

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.

9th March 2025
First Sunday of Lent
Year C

First Sunday in Lent
In Year C

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 Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15 (R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Second Reading from the letter to the Romans 10:8-13

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 Luke 4:1-13

Communion Antiphon

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

16th March 2025
Second Sunday of Lent
Year C

First: Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Resp Ps: Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

Second: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Lenten Message from Our Bishop

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

During Lent, the Church invites us to a special time of prayer, fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving. Each action represents a particular invitation. Prayer is an invitation to a renewed relationship with God - to express our needs and the needs of those around us, trusting in God's goodness and love. The spiritual practice of fasting and abstinence, whether from food or some other goods, is an invitation to a renewed focus and a realisation of our dependence on God. Finally, almsgiving is an invitation to turn our attention from ourselves and towards the needs of others, "willing the good of the other" for their own sake.

In the first reading of Ash Wednesday, the prophet Joel reminds us that God desires us to come back to him with all our hearts. This is true for us too, especially as we enter our Lenten journey in this Year of Jubilee. Our Lenten observances are about the good they produce in us—turning back to God — and not simply their external effects. As the prophet says, "let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn". The Jewish practice of tearing their garments, or "keriah", symbolises mourning, an expression of grief, or religious observance. The symbolism of torn garments matters very little if it does not lead us to have broken hearts, causing us to "turn to the Lord [our] God again"

When we hear "broken hearts", we can think of the heartbreak of the ending of a relationship or the loss of a loved one, but broken heartedness before God is quite different. Consider the hard heart of the Pharaoh in Egypt, who remained unmoved even after the many signs of God—he could not see his error, nor would he turn to God. On the other hand, a broken heart symbolises the desire to turn towards God, a heart open to healing. As painful and humbling as it can be, this is our reason for Lent. In embracing broken heartedness — a posture of humility—our hearts can become open. Then, with a renewed spirit, we can meet Jesus in his triumph of Palm Sunday, pray with him in sorrow through his passion, and joyfully celebrate his victory over death on Easter Sunday. We become students of prayer, fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving with particular fervour in Lent, that we might find ourselves open-hearted in Holy Week and ready to receive the gift of the Easter Triduum, deeply conscious of our need for God.

In this Jubilee year, our Lenten journey takes on an extra significance as "Pilgrims of Hope". As I said in our diocesan Lenten program, Metanoia, "Christian hope, the Holy Father reminds us has enduring power that 'does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God's love'. In this confidence, we walk with trust, even amid the uncertainties of life and press towards the promise given to us—eternal life in and with Christ ... this is hope!" As strange as it may seem, as people of faith, Lent is a time of hope because we trust that the work God desires to accomplish in us, God will see through to completion.

My dear sisters and brothers, Lent is not for us a punishment, but an invitation to see the fruit of our hope in God! I hope and pray that this may be a time of healing and renewal for you, and may we all rediscover the depth of God's love and the hope that does not disappoint.

With every blessing,

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: 3rd Sunday at 3pm
Filipino Mass: Third Sunday at 11.15am	Fri and Sat Mass at 9am	Alliance of the 2 Hearts Mass & Devotion: First Friday of each month from 7.30pm
Samoan Mass: First Sunday at 12 noon	Healing Mass on the first Saturday of each month at 9am	Reconciliation: Saturday 11 am—12



Contact us

Parish Priest:
Fr. Shane Kelleher OCD

Parish Associate:
Sr “Jill” Girlie Sudario, CM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 9.30am-12.30pm
Phone: 9603 7373 / 0434 705 176
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Prayer intentions

For the sick and homebound: Reg Bucknell, Mary Ponnappalam, Peter Presdee, Myka Mangos, Kevin Cloran, Karen Browne, Reg Gardner, Sr Heather Burke, Marie and Barry Atkins, Carol and Gabriel Gonzales, Amelia Jimenez, Susan Mella, Sean Finnerty, Rose Levoune, Doris Wahhib, John Kajdrys, Pat Stewart.

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

For our recently dearly departed: Christophur Pereira, Effin D’Cruz, Mabel Artuz.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Young, Ivan Astolosh, Mrs. Rodriguez, Lio Feiloakitohi, Baldwin Lopez

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



Our Community: Rosters

16 March 2025	Saturday 6pm	Sunday 9.30am	Sunday 5pm
Welcomers	Glen & Arlene C	Sarah L, Jeanne H & Jessica M	Patricia W & Maranne M
Altar Servers	Berna, Christian, Elijah, Austin	Orly	Robert & Nathan
Readers	Suzanne M & Margaret Mcd	Gabriel M & Irene R	Madonna & Tim S
Refreshments			
Altar Linen	Berna P	CLOTW:	
Flowers		Church Vacuuming	Feiloakitohi Family
Counters	Ruby, Cynthia, Bing	Foyer	

Meetings and Gatherings

Readers Ministry Meeting meets on the last Tuesday of every 2 months at 7.30pm via zoom.

Holy Family Fellowship meets on the 4th Saturday at 7pm.

Book Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 10am.

Children’s Mass is on the 5th Sunday of the month, 30 March at 9.30am

Friendship Group is on the 1st Tuesday of the Month

Wrap with Love Knitting group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 11am

Faith Circles meets every Monday via zoom at 2pm & 7.30pm.

Bible Reflection group meets every Monday at 10am.

Children’s Choir will meet on 3rd Friday at 6pm.

Children’s Ministry Gathering will meet on the 4th Sunday from 3– 5 pm

Young Adults Group will meet at 6pm every Sunday after 5pm Mass

Parish & Community Notices

Restoration of Church Benches: We are looking for more volunteers to help with the restoration of the Benches in the Church. Steve Locke and his team are doing a great job but really need your help. If you have a couple hours after the Weekday Masses please come along.

Lenten Books: Lenten books are still available at \$5 each from the Parish Office.

Lenten Groups: There will be 5 Lenten Groups you can join this year. Please contact the Parish Office or Parish Mobile for further information.

OLMC Companions: is the new name for the Called & Gifted Group and they are inviting everyone to meet in the Hall 22 Mar 25 between 10am to 1pm. We will start with morning tea, prayer and 2 reflection sessions. We hope we can help appreciate our own gifts and the gifts of with whom we work. Over this year we will consider pastoral care and ways we can work together. Please indicate you will be able to attend by contacting the Parish Office.

Bingo Night: Everyone is invited to Bingo Night in the Church Hall. A Parish Fundraising Event. It all kicks off @ 7pm after 6pm Mass. Join us for an exciting night of Bingo with family and friends. Fantastic prizes, laughter and a whole lot of fun awaitings you. Grab your lucky charms and reserve your spot now. Entry Fee \$20 per person (sausage sizzle, drink, cake and tea/coffee included) (game cards sold on the night)

Project Compassion: This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. **Please donate today.** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes at the Church door., **Or online at:** caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413
Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

Carmelite Lent Offering: Do you like the sound of gathering with other people online during Lent to read together in sacred silence? You might be interested in the Carmelite Spirit Online Silent Lent Book Club. To find out more and to register, visit www.carmelite.com/retreats

MGL Sisters Consecrated Life Weekend: Discernment Retreat Friday 14th March - Sunday 16th March *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. More info and RSVP: mqlsisters.sydney@gmail.com/0402 602 520*

Marriage Enrichment Weekend

We are offering an opportunity for you to learn to become the best version of yourselves together and live your best life in love! Come and join us on 23-25 May 2025 at a Marriage Encounter Weekend in a Covid safe environment 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 nswbookings@wwme.org.au

The Journey, – Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast

The Journey is the weekly podcast for parishioners in the Diocese of Wollongong. Each week it brings you great music, formation in faith, with an array of fantastic presenters from our Diocese and around Australia. Just go to www.jcr.org.au and we will send it to you each week.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage: commences Monday 1 September 2025—Accompanied by Fr Patrick Vaughan Queen of Peace – Medjugorje Pilgrimage A tiny Croatian village, six children and the faith of millions from all over the world have shed new light on what it means to be a true pilgrim on life's journey. In this hallowed place of Medjugorje, this valley of miracles, the Mother of God beckons us forward. For full details, itinerary and bookings, Visit: harvestjourneys.com/medjugorje

An invitation to join electronic parish planned giving from your Parish Finance Council An electronic regular gift provides many benefits. You will find it a secure, convenient and efficient way to regularly support your parish, while also reducing our administration costs. It will also help us to confidently forecast and plan, as we know that we can rely on your support. You can increase, decrease, discontinue or restart your monthly gift at any time. Please visit <https://www.dow.org.au/giving2/parishgiving/> to learn of the four simple ways you can support our parish electronically.

Get Connected with what is on around the Diocese Every week, there are many great opportunities to be part of special events, courses, free resources and to nurture and encourage you and your family in your faith. Stay informed by subscribing at dow.sh/stayingconnected or visit dow.sh/weekly bulletin to see a full list of notices sent to Parishes.

Holy Gospel according to Luke 4: 1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.' Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Commentary by Greg Sunter

The wilderness, or desert, is used repeatedly throughout the Bible as a place of special encounter with God and preparation for a new direction or a new ministry. The 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness immediately followed his baptism in the Jordan where his status as the beloved of God was confirmed. He is led by the Spirit to go out into the wilderness for a period of fasting, prayer and preparation before entering into his public ministry. In fact, the event that immediately follows this passage is the episode in Nazareth where Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah and declares the intent of his ministry. It is presented as if, having spent his time in preparation and overcoming the temptations before him, Jesus strode out of the wilderness and laid out what he had decided.

The episode of the temptations is a clear indicator of the humanity of Jesus – he experienced doubt, uncertainty and fear just as we do. If the gospel intended to emphasise the divinity of Jesus, none of these temptations would have been an issue. We are told that Jesus was indeed tempted, not just pestered by the devil. The opportunities laid before Jesus were actually tempting to him. They challenged his resolve. They made Jesus question the sort of Messiah that he was to be: the all-conquering, powerful Messiah that the people expected; or the servant to the poor who will be tortured and put to death. Jesus is tempted to use his power to make his task easier or to display his authority to others. Had he chosen to do this, surely it would have been easier to get people's attention – and that was the temptation: to take the easier path or stick to the more subtle, more personal, more difficult path.

