

**Today's gospel reading invites us to identify with Jesus as a person consumed by zeal for his Father's house.**

He could not bear the sight of his Father's house being turned into a market place, so he made a whip of ropes and drove the traders out. The sign he made to justify his action was a challenge: 'Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.'

This means that his mindset in the days just before the feast of the Passover was already focused on where hostility towards him was leading.

The events of these tragic days culminate, as Peter Steele writes, 'in the astounding breakthrough from death to indestructible life.' As Easter approaches, we need to respond to the redemptive interplay between the human and the divine in the life of Jesus and in our lives.

*-from Daily Prayer online*

### Historical Context

In Jewish tradition, the Temple marked the point of physical connection between God and humankind and between the past and the present. It was where God's story and humanity's story met. However, in the year 70 C.E. - some 40 years after Jesus - the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. The gospel of John is written another 20+ years later and so the reality of the Temple's destruction is still trying to be absorbed by the people. It was a very powerful image for the gospel writer to suggest that Jesus was the new Temple - the new point of connection.

*-from Liturgyhelp online*



### Sacred Heart Care Group

This is just a reminder that our Care Group is here to assist parishioners in times of need. Please contact our Care Group if you think we can help. Call Carmel Vanny 4787 8706 or Michelle Funnell 4757 2638.

Please remember in your prayers, those who are ill:  
**Iris Austin; John Duggan;  
Neal Evans; James Ford;  
Fr Frank Fletcher MSC;  
Virginia Hayward;  
Kenneth Kirkham;  
Loretta Laird; Ray Lee;  
Barry Leeder; Lorraine McKelvie; Irene Peacock;  
Lee Piercy and his mother,  
Kellie; Jean Pye and  
Cy Schreiber.**

**Blackheath Country Women's Association of NSW invite YOU to attend the Illawarra Machine Knitters'**

**~ Fashion Parade ~**

**Monday 19th March  
10.45am sharp  
Blackheath Uniting Church Hall  
Govett's Leap Road.  
Cost \$8.00**

Light lunch will be served following the parade.  
Cash or cheque only  
(no credit card facilities)

**RSVP by 13th March for catering purposes.**  
Please contact Pat Sherlock on 4787 5380.

Goods will be for sale on the day.  
Orders taken with a deposit.  
10% of sales on the day will be donated to Blackheath CWA for onward allocation to worthy causes.



### THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Your donation to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion helps create the just and compassionate world that God desires. Zimbabwe was once known as the 'breadbasket of Africa', yet enduring conflict and prolonged drought reversed this prosperity. This week we meet Colletta, once bed-ridden with life-threatening illnesses. Throughout Zimbabwe's crises, thanks to the strength of Caritas Australia's local church partnerships, your support continues building the resilience of vulnerable families by supplying seedlings, gardening equipment, rehabilitating boreholes and training volunteers to provide home-based care for seriously ill people. Colletta is now able to work to support her elderly mother and children. Please donate to Project Compassion today to allow such partnerships to continue and expand to others in need.



### O God, You Search Me

Composer: Bernadette Farrell

Used with permission,

Word of Life International Licence No. 2201E

O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down  
you are before me:  
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar  
and with love everlasting you besiege me:  
in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning  
through and through.  
You are with me  
beyond my understanding:  
God of my present,  
my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth  
I can escape you:  
Even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonders of who I am I praise you:  
Safe in your hands,  
all creation is made new.

### The Heart of Our Believing

Composer: Kevin Bates sm

Used with permission,

Word of Life International Licence No. 2201E

Our mountain air is breathing  
A spirit of its own,  
Like God's own breath creating  
The Dreaming of our home.  
We hold in trust the memories  
Of many thousand years,  
Of families who have blessed us  
Beyond our story here.

**God whose heart we know so well,  
Keep showing us your Dreaming!  
Your mercy be our faithful song  
The heart of our believing.**

Now gathered round this story  
Of Word made flesh on earth,  
We ponder on the mystery,  
And give the Word new birth.  
We stand before the table  
Where Jesus, Living Bread,  
Gives taste to God's own passion  
That hungry hearts be fed.

The joyful and the gentle,  
The wounded and the free,  
Can find a home among us  
All hearts will welcome be.  
So God of all our memory  
Refresh our hope today,  
When future dreams creating  
We breathe your Word always.