



# The Catholic Parish of Pittwater

Sacred Heart & Maria Regina. Neighbourhoods of Grace, entrusted to the care of the Salvatorians.

## The Cross

**The cross is the hope of Christians**

**the cross is the resurrection of the dead**

**the cross is the way of the lost**

**the cross is the saviour of the lost**

**the cross is the staff of the lame**

**the cross is the guide of the blind**

**the cross is the strength of the weak**

**the cross is the doctor of the sick**

**the cross is the aim of the priests**

**the cross is the hope of the hopeless**

**the cross is the freedom of the slaves**

**the cross is the power of the kings**

**the cross is the water of the seeds**

**the cross is the consolation of the bondsmen**

**the cross is the source of those who seek water**

**the cross is the cloth of the naked.**

**We thank you, Father, for the cross. Amen.**

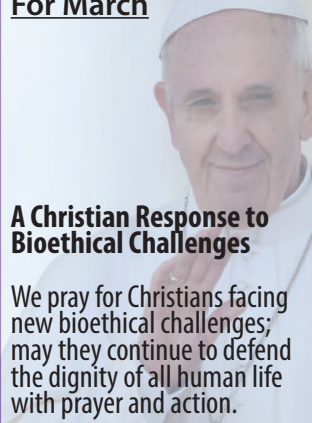


## Thoughts of Bl Francis Jordan

When you pray, put all your confidence in God. Do not trust in your labours, in your skill, in your learning. Our salvation comes from above.



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions For March



#### **A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges**

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Continue to practise good hygiene. *Please use the hand sanitisers provided in both of our Churches.*

**It is our responsibility to protect others and ourselves and stop the spread of COVID-19 in Australia.**

**If you have used this bulletin, please take it home with you.**

A warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors who are celebrating the Eucharist with us at Pittwater Parish - Sacred Heart Church and Maria Regina Church.



## PARISH DIRECTORY

**Pittwater Parish**  
1 Keenan Street Mona Vale NSW 2103  
Tel 9157 0999

[www.pittwaterparish.org](http://www.pittwaterparish.org)

**Parish Priest**  
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**Sacramental Program**  
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Tel 9157 0999 ext 13  
[sacraments@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:sacraments@pittwaterparish.org)

**Parish Office Hours**  
Monday to Thursday  
9.00am to 4.00pm  
Friday 9am to 12 noon

**Sacred Heart Church**  
1 Keenan Street Mona Vale

**Maria Regina Church**  
7 Central Road Avalon

**Mona Vale**  
**Sacred Heart School**  
Tel 81976900  
Principal: Mr Jamie Wahab

**Avalon**  
**Maria Regina School**  
Tel 9918 2608  
Principal: Miss Kirsty Thorpe

**Warriewood**  
**Mater Maria Catholic College**  
Tel 9997 7044  
Principal: Mr Marc Reicher

**Thank you to Laura for her dedicated service to our community for more than 14 years. Laura has decided to step down from her position as Media & Communications Director but will still be a parishioner in Pittwater Parish. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.**

We Pray for

the Souls of

**Souls in Purgatory**  
Josip Urem  
Pave Lucic  
Jozefa Stefania

**Recently Deceased**

Margaret Baker

If you would like the names of your relatives or friends and offerings included, please drop the envelope in to the Parish Office by Midday on Wednesdays. Thank You.

**Prayers for the Sick**

Beryl Peo-Duncan  
Michael Carroodus  
Pat Regan  
Garry Gleeson  
Annette Davis  
Andrew Hood  
Jeff Langley  
Warwick Chipman  
Erin Ocampo  
Mark Lindfield  
Vicky Kalingasan  
Bill Eyre  
Brian Gregan  
Marian Poe  
Marcia Bailey  
Bec Burroughs  
Susan Hickey  
Sophia Burfitt  
Margaret De Landre  
Maeva Robinson  
Jenny Carroll  
Matt Ukishima  
Pietrina Maiorana  
Susan Makabenta  
Dominic Ursino  
George Carpenter  
Diane Williams  
Denise Wagner  
Ron  
Susan Makabenta  
Sarah Wright

The names on this list will be removed after four weeks unless otherwise requested or advised. Thank you

**DATES for your DIARY**



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Every Friday in Lent after morning mass.

from Our Schools



**Mater Maria Catholic College**

Our Year 11 Drama students performed our Anti-Bullying Play, The Power of Some, in front of the whole school this week, in preparation for their annual tour to local Catholic primary schools to expose the issue of bullying to students in Years 4 - 6. This coincided with Friday's National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA).

Each year we hold a liturgy for each of our five houses and it was lovely for two of our Houses, Keenan and Therry, to attend these in our beautiful chapel this past week. We look forward to our other House students celebrating throughout the year.

We are pleased to welcome parents back on site and this week we held a Parent Engagement Evening for Year 11 students and their parents to give vital information and provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to network with each other.

Our Annual Swimming Carnival was cancelled this year due to bad weather and was instead replaced with a Competitors Swimming Carnival attended this week by 90 students. The carnival is an opportunity for our students to display their talent, experience school spirit and contribute to house points. Students also had the opportunity to be selected to represent the college at the BBSA swimming championship on Monday 21 March. Open Day will now be held on Thursday 31 March between 4pm to 7pm and we welcome all interested visitors to attend this event. There is no need to register. Please visit the College website [www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolment](http://www.matermaria.nsw.edu.au/enrolment) for a prospectus, Enrolment Application form or for more information. Please note that applications for Year 7, 2024 will close on Friday 8 April, 2022.

**Liturgy for the Week**

- 21/03 **Monday 3rd Week of Lent**  
2 Kg 5:1-15: Lk 4:24-30:
- 22/03 **Tuesday 3rd Week of Lent**  
Dan 3:25, 34-43: Mt 18:21-35:
- 23/03 **Wednesday 3rd Week of Lent**  
Deut 4:1, 5-9: Mt 5:17-19:
- 24/03 **Thursday 3rd Week of Lent**  
Jer 7:23-28: Lk 11:14-23:
- 25/03 **Friday The Annunciation of the Lord**  
Is 7:10-14, 8:10: Heb 10:4-10:  
Lk 1:26-38:
- 26/03 **Saturday 3rd Week of Lent**  
Hosea 5:15 - 6:6: Lk 18:9-14:

**OPEN DAY**  
Thurs 31st March 9am  
Enrolling now for 2023

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**GIVING**

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**Caritas Ukraine urgently needs your support**

Caritas Australia is currently raising funds to support communities impacted by the conflict in Ukraine. Visit: [caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/](http://caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/ukraine/) or call: 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support.

 **Caritas**  
AUSTRALIA

# The Announcement!



**What if Mary had said 'no'? Would the Archangel Gabriel have tried the maiden next door? Did God have a plan B for saving the world?**

I remember the excitement and nervous anticipation with which my husband and I went to tell our parents that we were going to get married, and two and a half years later that we were going to have our first baby.

Each time we were bursting to tell our good news, and more than a little nervous about their reaction. What wonderful and unforgettable moments they were!

***Making a joyful announcement to our stunned and happy loved ones is certainly one of the peak experiences of life.***

Imagine the moment in which the angel Gabriel approached Mary to make the greatest announcement ever made, "Rejoice highly favoured one... You will bear a son... the son of the Most High... His kingdom will have no end". The whole of creation, heaven and earth, must have held its breath in that moment. The Annunciation is one of the major feasts of the Church's liturgical year. It is then, nine months before Christmas, that we celebrate the Incarnation of Christ.

The Angelus prayer commemorates the moment that God entered human history in the beginnings of an embryo hidden in Mary's womb. The prayer has a history going back at least 700 years. It is traditionally prayed at 6am, midday, and 6pm and accompanied by the ringing of bells. Opportunities for relationship growth, even in the context of already close, communal relations".

## Plan B?

What if Mary had said 'no'? Would the Archangel Gabriel have tried the maiden next door? Did God have a plan B for saving the world?

Our salvation history could have turned out

differently. Mary wasn't programmed to say yes any more than a young woman who loves a young man is programmed to say yes to his marriage proposal. But God was confident of her love.

We didn't have a plan B when we married. We didn't know what challenges were around the corner – problems at work, disillusionment, an unexpected pregnancy! But we find that God provides the sufficient grace to get us through each difficulty.

Mary is 'full of grace' because God supplied the grace needed for her huge task. St Augustine wrote of Mary that, "He chose the mother he had created; he created the mother he had chosen". In great tenderness and in line with the plan God had already revealed to Abraham and the prophets, Mary was made the first person to be redeemed by Christ when she was conceived without sin. Thus she was uniquely suited to be the mother of Christ and has a special place in history.

Mary is our co-redemptrix; she participated in a unique way in the redeeming of all of humanity to full, loving relationship with God through Jesus' life, passion and death on the cross. Apart from Jesus, she is the human par excellence. She shows us the way to live a fully, most beautifully human, way of life. She is full of grace and glory because of what God did in her. Our marriages and families shine forth to the extent that we allow God to work in us. In Mary we see hope for ourselves, our families, our world.

## Saying 'Yes'

God created us for union with him. He invites us to share in his life of love. God puts before us every day in a million different ways the invitation to be in intimacy with him.

He speaks his delight in us in the birdsong that greets us each morning. He blesses us in both sunshine and life-giving rain. He calls us to grow in love and virtue through the exasperating needs of our children and the less pressing but real needs of our spouses and other family members, friends and work. It's hard work, so he offers to take most of the burden for us (Matthew 11: 28-30).

Yet we still resist his invitations. We persist in doing things our own way, according to our own agenda. We either say, "No thanks" or "Yes, but not just now".

Mary was in the midst of an ordinary day when God's Archangel broke in upon it with his invitation. But even on ordinary day she was lovingly attentive to God. Mary lived her life in an emphatic 'yes' to every invitation, small and great, which the Lord put before her.

Her fiat was a yes to God, but it was also a yes to us, her future spiritual children. For our sake she

assented to Joseph's hurt and confusion, to a sweet baby boy, to that same boy's glorious miracles, and later his hanging on the cross. She trusted that her story would have a good ending. Gratitude to Mary for her trust is most beautifully expressed by our own assent to God, in the big and little invitations he puts before us.

## Celebrating the Annunciation



Why not pray the Angelus as a Lenten observance this year, perhaps setting your mobile phone to chime at each day one or more of the three set hours? You might like to synchronise your Angelus prayer with a friend or family member.



Children can help to make an Annunciation candle, with a picture of the baby Jesus hidden inside, to be lit on the feast day and then again at Christmas.

A Google Images search will reveal a stunning array of Annunciation art. Or open an art book (your own or your library's) to an annunciation scene and keep it where you will see it during the day or in your family's prayer space if you have one.

Make an angel food cake and ice it with blue icing, the traditional colour for Mary.

## Marilyn Rodrigues

Marilyn is a writer and editor and you will find her work on CathFamily, in FRANKLY magazine and the The Catholic Weekly newspaper, and on her personal blog. She is also a contributor to the Catholic radio program The Journey. She and her husband Peter live with their five children in Sydney. I'm a wife to Peter and mother to five children. We live in suburban Sydney.

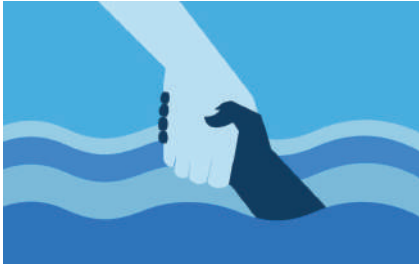
## Congratulations Brian Cranch 10 years as a Catechist.





# Vinnies

## Vinnies NSW calls for donations in support of emergency flood appeal



In response to the devastating floods impacting across NSW the St Vincent de Paul Society has launched an emergency flood appeal to assist residents with their immediate needs as well as longer-term recovery.

Donations to the Vinnies Flood Appeal can be made at [www.vinnies.org.au/nswfloodappeal](http://www.vinnies.org.au/nswfloodappeal), by calling 13 18 12, or at any Vinnies Shop.

**For the needy, help is available by contacting the Brookvale Centre 9905 0424 during business hours.**

### The Catholic Parish of Pittwater is looking for **Media & Communication Coordinator**

The primary purpose is to create, organise, plan and implement effective communication strategies between the Parish and the parishioners, as well as the greater community.

The ideal candidate should have excellent people skills, skilled in computer applications including Microsoft Office and Adobe Creative Suites. Have an ability to conceptualise and create engaging content for both the bulletin as well as social media, to promote projects and services.

You are able to work autonomously while remaining a team player, with a commitment to be accountable for performance, and an ability to work collaboratively across a wide spectrum of stakeholders, supported by a good understanding of and committed to Catholic values and teachings.

If this role interests you please email a brief cover letter and CV to: [pp@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:pp@pittwaterparish.org) or if you require more information, please email: [pp@pittwaterparish.org](mailto:pp@pittwaterparish.org)

**Applications close 25th March 2022**

The successful applicant must have the right to work in Australia and will be required to undertake a National Police History Check and Working With Children Check.

## Thank you Fr Pawel Szczur SDS

*Thank you for your faithful and loving service to Pittwater Parish. May Christ, in whose place you stand as a priest, give you continuing grace to teach, guide and sanctify His people.*

*Thank you for always making us smile and with surprises that magically appear and may you bring that love and care to your new appointment in Esperance.*

**Please join us for morning tea on 20 March after the 10am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, and on 27 March after the 9am Mass at Maria Regina Church.**

### Rite for Reconciliation of Several Penitents with Individual Confession and Absolution with Candidates for Full Communion with the Catholic Church



The liturgical season of Lent for those undergoing the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a period of 'Purification and Enlightenment.'

This year Bishop Anthony has decided to hold Penitential Services in each of the Deaneries of the Diocese to allow us to gather as a local Catholic community and seek the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, while also supporting the newest members of the Church as they receive the beautiful gift of absolution for the first time. During the Rite there will be communal prayers, Scripture readings, music, and personal Confession. All are invited to join Bishop Anthony and the priests of the Deaneries for these Penitential Services.

#### **NORTHERN BEACHES DEANERY**

**Date: Thursday 31 March**

**Time: 7pm - St Mary's Church, Manly**

or

**Our Parish, Rite of Reconciliation** will be on Thursday 7 April 2022 at Sacred Heart Church Mona Vale. Mass at 7pm followed by Exposition, Adoration, Reconciliation and Benediction.

**To read the messages from Bishop Anthony and from the people Vox Populi please go to [www.pittwaterparish.org](http://www.pittwaterparish.org). News and events tile and Messages from Bishop Anthony on the drop down menu.**



Janice 44, is a proud Wagilak woman, a traditional dancer, who tells stories through movements handed down over generations. With your support, Janice and the Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation support the community to generate income and employment, while keeping culture alive.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive. 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](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.**



### THURSDAY MORNING SPIRITUALITY GROUP

We have recommenced our study this year with a new book "The God Who Won't Let Go" by Peter van Breeman SJ. Inspired by his retreats in Bingen, Germany celebrating St Hildegard, van Breeman reminds us that in an age where everything seems temporary and continually changing, the love of God is permanent.

We meet after 10am mass (around 10:30) for morning tea, followed by study and contemplation until 12 noon. We read through the book in a very relaxed manner gaining new insights from each other. All are invited.

Contact Margaret Abrahams via the office on 9157 0999.



# God will help us bear fruit

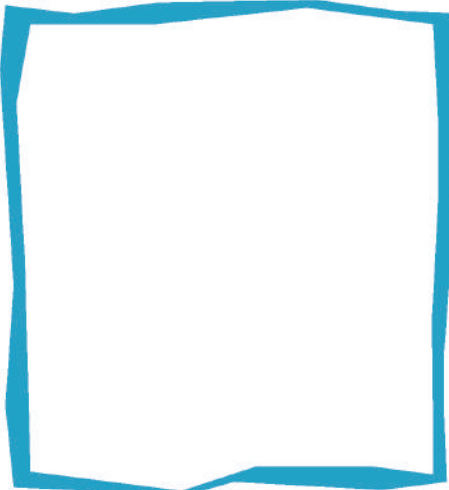


3rd Sunday of Lent, Year C

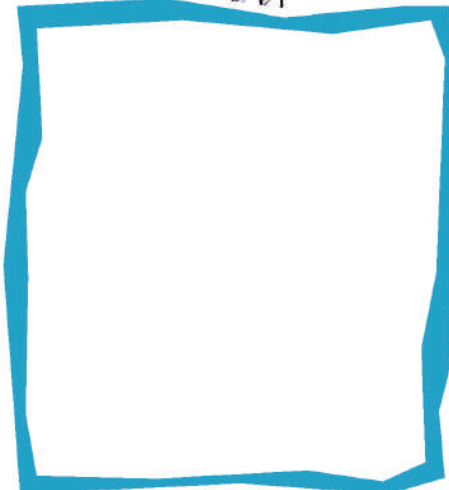
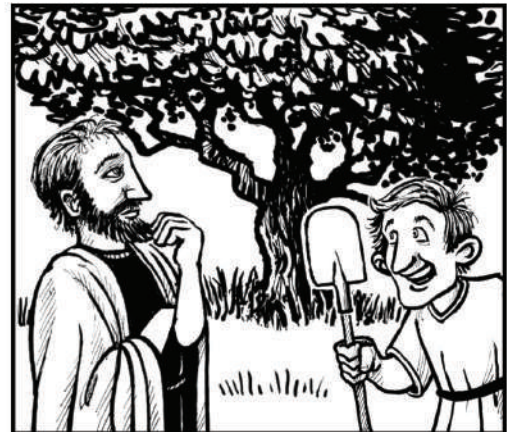
Jesus told his followers the story of a fig tree that would not bear fruit. The gardener said he would try hard for one more year to help it grow. God wants us to try hard so that we too can grow, and 'bear fruit'. What are four things you can do during Lent that help you be a better Christian and bring you closer to Jesus?



Jesus told parables to help his followers understand his teachings more clearly. Can you draw pictures from three different parables?



Can you spot the eight differences between these two pictures?



# The *Living* Word

## Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 24:15-16

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

## First Reading Ex 3:1-8, 13-15

### A reading from the book of Exodus

*This is what you must say to the children of Israel: I Am has sent me to you.*

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

## The word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4, 6-8, 11. R. v.8

### (R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R)

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and

compassion. (R)

The Lord does deeds of justice,  
gives judgement for all who are  
oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses  
and his deeds to Israel's sons.. (R)

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
For as the heavens are high above the  
earth  
so strong is his love for those who fear  
him. (R)

## Second Reading 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.*

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

## The word of the Lord

## Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;  
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Gospel Lk 13:1-9

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them?

Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"' "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

## The Gospel of the Lord

## Communion Antiphon Mt 17:5

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King  
and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

## Reflection

*One major theme emerges from today's readings: incomprehensibility of God.*

*We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives.*

*Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.*

*In the midst of this ambiguity we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.*

*These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.*

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