

Sacred Heart Catholic Parish

Yarra Junction & Warburton



First Sunday of Lent (Year B)

18 February 2024

Readings

Next Week

Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Ps 115:10, 15-19

Rom 8:31-34

Mk 9:2-10

in a nutshell

Driven into the wilderness. The Spirit of God, who descended on Jesus at his baptism, drove him into the wilderness. In the Jewish Scriptures the wilderness is both the place where Israel meets God and the place where it is tempted to worship idols made of stone. The season of Lent is a good time to examine whether we are responding to the Spirit of God in our lives or succumbing to the allurements of false idols.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Margaret Marshall, Margaret Broderick, Fida Rees, Pauline Bennett, Frankie Pettinella

For those who have died recently and those whose anniversary occurs at this time.

of special note

Stations of the Cross is celebrated every Friday during lent.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

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.

Responsorial Psalm

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

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

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!

Communion Antiphon

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

The Parish of Sacred Heart

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday

9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Warburton: Saturday—4:30pm (EST)

7:00pm (EDST)

Yarra Junction: Sunday—8:30am

Weekday Mass

Wednesday—9:00am Yarra Junction

First Friday—11:30am Warburton

Reconciliation

Thursday 6:00pm-6:45pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Exposition

Thursday at 6:00pm

Thursdays at Yarra Junction

First Thursday at Warburton

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Nick Boyhan

Website:

www.sjyarrarjunction.catholic.edu.au

Parish Office: 58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796

Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/upperyarra

Email: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community. Remember children should be accompanied by an adult to the toilets.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Michael Fahey
Paul Latham
Mary Ryan
Enzo Torresan
Nino Troiani

Working With Children

There are a number of parishioners whose Working With Children Check has expired. Could you please check your cards and update if necessary.

Bulletin notices by 12:00 noon Thursday please

mountevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese visit:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Parish Meetings: Wednesday,

Finance Committee	7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding	7:30pm
Parish Council	8:00pm

Parish Notices

Happy Birthday Fr Michel

Next Sunday Fr Michel will celebrate his 60th Birthday. There will be coffee and cake after 10:30 Mass at St Mary's for Parishioners to celebrate with him.

Finance Report

With the collapse of Catholic Combined Insurances last year, the parish has been waiting for the Archdiocese to finalise the current insurance arrangements. As a result 3 months of premiums were due last week **(\$5078)** which was more than half the money in the Church Account. The monthly premiums going forward will be **\$1679.45**. Currently the average weekly income from Stewardship envelopes is **\$1654.33**. You will note this falls short of the insurance instalment and allows for no other bills needing to be paid; council rates, electricity, & water, subscriptions to programs for finances and parishioner data base.

Please note St Mary's pays all costs for running the office and presbytery; wages, phone/internet, utilities and some liturgical needs e.g. communion hosts. Therefore **your contribution to the Parish through the Stewardship/thanksgiving envelopes is very important if the Parish is to flourish going forward.**

Maintenance Expenses

Cost of repairs for security lighting and plumbing & the exorbitant water bill as a result of the leak totalled **\$7325** in 2023. Thanks to those who have contributed: **donations to date \$2085**

Sacred Heart Parish Church BSB# 083347 Account number 670642723

Stations of the Cross During Lent Begin Friday 16 February

We are praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent. Please come and pray this traditional devotion following the path of our Lord to Calvary. Jesus said to St Faustina: There is more merit to one hour of meditation on My sorrowful Passion than there is to a whole year of flagellation that draws blood; the contemplation of My painful wounds is of great profit to you, and it brings Me great joy.

Yarra Junction: 6:00pm; Mount Evelyn: 7:30pm

Project Compassion —First Sunday of Lent

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world who are facing vastly different challenges but are united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow for all future generations.

Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

You will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Parish Sacramental Program

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact the parish office or annevan.tilburg@gmail.com Contact Anne . Please note classes are held at St Mary's.

Adoration of the Eucharist

All the attraction of the Church is in Jesus. He draws us to Himself by grace, by example, by power, by lovingness, by beauty, by pardon and above all by the Blessed Sacrament. (Fr. Faber)

Confession: After Jesus rose from the dead, he breathed on his apostles and said, " Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain they are retained." (John 20:21-23) Jesus did not give this power to his apostles (and their successors: the bishops and priests) for them not to use this power. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a sign of grace instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed.

Adoration, spend time in the presence of the Holy Eucharist: Yarra Junction, Thursday nights at 6:00pm except first Thursday (Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration. Friday mornings 8:00am Mount Evelyn

Stewardship Corner

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...." - Mark 1:14

Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

2024 Lent Challenge – Free Access

Start your journey. This Lent, join Scott Hahn and John Bergsma as they lead us out of exile and on *the journey home*. **Begins Ash Wednesday, February 14th visit:** <https://stpaulcenter.com/exodus/> to sign up. Free access to the entire site for the duration of Lent.

St Mary's Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meet every Friday in the church from 2-3 p.m. Come and join us! "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene). All Welcome!

Something to Bring a smile...

A man and his wife, now in their 70s, were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. On their special day a good fairy came to them and said that because they had been so good that each one of them could have one wish. The wife wished for a trip around the world with her husband. Whoosh! Immediately she had airline/cruise tickets in her hands. The man wished for a female companion 30 years younger. Whoosh! Immediately he turned a hundred!

Sourced from www.majellan.media

Readings Reflection

[The New Creation](#)

Lent bids us to return to the innocence of our baptism. As Noah and his family were saved through the waters of the deluge, we were saved through the waters of Baptism, Peter reminds us in today's Epistle.

And God's covenant with Noah in today's First Reading marked the start of a new world. But it also prefigured a new and greater covenant between God and His creation (see Hosea 2:20; Isaiah 11:1–9).

We see that new covenant and that new creation begin in today's Gospel.

Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam—the beloved son of God (see Mark 1:11; Luke 3:38), living in harmony with the wild beasts (see Genesis 2:19–20), being served by angels (see Ezekiel 28:12–14).

Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death (see Romans 5:12–14, 17–20), Jesus is victorious.

This is the good news, the "gospel of God" that He proclaims. Through His death, resurrection, and enthronement at the right hand of the Father, the world is once again made God's kingdom.

In the waters of Baptism, each of us entered the kingdom of His beloved Son (see Colossians 1:13–14). We were made children of God, new creations (see 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 4:3–7).

But like Jesus, and Israel before Him, we have passed through the baptismal waters only to be driven into the wilderness—a world filled with afflictions and tests of our faithfulness (see 1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 9, 13; Deuteronomy 8:2, 16).

We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Savior—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm (see John 14:6). He feeds us with the bread of angels (see Psalm 78:25; Wisdom 16:20), and cleanses our consciences in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As we begin this holy season, let us renew our baptismal vows—to repent and believe the gospel.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Harden not your hearts

“O that today you would hear his voice: harden not your hearts”. This invitation echoes in our souls as we begin our Lenten journey. It will lead to the Easter Triduum, the living memorial of the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, the central mystery of our salvation.

The holy season of Lent, which has always held deep meaning for the Christian people, recalls ancient biblical events such as the 40 days of the universal flood, a prelude to the covenant that God made with Noah; Israel’s 40-year pilgrimage through the desert to the promised land; the 40 days that Moses remained on Mount Sinai, where he received the tablets of the Law from Yahweh.

In particular, the Lenten season invites us to relive with Jesus the 40 days that he spent praying and fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public mission, which culminated on Calvary in the sacrifice of the Cross, the definitive victory over death.

“Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return”. The traditional rite of distributing ashes, which is repeated today, is always very eloquent, and the words accompanying it are expressive. In its simplicity, it suggests the transitory nature of earthly life: everything passes and is destined to die. We are wayfarers in this world, wayfarers who must never forget their true and final destination: heaven. For, though we are dust and destined to become dust, nevertheless not all will come to an end. Man, created in the image and likeness of God, is destined for eternal life. In dying on the Cross, Jesus opened the way for every human being.

The entire Ash Wednesday liturgy helps us to focus on this fundamental truth of faith and spurs us to undertake a resolute journey of personal renewal. We must change our way of thinking and acting, set our gaze firmly on the face of Christ crucified and make his Gospel our daily rule of life. *“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”*: let this be our Lenten programme, as we enter an atmosphere of prayerful listening to the Spirit.

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mt 26:41). Let us be guided by these words of the Lord in a committed effort of conversion and spiritual renewal. In daily life there is a risk of being absorbed in material concerns and interests. Lent is an appropriate time for a reawakening of genuine faith, for a salutary renewal of our relationship with God and for a more generous Gospel commitment. The means available to us are the same as always, but we must use them more intensely in these weeks: prayer, fasting and penance, as well as almsgiving, that is, the sharing of what we have with the needy. This personal and community journey of asceticism can be particularly difficult at times because of the secularized environment in which we live. But for this very reason our effort must be stronger and more determined.

“Watch and pray”. If Christ’s command applies to all times, it seems more eloquent and forceful at the start of Lent. Let us accept it with humble docility. Let us prepare to carry it out in practical acts of conversion and reconciliation with our brethren. Only in this way can faith be reinvigorated, hope be strengthened and love become the way of life that distinguishes the believer.

The fruit of such a courageous ascetical journey can only be a greater openness to the needs of our neighbour. Those who love the Lord cannot close their eyes to individuals and peoples who are tried by suffering and poverty. After contemplating the face of the crucified Lord, how can we not recognize him and serve him in those who are suffering and abandoned? Jesus himself, who invites us to stay with him watching and praying, also asks us to love him in our brothers and sisters, remembering that *“as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me”* (Mt 25:40). The fruit of a Lent intensely lived will thus be a greater and more universal love.

May Mary, the example of docile listening to the voice of the Spirit, guide us on the penitential journey we are beginning today. May she help us to treasure all the opportunities the Church offers us in order to prepare ourselves worthily for the celebration of the Easter mystery.

Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience