

18 February 2024
1st Sunday of Lent Year B



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 book of
Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

Response:

Your ways, O Lord, are love
and truth to those who keep
your covenant.

Second Reading from
the first letter of St Peter
3:18-22

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
Mark 1:12-15

Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread
alone, but by every word
that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

Second Sunday of Lent
year B

First: Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13.
15-18

Resp Ps: 115:10. 15-19. R.
114:9

Second: Romans 8:31-34
Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

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.

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS

Mark's Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn't beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark's Gospel doesn't wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us of the wise old person who doesn't use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can't be many books of so few pages that have had such a mighty impact on the world.

Today, a few lines tell us that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 'was tempted by Satan.' He was 'with the wild beasts', meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time.

How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. 'The time has come,' he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand.'

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Leaia from Samoa, Ronita from the Philippines and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think. Our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe.

Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today's Psalm: 'God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord's way to the poor.'



"I am determined to finish my senior high school so I can provide a better future for my children."

Ronita, Philippines



"We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier."

Leaia, Samoa



"In my community, most people think that only men can be carpenters, so I want to prove to my community that women can do it as well."

Memory, Malawi

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 and 5pm	Thursday - Mass at 7.30pm	Divine Mercy Devotion: Third Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass and Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday of even months at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Stations of the Cross; Friday 7pm during Lent
Maori Mass: First Sunday at 2pm		Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12

Contact us

Office Hours: **Tuesday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm**

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Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Una Champion, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Amanda and John Meredith, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and 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 and affliction.

For our recently dearly departed: Rodney Smith, Joseph Baldwin Lopez, Elena Del Rosario Bacani,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: MA Pereira, Anne & Jerry Migus, Francis Haldar,
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, may perpetual light shine upon them.



Our Community: Rosters

25 February	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene	Gabriel, Ofa & Volunteer	Beatrix & Stuart
Altar Servers	Ryan, Amana & Elijah	Orly, Luisa & Carlos	Robert
Readers	Richard & Tracey	Martin & Tina	Sheenaly & Leah
Refreshments	Suzanne & Myra	Volunteer x 3	Fev & Maree
CLOTW			
Flowers	Maria & Estela	Church Vacuuming	Loretta & Gerard
Counters	George & Volunteer	Foyer Cleaning	Mafi family

Our Community Notices: Upcoming Events

Music Ministry Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 February via zoom. A representative from each choir group is required to attend this meeting.

Youth Ministry is on fire for faith, friendship and specially for God! All 13-17 years old are invited to join every fortnight of the month. Come and join us for the official launch on Friday 23 February at 6:30 pm in the parish hall.

Parish Lenten Retreat Saturday 24 February from 8.30am—3pm
Registration fee by donation, includes Mass, morning tea, talk, lunch, reconciliation, adoration. Register at parish office

Holy Family Fellowship Prayer Group We gather at, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, on the Saturday 24 February after the Vigil Mass. We have a short time of Praise and Worship followed by a time of fellowship and sharing of a light meal.



Bulletin Notices

Childrens Ministry Gathering will be held on Sunday 25 February from 3—5pm. For children aged 3—12 years.

Book Club meets on Wednesday 21 February at 10am in the parish meeting room.

This year there is the possibility of a weekend meeting via zoom—possibly Sunday afternoon. Those who express an interest will be consulted to set a time and day. Please express your interest through the parish office by 21 February. More information is available on the parish website. This group is a faith sharing activity, not an academic exercise. There will be five books this year. The first book for this year is titled: **Jesus and the Natural World** by Denis Edwards, an Adelaide Diocesan priest, encourages Christians to wholeheartedly embrace ecological conversion and to connect with people around the globe in their deepening commitment to the survival of life on Earth. (Available from Garratt Publishing \$19.95).

Fundraising news: The parish fundraising team will be collecting “return and earn” bottles and cans this year. Please bring your bottles and cans that are recyclable for 10c to the parish and leave them in the signposted area for collection.

There will be a bunnings BBQ on Sunday 3 March at Gregory Hills. Volunteers and donations are gratefully accepted for this day. Each bunnings bbq raises approx \$1400 to help with our fundraising target.

Altar Server Training will be held on 4 Saturdays commencing 2 March at 4pm. For anyone wishing to become an Altar Server and for those already serving, it is a refresher, especially in preparation for the Easter liturgies. For more info call the parish office.

RCIA helpers needed: Appeal for parishioners willing to assist in supporting adults and children new to the Catholic faith in our parish. There are many small ways that you can make a difference. To have a conversation about this contact Diane Redmayne RCIA coordinator via the parish office or leave your contact details with Sr Jill.

Restore Palliative Care Funding In the last State budget, \$150 million was slashed from palliative care, having a direct effect on how people die in NSW. It flies in the face of guarantees made at the time of the passing of new laws for Euthanasia, ensuring that everyone in NSW would have true choice as to how they died. No one should be pushed into euthanasia because of funding issues. People of faith need to urgently stand up for the sanctity of human life by objecting to these cuts. Please urgently sign this petition and invite friends and family to do the same <https://bit.ly/restorethefunding>

Men around the Country invited to participate in a 33-day consecration to St Joseph; Men are invited to be part of a 33-day Consecration to St Joseph and to get to know St Joseph more deeply and as a model for men. The start of the Consecration, via Zoom, will be on Ash Wednesday being 14 February 2024. Please register HERE to receive all the information. If you are not able to join us on the Pilgrimage, just click Consecration only or any of the other options.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader – Catholic Diocese of Wollongong Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong. Applications close on Thursday, 29 February 2024. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/ or for enquiries contact helen.bennett@dow.org.au

The Chosen – A TV Series about Jesus – Season 4 starts this week The Chosen is a new ‘free to view’, series, now in its fourth season, that beautifully and creatively presents the life of Christ and his followers. The shows are of the highest quality and it continues to receiving acclaim around the world across denominations. Go to watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen to watch or get the free app for use on your phone / laptop via The Chosen app (download) or for your Smart TV. Watch it on your own, or better still with family and friends.

Touched by Abortion. Need Healing? Rachel's Vineyard next retreat 1 – 3 March 2024. Held at Mount Carmel Retreat Centre Varroville NSW. Cost is negotiable. Part /full scholarships available. To book or further information, phone 0400 092 555 or 0407 626 079. EMAIL: rachelsvineyardaus@gmail.com.

Carmelite Retreat 2 March: “Today I must come to your house” presented by Fr Bernard Hancock. With St Teresa as our guide and taking a journey into the gospels, we will see how God is always inviting us into life with Him. 10am—3pm; for booking contact 87953464. Cost \$30 (BYO lunch)

“Peace in difficult times” (Retreat in the style of Taize): 22-24 March; Our world seems to move at an ever-accelerating pace with increased suffering and challenges and amidst this, we may feel pain, overwhelm, and fear for ourselves and others. Join us for a weekend of prayer, connection and community, as we enter more fully into the embrace of god, who alone gives our hearts rest and peace. bookings@mtcarmel.com.au. Please complete the enquiry form on our website; mtcarmel.com.au

The Journey This week we begin our Lenten reflection series with Sr Katherine Stone MGL. This week Sr Katherine says Lent leads us into the wilderness to face the wild beasts of our life. Mother Hilda tells the story of Archbishop Thuc of Saigon and how he handled humiliation. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Darren McDowell, and Sr Mary Helen Hill. The Journey podcast available at www.jcr.org.au.

MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend Discernment Retreat Friday 1st March - Sunday 3rd March, Varroville A time for single women aged 16-35 to listen for the voice of Jesus, ask questions and experience prayer, talks, sisterhood and sharing to help discern your vocation: mgl sisters.sydney@gmail.com All the retreats info is also online at our new website: <https://www.mgl sisters.org/events/#carmel-house-retreats>

Emmaus Silent Retreat Friday 19th April - Sunday 21st April, Varroville: Embark on the sacred journey of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, where the victorious love of God is revealed through the abiding presence of Jesus.

Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



Reflection of Pope St John Paul II 9 March 2003

1. Last Wednesday, with the rite of the imposition of ashes, we entered Lent, a penitential journey of preparation for Easter, an occasion for all the baptized to renew the spirit of faith and to reinforce their commitment of evangelical consistency.

As today's Gospel suggests (Mk 1,12-15), during the 40 days of Lent, believers are called to follow Christ in the "desert" to confront and with him defeat the spirit of evil. This is an interior struggle, on which the concrete direction of life depends. In fact, it is from the human heart that evil designs and actions arise (cf. Mk 7,21). For this reason, it is only by purifying the conscience that the path to justice and peace can be prepared on the personal and social level.

2. In the present international context, there is a much stronger need to purify the conscience and convert the heart to true peace. In this regard, how much more eloquent is the image of Christ who exposes and overcomes the lies of Satan with the force of truth contained in the Word of God. In the inner heart of every person the voice of God and the insidious voice of the Evil One can be heard. The latter seeks to deceive the human person, seducing him with the prospect of false goods, to lead him away from the real good that consists precisely in fulfilling the divine will. But humble and confident prayer, reinforced by fasting, allows one to overcome even the harshest trials, and instils the necessary courage to combat evil with good. Thus Lent becomes a profitable time of spiritual training.

3. Dear Brothers and Sisters, let us invoke the Blessed Virgin Mary so that she may direct all of us to go forward with generosity on this demanding Lenten journey.