



SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 2026.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A

Reflection on the Gospel - Matthew 4:1-11

Lent is a time to enter into the “wilderness” and grapple with the mysteries of life “in Christ”. It is also a time of preparation for Easter. It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones.

Today’s liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many humans before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the Greek than is “tempted”].

Forty is a significant number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to Horeb, the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number suggesting a long period of time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness.

In Israel’s story, the wilderness is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart.” (Deuteronomy 8:2).

In Matthew’s account, the “devil” is the “tester” or “tempter”, the instrument of God’s testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus’ relationship to God: “If you are the son of God....”

The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or of self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God’s empire or the empire “of the heavens” rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed “of God”.

This testing in the wilderness foreshadows later events in the Gospel such as Peter’s attempt at Caesarea Philippi to deflect Jesus from his mission and the bystanders’ challenge in 27:40 to prove he is “son of God” by coming down from the cross.

Most people of faith would agree that being son or daughter “of God” right now has more than a little to do with the way we relate to all of Earth’s human and other-than-human inhabitants, the value we ascribe to Earth’s precious resources, and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of those resources.

Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or of greed or status or entitlement so that, like Jesus, we may truly be “of God”.

By Sr. Veronica Lawson, RSM

HAPPY NEW YEAR
Chúc Mừng Năm Mới
Wishing all a very happy
Lunar New Year.

BAPTISMS

We pray for and welcome this weekend through the Sacrament of Baptism – **Bettina Lanciana, Estelle Jane, Theodore Harvey, Emily Sutherland and Arianna Dennis**. May they, their parents and Godparents be filled with the Holy Spirit.

DEATHS & ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for **Rachel Matthew and Kathy Fiest** who died recently and for **Lina Polzella and Kay Cole** whose anniversaries occur at this time.
May they rest in peace.

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord. (R.) Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R.)**

3. A pure heart create for me,
O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

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: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. 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.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 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: Matthew 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
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

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,
(All bow)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary, and became 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 Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Antiphon: Matthew 4:4

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

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM **FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN**

First Reconciliation 19 March 2026

First Eucharist 23/24 & 30/31 May 2026

Confirmation 9 August 2026

Parents of children not attending our Parish
Primary School who desire their children to receive
the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist or
Confirmation, please contact Fr. Werner or the
Parish Office or email yarraville@cam.org.au

"TAP AND GO": CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

Contactless donation terminals are in the foyers of our
three churches. Please follow the prompts and choose
your nominated amount to donate.

LENTEN REFLECTION EVENINGS

Thursdays in Lent

You are invited to be part of a weekly Lenten reflection
on **Thursday evenings at the Presbytery at St.
Augustine's - 7pm start for about an hour.**

Includes an excerpt from the next Sunday's Gospel, a
short reflection and questions to prompt deeper
thought. The program is designed to bring people
together in prayer and conversation.

PROJECT COMPASSION:

You can take a **box or envelopes**, call: 1800 024 413 or
donate online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion
or scan the QR code on the envelope. There is a single
donation envelope but you can use several envelopes.
Your generosity will enable Caritas Australia to provide
life-changing support to vulnerable communities.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

5.30pm Tuesdays St. Augustine's, prior to 6pm Mass

6.00pm Fridays Corpus Christi, in Vietnamese

Take the Way of the Gospel:

A framework and process for renewal.

In the coming weeks we'll provide you with some
further information about the 3 foundations for
Parish renewal: **Vibrant, Vital, Viable.**

Vibrant Parishes are life-giving communities that
foster holiness and discipleship among their
members, joyfully desiring to share the gift of faith in
Jesus Christ with those they encounter.
Understanding each person is uniquely called and
gifted, vibrant parishes help form and equip them to
live that call. They know people are searching for
a deeper spiritual connection in their lives, where
their hopes, joys and anxieties can be expressed, and
they embrace new opportunities for service.

In the Acts of the Apostles we hear that life in the
earliest Christian communities was characterised by
worship, evangelisation, fellowship, formation and
service. These are the foundational characteristics for
Vibrant Parishes today. With worship at the heart of
the community there is a continual flow from and
back to this centre in prayer and nourishing worship.
Evangelisation calls us to share the Good News of
Jesus with others and to serve the wider community
through outreach and social justice programs.

Fellowship builds our Parish community and
welcomes new people. Formation supports our
community to continually grow in faith and
discipleship.

PARISH PRIEST:

Rev. Fr. Werner Utri

PARISH SECRETARY: Emilia Balkan**PHONE:** 0401 158 113;

(03) 9314 7710

EMAIL: yarraville@cam.org.au**ST. AUGUSTINE'S OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays

9.30am till 2.30pm

PARISH WEBSITE:www.melbcatholic.org/yarraville**SAFEGUARDING:** Pat Mc Laughlinpatmac766@gmail.com**PARISH CHURCHES****ST AUGUSTINE'S**

71 Somerville Road Yarraville

CORPUS CHRISTI

376 Geelong Road, Kingsville

ANNUNCIATION

4 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn

PARISH NEWSLETTER:

To receive an Email copy of our newsletter, scan the QR code.

LITURGY TIMES**TUESDAY MASS**

St Augustine's....6.00 pm

Exposition: 5.30 –6.00pm

WEDNESDAY MASS

Corpus Christi.....9.15 am

THURSDAY MASS

St Augustine's...9.15 am

FRIDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.15 am

SATURDAY MASS

Corpus Christi....9.30 am

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

St Augustine's...5.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

Annunciation.....8.00 am

St Augustine's....9.30 am

Corpus Christi..11.00 am

St Augustine's..11.30 am

(Polish)

RECONCILIATION:**SATURDAYS** after 9.30am

Mass at Corpus Christi

St. Augustine's...4.15pm

NEXT ITALIAN MASS

On hold until further notice

COLLECTIONS

THE FIRST COLLECTION supports the Priests of our Parish, the Archbishop, Priests on special duties and retired priests.

THE SECOND COLLECTON (includes envelopes), supports the running costs of the Church and pastoral initiatives.

To set up a **Direct Debit** Payment to our bank accounts for the Presbytery and the Church, use these account details.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S YARRAVILLE

St. Augustine's Yarraville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638052213.

St. Augustine's Yarraville Presbytery A/C:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

CORPUS CHRISTI KINGSVILLE &**ANNUNCIATION BROOKLYN**

Corpus Christi Kingsville Church Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 485182315

Presbytery Account:

BSB 083347 Account No. 638051413

QR Codes for one off donations.

This QR code is unique to the **Parish of St. Augustine's** and gives you access to giving a donation via **Credit card**.



This QR code is unique to the **Parish of Corpus Christi Kingsville**

There are census cards at the back of the church for new subscribers wishing to use weekly envelopes. Record details and put the card on the collection plate at Mass or contact the Parish office for a set of envelopes.

SAFETY OF CHILDREN AND ALL**VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

At Yarraville, Kingsville and Brooklyn, we hold the care, safety and well-being of children and all vulnerable people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our communities. The Parish Statement of Commitment and Reporting Process are on display at the entrance of all the Churches and all Diocesan Policies are available on the website or at the parish office.

www.cam.org.au/Professional-Standards/Statements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY - We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

ROSTER FOR THIS WEEK(21st & 22nd February 2026)**1st Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm John Ryan

9.30am Agnes Hopmans

Anna Messina

COUNTING:...Val Taylor**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Joe Fusca

Mary Huynh

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Maree Ryan

9.30am.....Pat McLaughlin

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Val Taylor

ROSTER FOR NEXT WEEK(28th Feb & 1st March 2026)**2nd Sunday of Lent A****READERS:** St. Augustine's

5.00pm Kath Baker

9.30am Phillip Marques

Sam Polzella

COUNTING:...Les Vella**READERS:** Corpus Christi

11.00am Julianna Barr

Edith Fletcher

MINISTERS: St. Augustine's

5.00pm.....Frank Galea

9.30am.....Agnes Hopmans

MINISTER: Corpus Christi

11.00am.....Imelda Gibson

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Many thanks for your donations of non-perishable food. Cereal, long life milk, tea, coffee, milo, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, baked beans, spaghetti, tins of tuna, tinned fruit, rice, jam, biscuits; washing powder/liquid, shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes are always needed.

Mary Mackillop Spirituality Centre

St. Joseph's by the Sea Williamstown

16 Esplanade Williamstown. 3016

(03) 9397 6012. mmsm.org.au