

Weekend of :	24/25 Feb 2024	Week 4		
<b>Ministry</b>	Sat 5pm	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Sun 5 pm
<b>Music Groups</b>	Children's Choir	Sacred Heart	STJ Multicultural	Sts Joachim & Anne
<b>Heralds</b>	Stella	Jasmine/Madeline	Blake/Rachel	Ryan
<b>Readers</b>	Irene/Hannah	Rhonda/Kaitlyn	Trish/Philip	Theresia/Ruby
<b>Acolytes</b>	Mick G/ Victor	Peter	Yuve/Vincent	Mick M/Surya
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Cameron	Bianca/Christopher	Patrick/Gabby/Bryan/Caitlin	Hannah/Taylor/Kiomi/Naomi

Weekend of :	2/3 Mar 2024	Week 1		
<b>Ministry</b>	Sat 5pm	Sun 8am	Sun 10am	Sun 5 pm
<b>Music Groups</b>	Sacred Heart	Congregation	Sacred Heart	Congregation
<b>Heralds</b>	Alvin	Bianca	Olivia	Mckenzie
<b>Readers 1st / 2nd</b>	Helen/Evelyn	Lupi / Christopher	Noel/Sophie	Nerissa/Mariaella
<b>Acolytes</b>	Mick G / Victor	Peter	Yuve	Mick M / Surya
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Abed/Sophia/Immanuel/Cameron	-	Philip/Caitlin/Bryan	Hannah/Taylor/Teresa/Mica



**Grace & Silence 2024 SILENT RETREAT DAY\* FOR YOUNG WOMEN**

For Single Young Women 20-40 years discerning a vocation to Marriage and Family, Single Life or Consecrated Life

**Sundays 9.30am to 4.30pm**  
 Part 1 March 3 Part 2 April 7  
 Part 3 May 5 Part 4 June 2

\*A four part retreat series where attendance of all four retreats is highly recommended. Punctual start and full attendance of each day required.

Venue: 'Bethany' 301 Fairlight Road Mulgoa  
 Cost \$25 per day OR \$90 full series  
 For catering purposes registrations close a WEEK PRIOR to each event!!!!

FOR DETAILS Contact Hannah 0433 443 384

schonstatt.org.au s-ms.org

**LET US PRAY FOR:**

**Recently Returned to the Father:** Ibrahim Azzam, Rosa Nunez, Gary Clark

**Death Anniversary:** Teresita Arce, Maria Carlino, Ignacio "Jun" Juanitez

**In Loving Memory of:** deceased members of the Keating family, Ivan Stefanac, Philip Ba-Tuoc Lam, Cong Tro Mai, Joseph CT Nguyen, Robert, Mathilda, Ralph, Milton & Leslie Hewett, Melville, Lucy, Trevor & Frank Rodrigues, Ivan Rendulic & Joseph Jurcic, Felix Jr Romero, Giovanni & Giuseppa Maiolo, Rocco & Giuseppina Macri, Sabestiano & Santina Luci, deceased family members of Teresita H Brown, Adoracion Almazar, Dennis G Reyes, Lou M Da Silva, all souls in purgatory

**NB: Please let the Parish Office know when circumstances change**

**Sick & Infirm:** Madeleine Mitchell, Adam Irga, Jenny Hennessy, Frances Read, Angela Clancy, Enriqueta Navarro, Lorenza Talisayon, Annette Pillai, Bernadette Driessen, Rosa Corbo, Sue Joseph, Sue Morris, Michael Joseph, Lucy Zivkovic

**Thanksgiving/Birthdays:** Dondi & Arvin Anolin, Maria Hennessy, Gabriel L T Ching  
**Special Intentions of:** Mateo Quines Tran

**A Message from the Safeguarding Office - Archdiocese of Sydney**

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

**Weekend Collection Report**  
 Weekend 17/18 Feb 2024

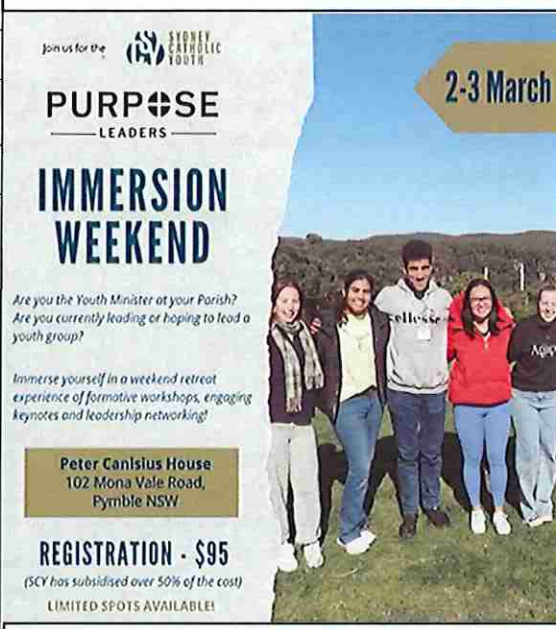
1st Collection (Pastoral) - \$1932.00 &  
 2nd Collection (Church) - "Loose" \$1622.00 &  
 Envelopes - \$1147.00

Thank you for your generosity - Fr Epeli -

**MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend Discernment Retreat**

A time for single women aged 16-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing to help discern your vocation.

DATE: Friday 1st March - Sunday 3rd March  
 VENUE: Varroville NSW  
 For more info contact [mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com](mailto:mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com)



Join us for the **PURPOSE LEADERS IMMERSION WEEKEND** 2-3 March

Are you the Youth Minister at your Parish? Are you currently leading or hoping to lead a youth group?

Immerse yourself in a weekend retreat experience of formative workshops, engaging keynotes and leadership networking!

Peter Canisius House  
 102 Mona Vale Road, Pymble NSW

**REGISTRATION - \$95**  
 (SCY has subsidised over 50% of the cost)  
 LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

**The Catholic Weekly (\$2 only)**  
 In this week's edition:

- HSC Achievers and School Open Days Supplements
- New Catholics prepare to join God's family p2
- Young entrepreneurs ask God for help in new ventures p6
- PNG excited for papal visit, but is Pope Francis coming? p12-29
- Monica Doumit: Mounting evidence against gender care's benefits p33
- Cabrini Review: saint biopic captures feel of God's "Empire of Mercy" p37

**Didasko Adult Faith Formation**  
**We cannot love what we do not know (St Augustine)**

God is forever revealing Himself to us. Have you ever been curious to find out more? Join Chris Wolter online for a thought-provoking short course titled God the Beautiful: An Introduction to Theology that will make learning about God both enjoyable and accessible.

Special offer for parishes: Make the most of this opportunity by gathering a group in-person and sharing the learning experience with others.

DATES: Mondays 4, 11 and 18 March 2024  
 TIME: 7:30 pm - 8:45 pm  
 MODE: Online via Zoom  
 COST PER COURSE: \$35 for individuals or \$100 per Parish Group for an in-person gathering (+ booking fees).

To find out more and to register, visit <https://gomakedisciples.org.au/didasko/>

**St Joachim's Catholic Parish**

Phone: 9649 7030  
 Mobile: 0422 642 523

2 Mills Street, Lidcombe 2141 NSW, Australia  
 Parish website: [www.stjoachimsparish.org](http://www.stjoachimsparish.org)



**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr Epeli Qimaqima  
[office@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:office@stjoachimsparish.org)

**Assistant Priest:** Rev. Fr Bijoy Joseph  
[Bijoy.Joseph@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:Bijoy.Joseph@sydneycatholic.org)

**Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr Daniele Russo  
[drusso@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:drusso@stjoachimsparish.org)

**Parish Secretary:** Catherine Chia  
[office@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:office@stjoachimsparish.org)

**Seminary Placement:** Justin Faehrmann  
[accounts@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:accounts@stjoachimsparish.org)

**Bookkeeper / Accounts:** Olivia Plan  
[accounts@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:accounts@stjoachimsparish.org)

**Facilities Manager/hall bookings:** Antonia Lisica  
[facilities@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:facilities@stjoachimsparish.org)

**School Principal:** Mrs Maria Maiorana  
 Phone: 9646 1310 Fax: 9646 2139

**Family Educator:** Kasia Lavorato

**RE Co-ordinator:** Hannah Elliott

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Geoff Barrett

**Finance Committee:** Vladimir Lesic

**Safeguarding Officer:** Olivia Plan  
[safeguard@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:safeguard@stjoachimsparish.org)

**CCD Co-ordinators:**  
 Lidcombe - Teresa Azzi  
 Newington - Daniel Boland

**Sacramental Co-ord:** Patricia Balatbat  
[sacraments@stjoachimsparish.org](mailto:sacraments@stjoachimsparish.org)

**WE COME TOGETHER TO ENCOUNTER GOD, WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER JOYFULLY IN ACTIVE SERVICE**

**OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, & THURSDAY only 09:30am to 03:30pm PLEASE RING or EMAIL the Parish Office for anything ...**  
 Mass Intentions—drop in the mailbox or collection baskets. Weddings: minimum 6 months notice.  
 Baptisms: held only on 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. Canberra Nursing Home - 4th Friday @ 11am  
 If anyone needs Holy Communion /Home Visits please contact the office to make arrangements.

**Parish Values - Presence, Simplicity, Family Spirit, Love of Work & In the way of Mary**

**2nd Sunday of Lent - Yr B** **25 February 2024**

This Week at St Joachim	
Sun 25/02	8:00am Mass 10:00am Mass 5:00pm Mass
Mon 26/02	9:00am Mass/Rosary
Tue 27/02	9:00am Mass / Rosary
Wed 28/02	6:00pm Adoration /Novena 7:00pm Mass
Thurs 29/02	9:00am Mass / Rosary
Fri 01/03	9:00am Mass / Rosary 6:30pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm 1st Friday Mass + VOCARE
Sat 02/03	9:00am Mass + Anointing of the sick 11:00am NUSPAS 4:00pm Confessions 5:00pm Vigil Mass


SILENCE is to be observed at all times (before, during and after Mass) in the church

**REFLECTION** - Fr Bijoy -

"Postmodernity is an ongoing offense and aggression against the divine silence. From morning to evening, from evening to morning, silence no longer has any place at all; the noise tries to prevent God himself from speaking. In this hell of noise, man disintegrates and is lost; he is broken up into countless worries, fantasies, and fears. In order to get out of these depressing tunnels, he desperately awaits noise so that it will bring him a few consolations. Noise is a deceptive, addictive, and false tranquilizer. The tragedy of our world is never better summed up than in the fury of senseless noise that stubbornly hates silence. This age detests the things that silence brings us to: encounter, wonder, and kneeling before God. Even in the schools, silence has disappeared. And yet how can anyone study in the midst of noise? How can you read in noise? How can you train your intellect in noise? How can you structure your thought and the contours of your interior being in noise? How can you be open to the mystery of God, to spiritual values, and to our human greatness in continual turmoil? Contemplative silence is a fragile little flame in the middle of a raging ocean. The fire of silence is weak because it is bothersome to a busy world." - Cardinal Robert Sarah


This weekend, our parish will become host to cacophony of noise with 100,000 "Swifties" descending on Olympic Park to hear the concerts of American pop star Taylor Swift. They will come, hear her music, be ecstatic, and then leave, most likely happy. But then what will happen the next day when the dopamine wears off? What will happen when they are confronted with the silence of life?

**Lent**



**Sunday School @ St Joachim's**

3rd March @11.30am in St Francis Room



**The Power of Silence**


During Lent, we are called to deprive ourselves of that which we think we need to survive. We are called to enter into silence as difficult as that might seem. Where sounds and emotions detach us from ourselves, silence always forces us to reflect upon our own lives. This Lent may be the time that the Lord is giving you to reflect on your life, but to do so you must embrace the silence. Do not fast only to fill the void with something else! That void is the space that God wants to fill. Allow yourself to sit and struggle in the silence as difficult as that may be. Then the Holy Spirit will come and make his home in you. And when you are filled with the Spirit, the joy and peace that you will experience will be much greater than the temporary ecstasy of a Taylor Swift concert. It is an abiding peace that remains with you throughout the week despite everything that is thrown against you.



After the birth of her children, 22-year-old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family.

**Please donate to Project Compassion.** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for **all future generations.** You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Every Friday during Lent @6.30pm**  
**All welcome to attend**



**STATIONS of the CROSS**



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.  
**R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## HOMILY

**PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED  
*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

## PREFACE OF THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

### COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.*

## LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Mt 17: 5

**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**

### THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

### THE GIFT OF GOD'S OWN SON

In the second week of Lent, we are taken to an encounter of God with Abraham where he is asked to sacrifice his son. This seems incomprehensible to us. Is this the ultimate sign of commitment or faithfulness to God? If it is a test, Abraham shows his fidelity but the sacrificing of Isaac doesn't happen. God spares Abraham's son. This reading is in direct confrontation with the second reading from Romans where "God did not spare God's own son." These words are stark and a testament to the faithfulness and compassion of God.

This invites our attention to the enormity of God's gift echoed in the words of Jesus: "God loved the world so much, he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). It is in this context that we embrace the transfiguration. This is the second occasion in Mark's Gospel where Jesus is revealed to be God's son. In light of the dazzling appearance of Jesus with Moses and Elijah and the voice from heaven, we see these disciples in fear. Occurring shortly after Jesus has revealed his fate, these leaders, Peter, James and John, witness this event and when it subsides and they go down the mountain, they are told not to say anything till the Son of Man has risen from the dead. This is baffling. They are distressed about what "rising from the dead" could mean. This insight into the community of Mark may also intersect with our own searchings. How do we understand God's gift in the death and resurrection of God's own son?

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

25 FEBRUARY 2024

LISTEN TO HIM. Jesus revealed his oneness with sinful humanity by his baptism in the river Jordan. On the mount of transfiguration he revealed his oneness with God who proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' It takes faith to listen to Jesus, who teaches that the path of life leads along the way of the cross. But, as Abraham learned, if we put our faith in God our reward will be great.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 26: 8-9

**Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.**

### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**R. And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

*The Gloria is not said during Lent.*

### COLLECT

P. O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

**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.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESP PSALM** Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

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

1. 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.**

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.**

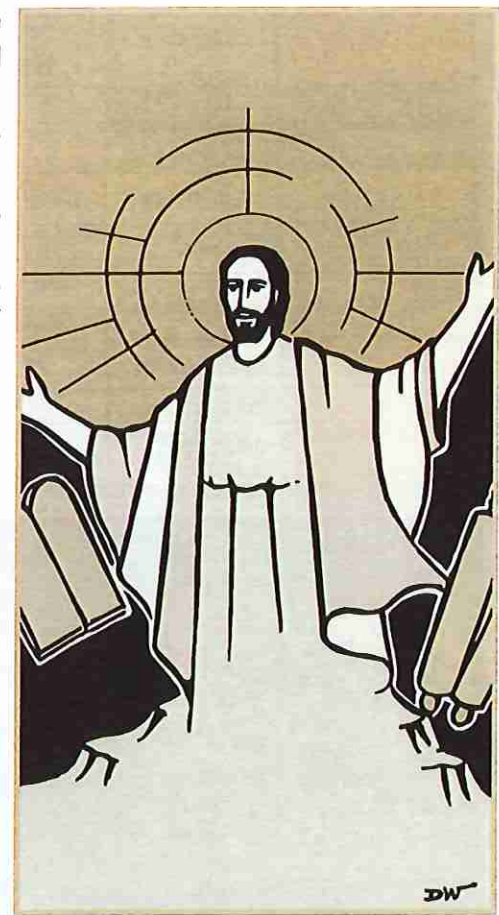
### SECOND READING

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.

**R. Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Mt 17: 5

**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

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*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