

LITURGY NEWS

from the Cathedral Parish of Ss Michael & John, Bathurst

The Season of Lent

No Gloria, No Alleluia and Purple is the colour of the Season

Three powerful symbols are associated with liturgy in Lent.

Ashes: The use of ashes stems from our Jewish heritage. Ashes here suggest humility and human insignificance, as in the familiar “ashes to ashes, dust to dust”. Today we continue the Jewish understanding of ashes as a symbol of humility, purification and sorrow when we are marked with ashes on the first day of Lent as a sign of our willingness to cleanse our heart through prayer, fasting and self-denial.

Cross. No other sign so clearly symbolises Christianity as the cross. It became a symbol of victory over death and salvation from sin, a sign of both death and of love.

Purple or violet is the prescribed liturgical colour for Lent. It should be a sombre blue-violet in contrast to the lighter purple of Advent. The aim is to visually evoke a mood of simplicity and austerity

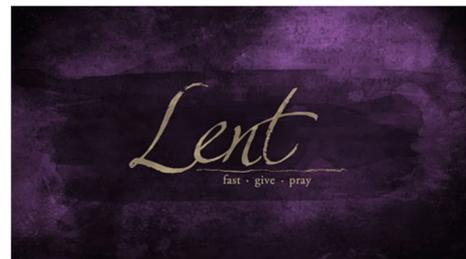
The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (26th February 2020) and concludes as the Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday 9th April 2020).

The first preface (prayed by the priest after the Holy, Holy) for Lent in the Missal describes Lent as a 'gracious gift' and speaks of the joy of the faithful as they 'await the sacred paschal feasts'. These few words provide a key to the meaning of Lent. Lent looks beyond itself to the celebration of the paschal mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. This makes Lent a season of grace inviting us to prepare for immersion in the dying and rising of Jesus Christ.

For those already baptized, Lent is a time for renewing and deepening our Christian commitment through prayers, fasting and acts of charity. For those people preparing to be baptized (generally through the RCIA) Lent is a time of purification and enlightenment.

Every year the first two Sundays of Lent recall Jesus' testing in the wilderness and his transfiguration on the mountain. On the next four Sundays we hear of a call to repentance, the recurring Lenten theme.

Lent is certainly a time marked by seriousness, but it is also a time of joy as we deepen our relationship with God.



This Lent, the **large wooden cross** that we have used as the processional cross will again lead the entrance procession.

The Procession will be accompanied by reflective music and when the procession reaches the Sanctuary, the commentator will invite everyone to join in with saying the Entrance Antiphon.

"The purpose of this chant (the **Entrance Antiphon**) is to open the celebration, foster the unity of those who have been gathered, introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgical season or festivity, and accompany the procession of the priest and ministers." GIRM 47

This is the eighth edition of *Liturgy News from the Cathedral Parish* and marks 12 months since the first edition was published. It is hoped that this newsletter helps the reader to understand a little more about the liturgy and communicates any particular preparations.

LITURGY NEWS CONTINUED

from the Cathedral Parish of Ss Michael & John, Bathurst



Ss Therese, Louis & Zelig Martin

For the first time in 18 years, the relics of St Therese of Lisieux, one of the most popular saints of modern times, are coming to Australia.

What is unique about this event is that the relics of St Louis Martin and St Zelig Martin will accompany the relics of St Therese.

St Louis Martin and St Zelig Martin were the parents of St Therese.

Thérèse was born in France on January 2nd, 1873. Thérèse lived a very simple and holy life. At age 15, she entered the Carmelite convent in Lisieux to give her whole life to God. She took the religious name Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face.

St Therese's feast day is October 1st. She liked to keep things simple and focused as a child does. Trust, especially trust in God, is a childlike virtue. Thérèse's love for God was very simple and she called it her 'little way.' She teaches us that God is everywhere – in every situation and person – and in the ordinary, simple details of life.

Timetable for the Relics in Bathurst

The relics of the three saints will arrive at the Cathedral at 9am on 1st Sunday of Lent – 1st March. There will be a short prayer before the relics are carried in procession into the Cathedral when there will be a time for personal devotion and prayer before Mass at 10.00am.

The Cathedral will be open for the remainder of the day with the opportunity for Confession. At 5pm, Evening Prayer will be celebrated before the relics are removed from the Cathedral to continue on their journey.

The lives of Zelig and Louis Martin's show us that when we live with love, we grow in holiness. The Martins are such a wonderful example of holiness that Pope Benedict named them "Blessed" in 2008 and Pope Francis officially recognized them both as saints. They are the first married couple to ever be canonized together.