

We acknowledge and respect the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand, the elders, past and present and all the Dharawal people. May we too be good stewards of this land.

26 February 2023
First Sunday in Lent
Year A



Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me,
I will answer him; I will
deliver him and give him
glory, I will grant him
length of days.

First Reading

from the book of Genesis
2:7-9; 3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17.
R. see v.3

Response: Be merciful, O
Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading from the
letter of St Paul to the
Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ, king of endless glory!
No one lives on bread
alone, but on every word
that comes from the mouth
of God. Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ, king of
endless glory!

Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 4:1-11

Communion Antiphon

Lord, I have come to
believe that you are the
Christ, the Son of the living
God, who is coming into
this world.

Next Week

Second Sunday of Lent
Year A

First: Gen 12:1-4
Second: 2 Tim 1:8-10
Gospel: Matt 17:5

WEEKLY REFLECTIONS
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There are plenty of people who would agree with him, one of them is Oprah Winfrey. She said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and to change the world. Today's readings certainly suggest the value of learning.

The story from the Book of Genesis comes from pre-history. It has often been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman, yet this is not true. On the contrary, the readings tell us that the world is good. When humans try to overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows and the experience of beauty and harmony is threatened. We need to choose our teachers. Are we going to listen to God or the serpent?

In our modern world, the serpent takes many forms. There are many threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our natural environment. Likewise, today's story of the temptations in the wilderness from Matthew's Gospel shows us that some lessons are difficult. Jesus actually teaches the devil, telling the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus has to decide which voices he will follow, and has to learn that some ideas may not be as good as they sound. All the kingdoms of the world, Jesus learns, are no substitute for an honest and life-giving relationship with God.

Each week during Lent, Caritas Australia asks us to think about a special story. The story focuses on someone who has benefitted from your generosity through Project Compassion.



Laxmi, 16, lives in in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education.

Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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 caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

Worship: Mass and Devotions

Sunday Mass	Weekday Mass	Devotions
Saturday Vigil: 6pm	Mon, Tues, Wed Mass at 9am	Adoration with the Rosary: Saturday 9.30am
Sunday: 9.30 am & 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri & Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon		
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am

Contact us

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

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Parish Priest: Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Assistant Priest: Fr "Sam" Ransom Rapirap OCD

Parish Associate: Sr "Jill" Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick & homebound: Emmanuel Vella, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda & John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Phyllis Cooper, Sr Heather Burke, Marie & Barry Atkins, Carol & Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Joe Spinnato, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Francisco Carmona, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys.

May they experience the saving power of the risen Lord amidst their pain & affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Hugh Madden, June Wrightman, Sandra Bastoli, Marites Sitjar, Ron Allen.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Porfirio Perez, Paul Thompson, Anthony Selvaraj, Mary Gardner, Hilda Young, John Peter Francis,

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

05 March	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Myra, Paul & Lori	Allan & Anita	Geoff & Margaret
Altar Servers	Cody, Christian & Ralph	Orly, Louisa & Carlos	Stuart
Readers	Candice & Michael	Irene & Lee	Sheenalyn & Timothy
Refreshments	Estela & Margaret	Steve & Sarah	
CLOTW		Fev & Samantha	
Flowers	Patricia & Asinate	Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi family
Counters	Christne & Cira	Foyer Cleaning	Feiloakitohi family

Our Community

Parish Vision: LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER: Opportunities:

Develop a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter— A study group to satisfy your thirst! This group meets in the Parish Meeting Room on Thursdays at 10am till 12:30pm— newcomers are welcome each week. The topics to be covered this coming week are

The Great Triduum of Easter: Good Friday and The Great Vigil of Easter, Part 1.

The sessions are facilitated by Colleen Haughey and are based on video presentations by Fr John Baldwin. All are welcome.



Bulletin Notices

Lenten Reflection Groups Groups available are advertised on the parish website and church foyer or contact parish office or organisers Diane Redmayne 0403322098 or Donna Ransom 0413 429 557. The meetings go for 90 minutes and run for 6 weeks beginning 19th Feb. The booklets are available for sale at the piety stall or from the parish office at a cost of \$5 each.

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7pm in the Church.

Reading Ministry: Any recent or prospective members who have not attended the short initial training are invited to a brief meeting on Sunday 26 February from 3.30 to 4.30. The expectations for Reading Ministers will be highlighted. Anyone who cannot attend on this day please contact Colleen to organise an alternate time.

The Journey Weekly Podcast: In the Gospel reflection Fr Mark De Battista says we grow and mature in virtue by being put to the test. Mother Hilda says love is the antidote for all the negativity around us. Plus, we continue the Triumph Lenten series with Fr Sean Cullen and Fr Richard Green and their reflections on prayer. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au

A vocation view: Through the obedience of Christ comes acquittal from sin. Through our obedience to Christ, we can be a conduit of Grace to this world. (Romans 5:17-19) If you want to talk about your vocation, please contact the diocesan vocations director, Fr Duane Fernandez at vocations@dow.org.au

Mount Carmel Catholic College open day for Year 7 for 2024 will be held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 commencing at 6.30pm. Enrolment applications will be available for families on this evening.

Supporting Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse: The Diocese has scheduled a one day workshop for survivors of sexual abuse, their families and supporters on Saturday 18 March 2023 9:30am-3.00pm Visit dow.sh/samsn

Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat, 25-26 March 2023: An opportunity for single women aged 16-35 to come and listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and times of sharing to help you discern your vocation. Registrations: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com

Caritas Turkey are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes. Thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to our East Emergency Appeal.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend Learn to live your best life in love! Join us on 14-16 April 2023 at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW a stunning & tranquil oasis on the edge of Sydney. Book online at www.wwme.org.au or contact Christine & Terry Mahony on 0490 774 419 or Email: nswbookings@wwme.org.au



Mission: Change their lives ... and yours. Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents. Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand. Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 5333 or



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Laudato Si' and Ecology Weekend Retreat in our Diocese 3 – 5 March 2023 An Evolutionary Spirituality Retreat will be held from 3 - 5 March at the Guntawang Environmental Bushland Retreat at Oakdale. The cost is \$95 and includes basic bunk room accommodation or bring your own Van / Tent in this beautiful bush setting. The Seven Hills Parish Social Justice Group extends the invitation to anyone from the Diocese of Wollongong. The retreat will be facilitated by Br Frank Richardson and follows the theme "In the Holy Spirit the whole universe is linked together". There will be times of reflection, dialogue, and encounters within natural bushland. Enquiries and Applications to attend may be made to antiphon1@outlook.com / Phone enquiries: 0429 595 231

CIAN Webinar Holy Week and Mystagogy: Monday 13 March 2023 7pm – 8:15pm: Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN) presents the third in a series of webinars about running the RCIA process in your parish. Simon Yeak and Br Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud OFM will present on taking your Elect through Holy Week and the Easter Initiation Rites and Mystagogy. Register tinyurl.com/CIAN-Mar2023-webinar

Men's Rosary Group – an Invitation to all Men: Men from the Parish of Rosemeadow invite other men from around the Diocese to join with them on the last Tuesday of the Month to pray the Rosary, commencing at 7pm in Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Rosemeadow. Such men's groups are, at this time, springing up around the world to honour Our Lady and to pray for the Church and the World. Mass is celebrated at 6.30pm on Tuesday evening's and you are welcome to also attend this prior to the Rosary if you wish. For more information, please contact David at djbarrett85@gmail.com or phone: 0410 487 630.

Welcome to Sisterhood (Conference 17-19 March – Stanwell Tops) Sisterhood is a National Catholic Women's movement that seeks to support women from all walks and stages of life. It emerged from a growing group of Catholic women seeking more from their relationships with one another, their family and God. The vision of Sisterhood is to see women supported in their Catholic faith and encourages the valuable gift of female friendships, meaningful connection and community. Many women have expressed interest in joining the women's Sisterhood small groups operating across Australia and to gather through regional events and retreats, sisterhood mornings and the national conference next month. Sound like something you would enjoy? To find out more go to www.sisterhood.org.au

Holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.'

But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple.

'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour.

'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection by Pope Francis

Each year, the Gospel of the First Sunday of Lent sets before us the narrative of the temptation of Jesus, when the Holy Spirit, having descended upon him after his Baptism in the Jordan, prompts him to confront Satan openly in the desert for 40 days, before beginning his public ministry.

The tempter seeks to divert Jesus from the Father's plan, that is, from the way of sacrifice, of the love that offers itself in expiation, to make him take an easier path, one of success and power. The duel between Jesus and Satan takes place through strong quotations from Sacred Scripture. The devil, in fact, to divert Jesus from the way of the cross, sets before him false messianic hopes: economic well-being, indicated by the ability to turn stones into bread; a dramatic and miraculous style, with the idea of throwing himself down from the highest point of the Temple in Jerusalem and being saved by angels; and lastly, a shortcut to power and dominion, in exchange for an act of adoration to Satan. These are the three groups of temptations: and we, too, know them well!

Jesus decisively rejects all these temptations and reiterates his firm resolve to follow the path set by the Father, without any kind of compromise with sin or worldly logic. Note well how Jesus responds. He does not dialogue with Satan, as Eve had done in the earthly paradise. Jesus is well aware that there can be no dialogue with Satan, for he is cunning. That is why Jesus, instead of engaging in dialogue as Eve had, chooses to take refuge in the Word of God and responds with the power of this Word. Let us remember this: at the moment of temptation, of our temptations, there is no arguing with Satan, our defence must always be the Word of God! And this will save us. In his replies to Satan, the Lord, using the Word of God, reminds us above all that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"; and this gives us the strength, sustains us in the struggle against a worldly mind-set that would lower man to the level of his primitive needs, causing him to lose hunger for what is true, good and beautiful, the hunger for God and for his love. Furthermore, he recalls that "it is written, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God'", for the way of faith passes also through darkness and doubt, and is nourished by patience and persevering expectation. Lastly, Jesus recalls that "it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only you shall serve'"; i.e., we must rid ourselves of idols, of vain things, and build our lives on what is essential.

Jesus' words will then be borne out in his actions. His absolute fidelity to the Father's plan of love will lead him after about three years to the final reckoning with the "prince of this world", at the hour of his Passion and Cross, and Jesus will have his final victory, the victory of love! Dear brothers and sisters, the time of Lent is a propitious occasion for us all to make a journey of conversion, by sincerely allowing ourselves to be confronted with this passage of the Gospel. Let us renew the promises of our Baptism: let us renounce Satan and all his works and seductions — for he is a seducer — in order to follow the path of God and arrive at Easter in the joy of the Spirit.

