

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.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH (Nicene Creed)
I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and
invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only
Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made. For us men and for
our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the
Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and be-
came man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose
again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no
end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who
with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one,
holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Bap-
tism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the
resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread
and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to
each prayer:*

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that
my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to
God, the almighty Father.
**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at
your hands for the praise and glory of his
name, for our good and the good of all
his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
P. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we
pray, to make these offerings, for with them
we celebrate the beginning of this venerable
and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
After the Preface, we sing or say:
**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
P. The mystery of faith.
**All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by
divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .
**All: For the kingdom, the power and the
glory are yours now and for ever.**
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .
R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD
**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who
takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are
those called to the supper of the Lamb.
**R. Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 4:4
**One does not live by bread alone, but
by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by
which faith is nourished, hope increased, and
charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that
we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true
and living Bread, and strive to live by every
word which proceeds from your mouth.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS
As is traditional on the First Sunday of
Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus’
temptation, an appropriate theme as we
begin our own journey in Lent and begin
to explore our own seductive temptations.
We are all prone to these, and Matthew
presents us with a Jesus similarly tested:
an egoism exclusive of others especially
God, the attraction to power and the
seduction of wealth. These temptations
are crafted in Old Testament terminology
and imagery, particularly present in the
Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that
Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today’s story, Satan enters the scene,
originally a member of the heavenly court
(see Job) but, by the time of Matthew,
God’s adversary who tests the intention
and fidelity of those who belong to God.
Jesus is his target in three temptations.
The first is about food and the temptation
to break covenantal fidelity to God due
to hunger. The second seeks to question
Jesus’ conviction of God’s care of him.
From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is
told to throw himself from it, and test
God’s protection of him. In the third, with
a vision of all the earth’s kingdoms and
seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to
change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew’s point is quite clear writing
to a Jewish audience most familiar
with Israel’s desert failures: Jesus is an
authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite
people, knows and experiences their
temptations, but resists the seduction of
egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to
God and his covenantal relationship. In
this first week of Lent, today’s Gospel
invites us to reflect on those self-centred
seductions that may compromise our true
relationship to God.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

A TIME OF PREPARATION. The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness can be likened to the season of Lent. Jesus’ time in the wilderness was a time of preparation for his ministry, a time in which he confronted the temptation to choose self and not the Father. For us Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter. It is a time in which we are invited to examine whether the will of God is central to our lives.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 90:15-16
**When he calls on me, I will answer him; I
will deliver him and give him glory, I will
grant him length of days.**

GREETING
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT
P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us
acknowledge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
**All: I confess to almighty God and to
you, my brothers and sisters, that I have
greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in
my words, in what I have done and in
what I have failed to do, (striking the
breast) through my fault, through my
fault, through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints, and you, my
brothers and sisters, to pray for me to
the Lord our God.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on
us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life.
R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT
P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly
observances of holy Lent, that we may grow
in understanding of the riches hidden in
Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their
effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and
ever.
R. Amen.



4. Give me again the joy of your help; / with
a spirit of fervour sustain me. / O Lord, open
my lips / and my mouth shall declare your
praise. **R.**

SECOND READING Rom 5:12, 17-19.
**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans**
*Where sin increased, there grace abounded all
the more.*

Sin entered the world through one man, and
through sin death, and thus death has spread
through the whole human race because
everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over
everyone as the consequence of one man’s
fall, it is even more certain that one man,
Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in
life who receives the free gift that he does
not deserve, of being made righteous. Again,
as one man’s fall brought condemnation on
everyone, so the good act of one man brings
everyone life and makes them justified. As
by one man’s disobedience many were made
sinners, so by one man’s obedience many will
be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.
Longer form 5:12-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:4
**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!**

GOSPEL Mt 4:1-11
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according
to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

ST MARY’S PARISH, DANDENONG

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Sebastian Arockia **ASSISTANT PRIEST:** Fr. Vincent Nguyen
Parish Website: <https://melbcatholic.org/s/dandenong> **Facebook:** St Mary’s Parish Dandenong
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PARISH SECRETARY: Franca Van Boxtel **FINANCE OFFICER:** Deslene de Niese
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PARISH COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGER: Mr. Miguel Matamala
St. Mary’s Community Centre Tel: 7064 3928 or 0402 155 192

St. Mary’s Primary School Phone: 9791 7650, New St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Terry Gardiner
St. John’s Regional College Phone: 8793 2000 Caroline St, Dandenong. **Principal:** Timothy Hogan

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 9.15am
Saturday Evening: 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.30am, 10.30am and 5.30pm

WEEK DAY MASS TIMES

Monday to Friday: 9.15am
Friday (9.45am –12.30pm Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, concluding with Benediction at 12.30pm)

ANNOINTING MASS

Last Friday of every month 9.15 am

DAILY ROSARY

After morning Mass Mon-Sat (Fridays will be before Mass)

RECONCILIATION

Saturday after 9.15am Mass and 5pm to 5.45pm before 6pm Mass or upon request

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE OR HOUSE BLESSING

Please contact the Parish Centre on 9791 4611

COMMUNION AND ANOINTING OF SICK

Please inform the Parish Office on 9791-4611 if a sick person is seriously ill, homebound or hospitalised and wants to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Anointing.

REGULAR GROUP MEETING ST MARY’S PARISH

LEGION OF MARY:

Saturday mornings after 9:15am mass in the Fellowship Room followed by Rosary

SPANISH PRAYER GROUP :

Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the church

ST MARY’S FRIENDSHIP CLUB:

3rd Wednesday of month lunch meet at Dandenong RSL.12pm

BINGO AT ST MARY’S

St. Mary’s Bingo is on Tuesdays at 12noon & Saturdays at 6.30pm in St Mary’s Community Centre, New St, Dandenong

Dear Parishioners,

Our beloved statue of Our Lady has been taken away for necessary repairs. We have been advised that she should be returned to the grotto within the next two weeks.

We understand that her absence may be felt deeply by many, as the grotto is a special place of prayer and comfort in our parish. Please be assured that every effort is being made to restore the statue with great care. Unfortunately, the extent of the damage has meant that the work is taking a little longer than first anticipated.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued devotion during this time. May Our Lady continue to watch over and intercede for us all.



Every Wednesday & Friday during Lent 6pm to 6.50pm Holy Hour and Confessions.
7pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass.

PROJECT COMPASSION—CARITAS

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 who said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and, yes, 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. 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 countless 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 teaches the devil. He tells the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus must decide which voices he will follow. He must 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 the world and learn more about our role in building God’s kingdom. Today we start with an introduction to Project Compassion, which allows us to appreciate how much the Catholic community, has been able to achieve across the decades for the most marginalised people of the world. We are all still learning. Pope Leo XIV has reminded us that the vulnerable are great teachers.

In Dilexi Te he writes:
Christians must not abandon almsgiving... It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts... for our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Recently Deceased:

Anniversaries: Reg Canning, Kimberley Tirant, William Sore, Geraldine Rafferty, Regina Puvi, Pedro Calda & John Cetera

Sick: Kulandhai Therese, Rosa Maria Santos, Long Phan, Ush Henry Bangkal, Leti Luki, Kathleen Nelson, Jim Lynch, Bernardo, Ray Gilligan, Frank Pezzaro, Janet Augustine, Bridget Phyland, Solofuti, Samantha Vasanthy, Kevin, Maria Perez, Angela Anthony, Ray Simmons, Frank Camara, Rita Breen, Tasileta Lolesio, Jim, Lucia Germano, Imelda Quatrebornes, Sandra Wills, Maddie, Herve, Asis Zullah, Nacera Burekovic, Charlie Mastrogiovanni, Carla Lunardi, Russell D’Costa, Satty Lee, Ping Lo, Keith Reynolds, Robyn, Fr Brendan Lane, Anne Richards, Gervais Tourmentin, Ashleigh Wills, Anthony Morri, Lyma Payne, Eva Salvacion Satuito, Fr Michael Willemsen, Vreni Bien, Rosario Giaquinta, Joanna Van Der Ven (The privacy legislation requires us to have written permission by an authorised person before any name can be printed)in the Marian. (IF THERE ARE ANY NAMES THAT NEED TO COME OFF THE SICK LIST PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE)

DANDENONG DEANERY COUNCIL LISTENING TO THE VOICES THAT ECHO

Peace and Mercy
DATE: Wed 4th March 2026
VENUE: St John’s Regional College, Graduate’s Restaurant
Caroline Street, Dandenong
New start time: 5.30pm for a 5,45pm start.
COST: \$48 3 course meal Wine & Beer.
Guest Speaker: Peter Bellion APM
RSVP: by Friday 27th Feb
Paddy 0422 296 961 or
email: Dandenongdeanery@live.com.au

MARY MAGDALENE – THE MUSICAL

An uplifting Lenten production retelling the journey of Mary Magdalene through music and story. Presented by **COG Theatre Group** and directed by **Beth Mondragon Williams**, this moving work reflects on redemption, grace, and hope.

When: Fri & Sat 13–14 March, 7:00 pm Sat & Sun 14–15 March, 1:00 pm

Where: [Renaissance Theatre, High Street, Kew](#)
Tickets: trybooking.com/DHZPD

Lenten Retreat - A 2-day Retreat for Children and Teens (ages 5 - 15)

Date and Time: March 14 and 15, 2026 Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Venue: St Agatha's Church, Cranbourne VIC

For parents who wish to enrol their children to the retreat can visit our website www.divinekids.com.au

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Saturday 14th March - Parish Lenten Retreat
Saturday 21st March - Bacchus Marsh (ta pinu shrine)
(Stations of the Cross and Mass)BYO Lunch
Saturday 28th March - Walking Pilgrimage to Divine Mercy

28th Feb-1st March —Rosters

6pm	—	Readers: Susan Rodrigues & Shiyan Dias	Eucharistic Ministers: Bibiana, Ruth & Margaret
8:30am	—	Readers: Joseph Pegu & Greta Pereira	Eucharistic Ministers: Carmel, Rebecca & Tim
10:30am	—	Readers: Raul Spink & Elizabeth Lam Sam	Eucharistic Ministers: Ofelia, Stefania & Suzie
5:30pm	—	Readers: Sharmini Perera & Neville Thomas	Eucharistic Ministers: Emma, Graham & Wilma

Contributions toward altar flowers are welcome. Envelopes are available in the church foyer and may be returned to the office or placed in the collection basket during Mass.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Thanksgiving: \$1583.60 **Presbytery** \$502.50 **Loose:** \$1295.00
Support our Parish If you would like to make direct payments to our bank accounts, the details are:
St Mary’s General Account: (Thanksgiving & Donations) NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 483196852

For contributions to support our priests and the Archdiocese:
Presbytery Account: NAB BSB: 083 347 ACC. No. 460761193

St. Mary’s Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adult