



Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31b-34

Mk 9:2-10

Future Gazing

Some spiritual writers and psychologists tell us how important it is to live in the present. Still, many of our decisions are made with an eye toward the future. Life commitments are always future oriented. Each newborn child carries promises for the future. Because we are part of the emerging universe, we are always called into the future. Today's readings also carry implications for the future.

Isaac was not only Abraham's beloved son; he was Abraham's legacy and future dynasty. Isaac's death would have put an end to Abraham's memory in the future. Consequently, this was more than a test of obedience. Abraham was presented with a choice: Choose Isaac and all that the future might bring to your family and memory through him. Or, trust that the promise God made—that your descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky—would be fulfilled even if Isaac dies. God asked Abraham to place his future in God's hands.

Some scholars believe that the real meaning of Jesus' transfiguration lies in its effects on the disciples who witnessed it. In this experience they came to see Jesus in a significantly new way. They saw that he has somehow associated with Moses, an agent of the law, and Elijah, a great prophet. In other words, Jesus was somehow associated with the very core of Jewish religion. The disciples did not understand how, nor did they grasp what "rising from the dead meant." Still they placed their future in his hands.

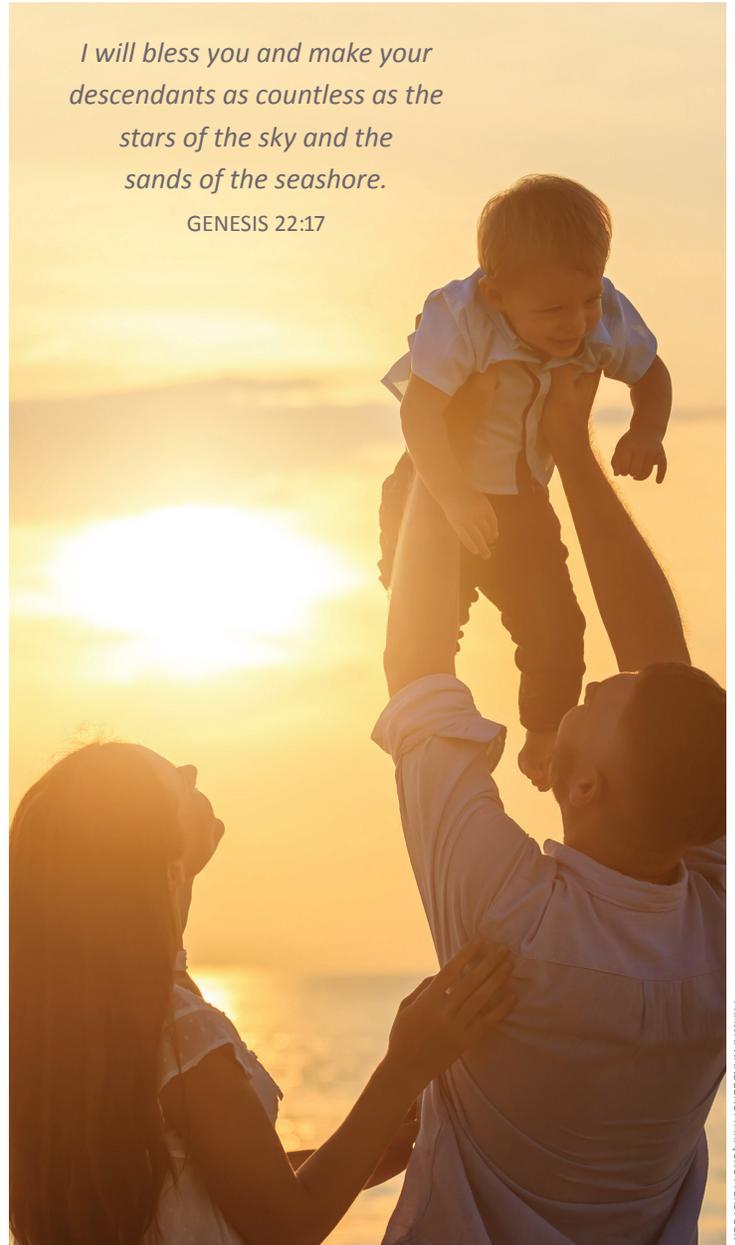
Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * Have you ever felt like your whole world has collapsed? How did you get through it?
- * True disciples must place their lives in God's hands. Pray for this grace.

I will bless you and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore.

GENESIS 22:17



PIYAWAT NANOENOPARIT/SHUTTERSTOCK



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Parish Administrator:	Karen Marsh	email: karenmarsh.bda@gmail.com	(c) 799-0842



Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:45pm, Sunday: 10:00am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

Vocations: Fr. Toby Collins www.vocationculture.ca



www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us

Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this Sunday. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

February 28th/29th – THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:45^{PM} The Parishioners of St. Michael's
10:00^{AM} Beverley Coitrone +

March 6th/7th – THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5:45^{PM} Veronica & Herman Tucker ++
10:00^{AM} Deolinda & Antonio Carvalho ++
Maria Ruggeiro & Vito Lovecchio ++
Christine DaCosta (Living)

February 28th/29th – THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

5:45^{PM} **Lector:** Willie Forbes
10:00^{AM} **Lector:** Emma Leitch
Counters: Karen Marsh

March 6th/7th – THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5:45^{PM} **Lector:** Joshua Blee
10:00^{AM} **Lector:** LaVerne Lau
Counters: The DeFrias

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at St. Theresa's - 7:30 Mon.—Fri. | St Anthony's - 8:00 Tues.—Fri.



STEWARDSHIP

The overall financial well-being of the parish is so important at this time.

COLLECTION TALLY: \$634.15

MONTHLY 2ND COLLECTION: \$379.85

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION are welcomed. Consider making it a quarterly, monthly or even weekly transactions.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and collection as your memo on your banking transaction.

"Please note, that we are charged \$20 for US\$ checks drawn on a US Bank."

ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions to support Parish Operations.

Thank you to those parishioners who have answered our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

Direct Deposit to Butterfield Bank (BNTB) to: "The Ordinary of the Roman Catholic Church, St. Michael's" Acct # 2000-6060-081824 -100

WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



We learn from Abraham to pray with faith, to dialogue, to argue, but always ready to receive the word of God and to put it into practice. We learn to talk with God as a child with his father: to listen to him, respond, argue, but transparent, as a child with his father.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, JUNE 3, 2020

The Bishop's Corner



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Fr. Pedro Opeka, who has been working in Madagascar for over thirty years, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. He founded "Akamasoa", the City of Friendship, trying to provide a better life for families who live in the capital's rubbish dump. The candidacy of the Catholic missionary was proposed by the Prime Minister of Slovenia.

Fr. Opeka is an Argentinian with Slovenian roots. He belongs to the Congregation of Vincentian Fathers. The City of Friendship, founded by him, was established in 1989, when he persuaded seventy families to leave a landfill and create a new village in an area donated by the authorities. This is how the seed of great work was created, in which today, in eighteen villages, over twenty five thousand people live and additionally thirteen thousand children have access to education, from kindergarten to university. Young people also have an opportunity for professional development.

Thanks to this, there is another generation of educated Malagasy adults, whose lives have improved significantly. All poor families receive housing and modest wages. They carry out various types of work, mainly in quarries from which granite is extracted.



"Akamasoa" also operates six clinics, three hospitals and four women's medical centers. It also has eighteen play grounds. Every year, thanks to the efforts of Fr. Opeka and his associates, half a million poor Malagasy receive help. The center serves over five million meals a year. The missionary is also committed to environmental protection. He supports afforestation of an island where seventy percent of the forest was destroyed, planting fifty thousand trees and other necessary plants every year with the assistance of young people.

When submitting a missionary to the Nobel Peace Prize, Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Janša emphasized that "Fr. Opeka, as nobody else, is making efforts to promote social development and humanitarianism, thus achieving the goals set by the United Nations". The Slovenian politician pointed out that the work initiated by Fr. Opeka had become a project of "concrete and global peace-building through a commitment to fight poverty, exclusion and injustice, in order to ensure a dignified life for the poor throughout the world." The prime minister also recalled the words that the former president of Madagascar, Hera Rajaonarimampianina, said in 2014, commenting on the missionary's sacrificial work. "Fr. Opeka is a living light of hope and faith in the fight against poverty." His work was also appreciated by Pope Francis, who visited the City of Friendship while in Madagascar. There he pleaded for the rights of the poorest of the poor and justice for them.

Have a Sunday of rest and a blessed week!

+ *Wes Spivak*
Bishop Wes

The Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Bishop Wes will be taping the Saturday evening Mass each week at the Cathedral and will post it for viewing on the websites below.

Please visit, www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Click on "BishopWes, CR - Gospel reflection"

FIRST READING Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am!" he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you."

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the Lord's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son.

Again the Lord's messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command."

RESPONSORAL PSALM***R. I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.***

I believed, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."
Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. **(R).**

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. **(R).**

My vows to the Lord I will pay in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R).**

SECOND READING Romans 8:31b-34

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? Christ Jesus it is who died—or, rather, was raised—who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!***

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**GOSPEL** Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them. Then Elijah appeared to them along with Moses, and they were conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He hardly knew what to say, they were so terrified. Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them.

As they were coming down from the mountain, he charged them not to relate what they had seen to anyone, except when the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what rising from the dead meant.

SECOND **LENT**
SUNDAY OF**THE BELOVED SON**

Today's first reading, known as "the Binding of Isaac," refers to the way Isaac is bound and laid upon the wood of the altar of sacrifice. God directs Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice, killing the beloved son that had been a special gift to him and Sarah in their old age. How could God ask Abraham to do such a thing? Abraham offers no resistance, but in preparing for the sacrifice, Abraham may have agreed with the psalmist that he was "greatly afflicted." Saint Paul's letter to the Romans refers to Jesus as God's beloved Son, which is also how God identifies Jesus to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration. Afterward, Jesus tells those disciples not to mention the event to anyone until after his resurrection from the dead. The event, together with Jesus' comments, leaves the disciples thoroughly confused.

HOW COULD GOD ASK ABRAHAM TO DO THAT?

Through the centuries, Christians and Jews alike have found the Binding of Isaac one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. Even though God intervenes to save Isaac, the whole episode strikes some readers as cruel. However, Abraham, the ultimate man of faith, raises no objection, offers no resistance as he simply goes about preparing for the trip and the sacrifice.

Today's other readings might help us see that text differently. In Mark's description of the Transfiguration, Jesus' clothes become white and shining, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. Moses was the great liberator and lawgiver who led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and into the wilderness, forming them into the people of Israel by giving them the Law he received from God. Elijah was among Israel's greatest prophets, so close to God that, at the end of his life, he was taken up into heaven by a fiery chariot. Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the ultimate authority for the Jews in the conduct of their daily lives.

LOVE AND GENEROSITY

The Law, the Prophets—and Jesus. For Paul, Jesus is someone quite different from the other two. The reading from his letter to the Romans is short, but rich in meaning. When Paul declares that God "did not spare his own Son," and when God praises Abraham "who did not withhold from me your own beloved son," it is the same Greek word for "spare" and "withhold." God's voice at the Transfiguration identifies Jesus as his "beloved Son"—the same way God refers to Isaac as Abraham's beloved son. Ultimately, God spares Isaac but not his own Son, whom he "handed over for us." Even if we are disturbed that God tested Abraham like this, Paul says we should be overwhelmingly grateful that God did for us what, in the end, he did not require of Abraham. Jesus, God's Son "handed over to us" in love and generosity, is already a sacrificial gift, signifying that God wants to give us "everything else along with him."

ST. THERESA'S CATHEDRAL:**Weekday Mass 7:30am****12:10pm Mass – Wednesday, Thursday & Friday**

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR PARISH

1. **EMMAUS JOURNEY (EJ)** is a Catholic evangelization and discipleship ministry that is conducted primarily in and through Catholic parishes. EJ has embraced Goal One of Go and Make Disciples, "To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others."



You are invited to St. Michael's Parish Hall from 7:30 - 8:30 pm on each Tuesday. We will be physically distanced. Please bring a mask, hand sanitisation and "track and trace" sign up sheets will be available. This particular bible study is based upon the upcoming Sunday readings. It is FREE OF CHARGE with all of the materials provided by Fr. Joe. Invite someone else, as you learn and grow together in your faith on an ongoing basis.

2. **ROSARY, ADORATION, BENEDICTION** - Saturdays after the 5:45 pm Mass starting at 7:00 pm in St. Michael's Church. We will be physical distancing, wearing mask, hand sanitizing and "track and trace" sign up sheets will be used, we will be finishing at 8:00 pm sharp. All are invited to attend as you enhance your ongoing personal spirituality.



This Weekend - February 27/28th

Anointing of the Sick and verbal Blessing of the Throats during the weekend Masses.

Each Friday starting - 7:00 pm

Modern Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Communion.

Each Tuesday, starting - 3:00 pm

"Agape Bible Study" is an in-depth series of multiple Bible studies available in the living tradition of the Catholic Church, accessing ancient and contemporary commentaries, with historical and archaeological information, referencing the Catechism of the Catholic Church and is faithful to the Magisterium. Please join us in the study of the Word of God written down in human terms so that we might understand God's plan for the salvation of humanity.

This is FREE OF CHARGE and all material will be provided at St. Michael's in Paget, for 60 to 90 minutes on Tuesday's.

If interested, speak to Fr. Joe at 705-0236 for the Tuesday Bible Study.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP - NEW OPENING HOURS: Effective this Tuesday, 2nd March, St. Theresa's Gift Shop will open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm until further notice. If business picks up they will add Thursdays, but will inform us accordingly. Easter cards have been ordered and hopefully they will receive them soon. The Gift shop also have "purse-size" Sunday missals for sale as well rosaries, statues, religious books, assorted cards, gifts, etc. **Thank you for your patronage!**

PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT (PIPA) In accordance with the 2016 PIPA Legislation which will be enforced in March 2021, the Diocese will have to implement policies and procedures in order to be compliant with the Act. The Parish Administrators, along with the Diocesan Centre and Chancery have recently participated in a PIPA/Cyber Security Webinar hosted by Deloitte. The purpose of this webinar was to help us understand the requirements of the Act and how we can best manage the personal information of our parishioners and improve the Privacy and Security of our internal systems. We are committed to staying informed and compliant in all aspects of the Act.



WE HAVE BEEN OPEN FOR A FEW MONTHS NOW AND OUR CHURCH IS FOLLOWING ALL THE BERMUDA GOVERNMENT HEALTH PROTOCOLS.

It is safe for everyone to attend Mass, come join us.

These are the Protocols we have in place

- * Physical Distancing Guidelines include, parishioners remaining six feet apart at all times, no handshakes, hugging or kissing (unless you are from the same household).
- * Sacristy Bathroom is for emergency use only. If you must use the bathroom facilities, please wash hands with soap and water for twenty seconds. Use paper towels for hand drying, to turn off faucets and open the door. Dispose the paper towel in trash can.
- * Wear face mask during the Mass. Government Health Protocols apply to all, even visitors to Bermuda.
- * Follow Entrance and Departure Procedures. Everyone is required to sign in on the 'tracking and tracing' sheet upon arrival. Hand sanitization and temperature taking are required upon entering the Church.
- * Father Joe will also follow Bermuda Government Protocols for hand-sanitizing prior to and after the distribution of communion. Parishioners must use automatic hand sanitizing units prior to receiving communion. They should also follow the standard procedures for approaching the altar, single file, physically distanced and pew by pew.
- * Please follow the Mass by using the screen in the Sanctuary. You can also follow the Mass on your personal mobile device. There are a few Sunday Living Liturgy Missalettes. Take one home and bring it each week for your own personal use.
- * Windows should remain open to allow for ventilation at this time.



Virtual Information Sessions for MSA

MSA will be hosting virtual information sessions for families who would like to know more MSA and its world-class Alberta Curriculum.

The information session will be held:

Wednesday, March 3 - for general admissions

To receive a sign up for either of these sessions, and to receive a Zoom link please RSVP to msaoffice@msa.bm or call 292-4134.



The Peace and Social Justice Ministry

of the Roman Catholic Church in Bermuda

Week 4 (Mar 2nd) - Black Lives Matter - What does this mean in our world and church today?

What does it mean to be an anti-racist?

Tuesday at 7:30-9:00pm - Join us on Zoom

Email: peaceandsocialjusticeorcc@logic.bm to request a zoom invite.