



Homily on 4th Sunday of Lent (27/03/2022)

Scripture: Josh 5:9, 10-12; II Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Fr. Roy John Elavumkal SMM

Introduction: Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday (Rejoice Sunday). Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

Scripture lesson: In the first reading, the Chosen People of God are portrayed as celebrating, for the first time in their own land, the feast of their freedom, by using wheat that had grown in the Promised Land. In today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33), a rejoicing Psalmist invites us, "Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol His Name!" In the second reading, St. Paul invites the Corinthian Christian community to rejoice because Jesus has reconciled them with God by his suffering and death. Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "homecoming" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the rejoicing of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honour, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. At the same time, by presenting a self-righteous elder brother, the parable invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother. Let us admit the truth that we are an assembly of sinful people, repentant, and now we are ready to receive God's forgiveness and to experience Jesus' Personal Presence in the Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God.

Application to life: 1) Let us return to our Heavenly Father with repentant hearts: As prodigal children, we face spiritual famine all around us in the form of drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft in the workplace, murders, abortions and violence, premarital sex, marital infidelity and priestly infidelity, as well as in hostility between and among people. All of these evils have proliferated because we have been squandering God's abundant blessings, not only in our country and in our families, but also in our personal lives. Hence, let us repent and return to our Heavenly Father's home.

2) Holy Mass enhances our "pass over," from a world of sin to a world of reconciliation. At every Mass, we come to our loving Heavenly Father's house as prodigal children acknowledging that we have sinned "I confess to Almighty God". In the Offertory, we give ourselves back to the Father, and this is the moment of our surrendering our sinful lives to God our Father. At the consecration, we hear God's invitation through Jesus: "this is My Body, which will be given up for you... this is the chalice of My Blood ... which will be poured out for you... All I have is yours. In Holy Communion, we participate in the banquet of reconciliation, thus restoring our full relationship with God and our fellow human beings.

3) We need to accept the loving offer of our Heavenly Father: "All I have is yours". Faraway hills and forest look green; there are many attractions in life; there are many voices saying to us, "Follow me," or "Follow your desires and you will find happiness." But the best and the only real offer of lasting happiness is from God our Father, "All I have is yours." God our Heavenly Father stands outside our door waiting for us to open it to Him. For the remainder of Lent, let us try to make every effort to answer that invitation from our Heavenly Father, "All I have is yours." Each Lent offers us sinners a chance to return home with a confession of sins, where we will find His welcome and open-armed love. Such a confession will enable us to hasten toward Easter with the eagerness of Faith and love, and it will make possible the rejoicing which today's liturgy assures us in our Lord's words: "There is more joy in Heaven over the one sinner who does penance than over the ninety-nine just who do not need penance."

Healing Prayers for a Wounded World – Ecumenical prayer service

Churches Together SA invites people of all cultures and faiths to pray for peace and justice during this time of acute crisis – extreme weather events, conflict and invasions of sovereign states, and devastation across lands and waters

When:- Wednesday March 30 at 7.30pm

Where:- St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

Bookings:- via www.trvbooking.com/BYFHE



Don't forget to turn your clocks back before you go to bed Saturday night or you will be extra early for Mass on Sunday morning.

Rosters for 2/3 April 2022 – 5th Sunday of Lent Year C

Time	Commentator / Reader
6:30 pm	Anne Marie Platten Fil Ciancio, Giulia Giuliani
9:30am	Paul Halliwell Sandy Mazarolo, Sheila Hoogland
Children's Liturgy:	Evangelin and Anne
Count Team No: 2	Frank Mazarolo, Sandy Mazarolo, Terry Pickering, Christine Holmes.
Altar: Mon. 14 March to Sun 24 April	Sarita Ingham & Bronwyn Gleeson

All those who volunteered please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start time and report to the commentator for that mass

Palm Sunday Peace & Justice Walk

On Sunday April 10 2022 Churches Together SA along with other justice and peace networks, are organising the Palm Sunday Peace & Justice Walk. This has been a long-standing tradition in South Australia, where the broader community as well as churches and faith communities, walk together in solidarity for peacemaking and justice keeping. As a radical, visible sign of peace-making presence, respect, solace, and harmony, this walk will be in silence, with our banners as our voice. We walk for many areas of concern. This year's key focus are: Reconciliation & Statement from the heart, Justice for Refugees, Environment & Climate Change and Peace & Conflict Resolution.

The Walk

1. Gather at Tarntanyanga/Victoria Square from 1.30pm for a 2pm start
2. Bring Banners, wear symbols or statements as a visible presence
3. Welcome to Kurna Country
4. The Walk - travel down King William St, turn at North Tce and return to Victoria Square
5. Speakers on the key foci will share information
6. Engage with the sponsors and endorsers via the promotion tables and enjoy the music

See the website - <https://churchestogethersa.org.au/events/palm-sunday-peace-justice-walk/>

Adult Formation at Semaphore

"When Sacred Heart College was at Semaphore and Largs Bay"

Where:- the Lefevre Catholic Community meeting rooms
253 Military Road, Semaphore

When:- Sunday April 10th 2022 from 4pm – 5pm

Presented by:- Br. Michael Green FMS

Enquiries to Fr Roderick O'Brien P: 8449 6378. Please register before the event and on the day. See flyer on Notice Board

CHRISM MASS

All are welcome to celebrate Mass of the Oils on Monday April 11 at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at 6pm.

Due to the lifting of density requirements, no bookings will be necessary to attend Mass. However, please note there is **NO onsite car parking** available.

If you would like more information regarding this event, please contact the Events Office on P: 8210 8220

CHARIS SA

Invited you to
GOD IS LOVE Seminar
With – Fr. Roy John Elavumkal
When – 2nd April 2022
10.30am – 3.30pm
Where – St Peter Claver Church,
Dulwich

Sunday Collection Summary 20th March 2022

First Collection	\$ 485.70
Special Collection – Flood Victims Qld & NSW	\$ 1,386.20
Second Collection	
Envelopes	\$ 530.00
Open Plate	\$ 277.50
Electronic Giving	\$ 2,675.50
Parish Account Total	\$ 3,483.00

CWL Easter Raffle

CWL Easter Raffle \$1 tickets to be sold after both Masses 2/3 April. Proceeds to the Tranmere Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society



Forth Sunday of Lent 26 & 27 March



Rosalie 44, is an ex-combatant who lives with her husband and seven children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Forced to join the army when she was just 15-years-old, Rosalie experienced significant trauma and hardship during her years in the military. After she was demobilised from the army, Rosalie, like other ex-combatants, was left to fend for herself in the community.

With your generous support and through our local partners, Rosalie was able to connect with other members of her community and participate in business skills training to help her to reintegrate into society.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.

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 lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

