversaries: Gerald Wright, Rita and Alessandro Zuccarino, Dylan Sharpe;

and all who are in need of our prayers.

*"Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, says the Lord"*

THIS WEEKEND - 8 March 2026—3rd Sunday of Lent

Ministry	Sat 6pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.30am	Sunday 6pm
Acolytes/Altar Ministers	Bruce	David	Marion	Tung
Altar Servers	Naethan, Meghan	Aaron, Frank	Crissanto, Cesar	
Proclaimers	Teresa, Tang	Clare, Bermadette	Chris, Mark	Eloise, Fely
Extr. Ministers Of Communion	Sejin, Emily, Chris, John	Valerie, Nevellene, Kerry, Michael	Sr Chau, Sr Le, Sr Oanh, Patrick, Errol, Linda	Tristan, Fely, Adam, Thuy
Hospitality	Emily, Rebecca	Mavis, Francisca	Cynthia, Barbara	Joanne, Karina
Church Cleaning	Team A, Saturday 14 March at 9.30am			

NEXT WEEKEND—15 March—4th Sunday of Lent

Ministry	Sat 6pm	Sun 7.30am	Sun 9.30am	Sunday 6pm
Acolytes/Altar Ministers	Jeremy	Cyril	Chris Y	Chris L
Altar Servers	Shawn, Andres	Elizabeth, Peter, Paul	Andrei, Manuel	Amy, Megan
Proclaimers	Marian, Miroli	Rita, Gerri	Personal Advocacy Mass	Alan, Judy
Extr. Ministers Of Communion	Marcus, Teresa, Aadi, Sejin	Shirley, Sr Madeline, Kathleen, Margaret	Sr Chitra, Marilyn, Tanya, Vienna, Joan, Roma	Ivor, Maureen, Adam, Thuy
Hospitality	Sejin, Donna-Marie	Barb, Veronica	Patrick, Christie	Rita, Olivia
Church Cleaning	Team B, Thursday 19 March at 10.00am			

PLEASE NOTE - If you are unable to attend on your rostered day, please arrange for someone else in your Ministry to take your place.

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The Living Word

Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

First Reading Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work.' (R.)

Second Reading Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 4:42. 15

*Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel shorter form Jn 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:
Give me a drink,
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water
will get thirsty again:
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall
give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to
eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming
when you will worship the Father
neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.
You worship what you do not know;
we worship what we do know;
for salvation comes from the Jews.
But the hour will come – in fact it is here
already –
when true worshippers will worship the Father
in spirit and truth:
that is the kind of worshipper
the Father wants.
God is spirit,
and those who worship
must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



Reflection by Greg Sunter

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16: 1,6-7,10-13

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 22

GOSPEL READING: John 9:1-41