



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / C

9 MARCH 2025

FIRST READING

Deut 26: 4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 90: 1-2, 10-15. R. v. 15

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High / and abides in the shade of the Almighty / says to the Lord: 'My refuge, / my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **R.**

2. Upon you no evil shall fall, / no plague approach where you dwell. / For you has he commanded his angels, / to keep you in all your ways. **R.**

3. They shall bear you upon their hands / lest you strike your foot against a stone. / On the lion and the viper you will tread / and trample the young lion and the dragon. **R.**



4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; / protect him for he knows my name. / When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' / I will save him in distress and give him glory. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 10: 8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

■ The word of the Lord.

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!

THE CATHOLIC PARISHES OF ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK & HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Fr Leenus Neetany SAC

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ST JOSEPH'S, ELSTERNWICK

71 Orrong Road, Elsternwick, VIC 3185

www.melbcatholic.org/elsternwick

Mass

Friday 10:00am, Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 10:30am

Reconciliation

Friday after Mass, Saturday 6:00pm

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$632.25 Presbytery: \$647.25

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector - Saturday: J Lam

Lector - Sunday: M Nelson

Counters: M Beaumont & E Ambrose

HOLY CROSS, CAULFIELD SOUTH

707 Glen Huntly Road, Caulfield South 3162

www.melbcatholic.org/caulfieldsouth

Mass

Thursday 10:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Reconciliation

Thursday after Mass

Thanksgiving & Special Collections - 2 weeks

Church: \$357.00 Presbytery: \$366.75

Special Collection: -

Next Week's Roster

Lector: D Duffy

ST ANTHONY'S, GLEN HUNTLY

74, Grange Road, Glen Huntly 3163

In Residence: Fr Pat Jackson SAC, Br Lindsay Rust SAC

Mass

Monday - Saturday 9:15am

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:00am, 11:00am, 5:00pm

Reconciliation

30-minutes before all Masses & Saturday 9:45-10:10am

This Week's Liturgical Calendar

Sun 16 Mar: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Facebook

St Joseph's Parish now has a Facebook page.

Thanks @TuNinh. Scan the QR code or search

www.facebook.com/stjosephcatholicchurchelsternwick/

Holy Communion to the Sick and Elderly

Please let the Parish Office know if you or anyone you know would like to receive Holy Communion at their homes or aged care facilities.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (cf. Ps 90:15-16)

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Mt 4:4)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Those who are ill*: **Paulette Dobbin, Tony Messina, Steve Genge & family, Ian and Sue Besomo, Stella Bai, Pope Francis**

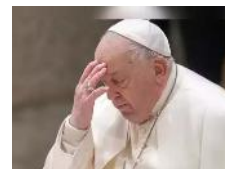
** Names will be published for a month, unless otherwise requested.*

Recently Deceased: -

Death Anniversary: -

We Pray for Pope Francis

As we join people around the world in praying for Pope Francis, we remember that Jesus calls us to trust every part of our lives to him, the most ordinary moments as well as the extraordinary times of great joy or intense struggle. It's a call the Holy Father continues to model and remind us of, even from his hospital bed. Let us continue to pray for Pope Francis, that God will be with him in every moment, bringing him healing, strength and courage.



Extra Weekday Masses at Holy Cross

St Anthony's Church is undergoing repair works. There will be no 9:15am weekday morning Masses at St Anthony's Church **until further notice**.

Instead, weekday Masses will be as follows:

Holy Cross - Mon to Fri: 9:15am (no Thu 10:00am Mass)

St Joseph's - Fri: 10:00am

No changes to time and place of Saturday and Sunday Masses at all parishes.

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Holy Cross: Thursdays after 9:15am* Mass

St Joseph's: Fridays after 10:00am Mass

St Anthony's: Fridays after 7:00pm Mass

** Until further notice due to repairs at St Anthony's Church*

Lenten Scripture Reflection - 5 Faces of Mercy

Starting on Monday 3rd March and every Monday thereafter during Lent from 7pm - 8pm at The Crying Room in St Anthony's. All welcome!

Parish Social Lunch - All Welcome

All parishioners and friends are invited to a social lunch at The Camden Hotel, 414 Hawthorn Rd, Caulfield South on Wednesday, March 12th, 12:30pm. Please come along for an afternoon of fun and friendship.

RSVP: Denise - 0410311326 by Monday, March 10th.

Young Adults Hosting Mass

The young people from our 3 parishes come together on the 4th Saturday of each month to host the 6:30pm Mass at St Joseph's, Elsternwick, followed by fellowship for the young people to socialise and meet new people ☺

Summary of PPC Meeting 20 February 2025

- Amalgamation Petition completed and submitted to Archbishop's Office on Friday 14 February 2025.
- The 5 Pillar Model for our Parish was reviewed. PPC members will focus on assisting groups that are start-ups and those needing more help to flourish. Updates will be displayed in the coming weeks.
- Planning to commence for other upcoming Feast Days, and parish events e.g. Holy Cross centenary in 2026.
- All new parish programmes must be formally proposed to the PPC before being presented to the congregation.
- Focus in the next 6-months on a Parish Strategy, in line with the growth and revitalization of our parishes.
- Meetings to be held on the 4th Thursday of every month. Next PPC Meeting: 27 March 2025.

Walk With Mary 2025

St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne at 2pm on Sunday 23rd March.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli will lead us in Holy Mass and a street procession in honour of Our Lady.

Please come and be part of Her Victory. It will be a beautiful opportunity to witness to your love of our Heavenly Mother, and we can be confident of receiving so many blessings.



Project Compassion Boxes

Project Compassion Boxes are now available in the Church Foyer for collection. Please take one home for your family or friends. Your kind donations will be much appreciated.

Petition to Defend the Honour of Our Lady

Please consider signing this petition which is asking for a name change to the "Ave Maria Family Planning Clinic" in Seaford - a sacrilegious contraception clinic in Victoria fli.org.au/a-sacrilegious-contraception-clinic-in-melbourne/



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S
LEAGUE OF VICTORIA
AND WAGGA WAGGA

WOMEN'S RETREAT



Lenten Retreat

LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday
15 March 2025
9am – 12:30pm

ST ROCH'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH,
198-200 BURKE RD,
GLEN IRIS

The Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga invites you to a Women's Retreat.
All are welcome. We would love to see you.

PROGRAM

The morning includes Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, Spiritual Talks and morning tea.
Led by Fr Michael Gallacher.

BOOKING OPTIONS

TryBooking www.trybooking.com/CXRYE
Email us at: info@cwlvicww.org.au

1st Sunday of Lent - Jesus' triumph over Satan

Dear all

We remember during the Christmas Season calling Jesus 'Immanuel' meaning "God with us". Throughout Jesus' life here on earth he proved to be true to this name of his. Even as Jesus was ascending into heaven he said "I am with you always."

The three temptations that Jesus faced in the desert also prove that Jesus is truly the "God with us". Satan tried in vain to persuade Jesus "being with us and for us". Satan was also trying to cut off Jesus' relationship with God. All the three temptations are really about that. It is not about stones and bread; it is not about jumping down from temple-top and being rescued; it is not about worship the devil and owning all the kingdoms; rather it is about leading a life without God. It is about going it alone, it is about keeping away from God and people. It is all about giving up the plan of salvation for humanity. Adam and Eve had given into Satan's similar suggestions. We are all aware of the consequences. As a result God himself had to become a new Adam to undo the wrong on the Cross. Now, in the desert by his triumph over Satan, Jesus is making sure of his Cross through which to bring about Salvation to the fallen humanity.

Jesus is with us even in the most vulnerable moments of our lives. If we are tempted, He was tempted too. If we are hungry, He was hungry too. If we are wounded, He was wounded too. If we are humiliated, rejected, hated, troubled, Jesus has experienced all these and more; but Jesus did not sin ever. Therefore even in our most hopeless cases, we can learn to trust in his unseen but sure companionship. He is always there with us even when we cannot feel him. We can learn to live by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord, who says, 'I am with you always even to the end of time'.

During this season of Lent let us make an extra effort to be with Jesus, to stand by him, to live for him, just as he suffers to be with us.

Fr Leenus.

I was planning to give up procrastinating during this Lent, but I thought, "Nah, I'll just do it next year".

It is now properly underway, and local pilgrims hungry to know more about how to participate can find everything they need on the webpage <https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/jubilee>.



Parishes, schools and communities of faith across the Archdiocese can access specially developed resources to help plan their Jubilee celebrations. These include digital resources such as phone wallpapers featuring the Jubilee prayer and printable material like banners, posters and templates for flyers. For the musically inclined, there is also a hymn for the 2025 Jubilee. The official Jubilee Prayer is available in English, as well as 18 other community languages - and even in the international auxiliary language Esperanto! May this Jubilee Year of Hope be a time of reconciliation and renewal for all!

Please Save the Dates

- ♦ The Annual Pilgrimage Walk - Sunday 30th March
- ♦ The Good Friday Appeal Fundraiser - Sunday 6th April

GOSPEL

Lk 4: 1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



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Breaking Open the Word

FIDELITY TESTED

Today we begin our journey through Lent, the liturgical season leading to the holiest week of the Church's year and Easter. We begin with Luke's story of Jesus' temptation initiated by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is in the wilderness, the place of solitude, the place of 'no place'. Jesus is here for forty days, alone with God.

The scene is reminiscent of Israel's 40-year wilderness sojourn in which its own covenant fidelity to God is tested. The parallel between Israel and Jesus is unmistakable. Moreso, given the three encounters with Satan that Jesus has. Each is found in Deuteronomy in which Israel fails in its covenantal loyalty and trust in God. By contrast, Jesus is not seduced by food, power or status. He remains loyal to God despite Satan's best efforts to seduce, tempt and manipulate Scripture to woo him into reconfiguring his loyalty away from God.

Satan was originally a member of the heavenly court (as, for example, in the Book of Job) whose principal task was to test the loyalty of God's people. Later, under the influence of Near Eastern myths and traditions about winged beings separate from and warring against the gods, Gospel writers have Satan take on a more sinister mission—to tempt people away from God. Jesus is Satan's focus here and, though he leaves the scene completely disempowered by Jesus' commitment to God, will return at the time of Jesus' passion and death. Lent becomes our time to be with Jesus, to enter our Lenten wilderness, to identify what seduces and draws us away from God.

Fr Michael Trainor