

THE COVENANT SONG

(Composer: Karen Barrie)

(USED WITH PERMISSION, WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL LICENCE NO. 2201)

I have made a covenant with my chosen, given my servant my word.
I have made your name to last forever, built to outlast all time.

I will celebrate your love forever, Yahweh.

Age on age, my words proclaim your love.

For I claim that love is built to last forever, founded firm, your faithfulness.

Yahweh, the assembly of those who love you, applaud your marvellous word.
Who in the skies can compare with Yahweh? Who can rival him?

Happy the people who learn to acclaim you. They rejoice in your light.
You are our glory and you are our courage. Our hope belongs to You.

I have revealed my chosen servant and he can rely on me.
Given him my love to last forever. He shall rise in my name.

He will call to me, "My Father! My God!" for I make him my first born son.
I cannot take back my given promise, I've called him to shine like the sun.

Our Lenten Theme Song:

HEAL ME, O GOD

(Gregory Norbet)

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**Heal me, O God; create a new heart in me,
Save me, O God; with light of your presence.
Heal me, O God; and raise me to new life.
You alone are my hope.**

Deep in the night reveal your wisdom,
teach me to live a life that is holy.

Save me, O God, you are my refuge;
put in my heart a faith strong and searching.

Be with me now, lifting each burden;
you are my hope, my strength for the journey.

As you have shown mercy and kindness,
so may I grow in living compassion.

Strengthen my faith, melt my indifference;
set me afire with Spirit's anointing.

Help me extend peace and forgiveness,
knowing so well my failings forgiven.

JESUS, FACE OF GOD

(James Maher msc)

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Jesus, Face of God,
Holy Mystery.
Truth beyond what we've
conceived, Bold Reality.

Jesus, Word of God,
Heaven's poetry.
Wisdom born beyond our
minds, Divine Humanity.

(Instrumental)

Jesus, Heart of God,
pierced on Calvary.
Love beyond imagining,
Heaven's Majesty.

Jesus, Song of God,
Spirit's melody.
Sounding deep
within our hearts,
Transforming harmony,
Holy Mystery.

Second Sunday of Lent

As Christians we are called to walk with



those who are in need.



This week's story introduces us to Teneille, from Derby in Western Australia. Limited job opportunities, low family literacy levels and poor health and housing are some of the issues affecting poor school performance amongst Indigenous children in the area. Teneille participates in a Caritas Australia-supported program that is empowering children to attend school, have healthy and nutritious food and improve the school performance amongst the area's children. Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps to work towards the goal of ensuring primary education for all children.

**Project Compassion boxes and Gift Pack envelopes are available
at each of the Church doors.**

Reflection on Sunday's Readings

Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18 God made a covenant with Abraham, his faithful servant.

Philippians 3:17-4:1 Christ will transfigure these bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body.

Luke 9:28-36 As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed
and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

The transfiguration of Jesus is a reminder of the transformation of attitude and action required of us to deepen our relationship with God.

God's covenant with Abraham requires trust in God's transforming love. We are called to exert this transforming love, be Christ to those who suffer extreme poverty, injustice and violence, by renewing our covenant to pray, fast and give generously to the work of Project Compassion.

Jesus' identity as the Son of God is confirmed through his transfiguration. This is important in the course of what he is to face through his divine outpouring of self. We are asked to transform our vision and values and use our generosity however big or small to bring about transformation for those who are oppressed.

This week's Project Compassion story reflects such transformation in a new vision for the future for the Indigenous community of Derby, WA. The Kids Future Club, a project supported by Caritas Australia takes a holistic approach to increasing school attendance and raising academic performance for truanting children. The program provides an opportunity for Aboriginal children and their parents to become familiar with structured education, health and nutrition in a culturally relevant way. As the extended family is the important social unit in the Aboriginal community in supporting the wellbeing of children, the Kids Club invites the whole community to be involved in activities.

The program has given children and families a wonderful sense of hope, a desire to participate in those institutions necessary for human fulfilment, such as work and education.

Wretchedness transfigured

Sometimes in the midst of tragedy and sorrow, such as the terrifying bushfires that ravaged Victoria last year, there are many tales of heroism and simple human care. The media commented on many examples. Of course, some people are unable to assist in a very tangible way when the demand is there. The frail and elderly living out their twilight years, the homeless and the unemployed who have little enough themselves, and yet many of these also gave what they could.

Often the 'rejected of society' are treated as just that. But there is always a light that will rise ever so gently when it is least expected. On the Monday following that unforgettable weekend, two long term prisoners in a minimum security complex arranged a 'whip around' to offer some tangible sign of assistance. In the space of an hour, and from some one hundred inmates, over \$1200 was promised, deduction forms were signed and the challenge was on. Within a few days, the other sections of the prison (medium and maximum security, and the women's section) had responded, and the amount had risen to over \$2750! Not a great amount, we could well say, but most weeks many inmates are hanging out to have enough money in their accounts to purchase tobacco or toothpaste!

It was not smugness; it was just a little smile of pride that we could play our small part in the very great need. It is, at times, so hard to feel good about oneself in a place like this. But there is much more goodness in here than many on the outside might imagine.

(An inmate)



When I was eight years old I found out by accident that I was adopted. It was very upsetting. Until then I was always pretty shy but after that shock I really went into my shell and became very withdrawn. I started praying at night a lot, not just praying on the surface but from a place deep inside myself. There I discovered a part of me that I did not know existed. It was like an awakening to the real me, my true self, and in that sorrow I found comfort in the knowledge that I wasn't alone. I found a friend deep inside me who understood, and that friend was God. With God I found that I could share my most inner self without fear. Now all these years later I realise that God understood and was protecting me. (Michael)

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.'

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord!

(Psalm 26:7-9.14)

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Reminder for Applicants

The St John of God Institute of Counseling/Life Skills Course is still accepting applications on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm at the Library of Holy Cross College, Victoria Rd, Ryde.
Details:
Ann McDowell
tel (02) 9150 4038.

Seminar on Interfaith Dialogue and Ecumenism

An opportunity for parish representatives and certificate students of ecumenical and interfaith dialogue to meet and learn.

Presenters are
**Fr Walter Fogarty,
Dr Antoinette Collins
and Alice Priest.**

Institute for Mission,
cnr Flushcombe Rd
and Marion St,
Blacktown.

**Saturday, 6 March,
9.00am - 3.30pm**
(Lunch is provided.)
Bookings essential
by 26 February.
Phone 9831 4911,
ifm@tpg.com.au

February Benedictine Spirituality

The Benedictine Spirituality group will gather on Friday 5th March at 10am till noon at the Good Samaritan Community House, 3 Valley Rd, Wentworth Falls.

There will be Lectio Divina and Prayer of the Church with input on 'Community'. The reading for this meeting is also 'Community' from the book the Gift of Saint Benedict by Verna Holyhead sgs. Morning tea will be included in the morning's gathering. New guests are always welcome.

Enquiries: Srs. Therese and Jacinta 4757 2290

A New Beginning: Beginning Experience is a personal encounter weekend for those who are grieving the loss of a partner through death, separation or divorce. Closing the door to the past gently by getting in touch and dealing with the feelings resulting from the end of a relationship is an important part of making a new beginning. The Next Beginning Experience Weekend is on April 9-11th 2010. For information and an application, please contact Lee (02) 9449 5317, Lynn (02) 4627 2084 or Kevin (02) 4984 2738

Santa Sabina College is pleased to offer Scholarship and Bursary opportunities to assist students for Years 7 & 9 (2011) in entering the College.

Scholarships with a focus on Academic, Creative and Performing Arts and Global Citizenship, will be offered to students who demonstrate ability in these areas.

Bursaries are also made available by the College to assist students whose families require financial support to enter the College.

Come and visit Santa Sabina College at our Open Day on Friday 19 March from 9.00am - 12.00pm.

Hear Kate Clancy, our College Principal, at 9.00am and 10.30am in the Lecture Theatre on the Secondary Campus and visit our beautiful campuses: Primary School, Santa Maria del Monte (K-5), Martin de Porres Middle School (Years 6-7) and Santa Sabina Secondary School (Years 8-12) and Mary Bailey House Early Education Centre (9.30am - 11.00am).

FAMILY CONCERT FUNDRAISING FOR OUR PARISH NEXT WEEK!!!

A once ever for the Upper Mountains, the fabulous **Peter and the Wolf** and other crowd-pleasers for all ages, including **Gypsy Airs** to raise you to your feet, lots of fun and surprises from actor **Tony Cugin** and the **Bay Quartet**. Next **Sunday 7th March, 2.30 pm, Community Hall**. 20% of ticket price for this concert or full subscription to our Parish.

Bookings: www.mca-tix.com.au
or 1300 306 776. To register as Sacred Heart Fundraiser participant:
mail@chamberconcert.org.au
4787 6425 or at the door.

Program details:
www.chamberconcert.org.au or
see the noticeboard outside.

Come and hear the Academy Singers perform **Vivaldi's 'Gloria'**
Sunday 7 March at 3.00pm at St Hilda's Church Katoomba St, Katoomba.