

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 Mk 1:12-15

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Reflection *by Fr Michael Tate*

The Rainbow is God's signature to a treaty with humankind. On God's part, material forces will never be sent to annihilate human beings as a punishment for wrongdoing. On our part, as humans made in the likeness of God, we are to image God's rainbow relationship to nature.

This is the Divine Treaty basis of our responsibility for the environment. We undertake not to engage in practices or support policies which could severely damage the fragile ecology which supports life on our planet. The deforestation of the slopes of the Himalayas, leading to floods which kill thousands, is a catastrophic example.

And, gazing at the rainbow, we can pray for our planet, for the human beings and all other creatures who inhabit it, and quite often for ourselves at a deep personal level. For we know that, just as after a storm and dark clouds, light penetrates the misty sky and the beautiful bow of colour appears, the same phenomenon can occur in our own lives.

We could take a moment to pray that the rainbow will appear, perhaps for ourselves, perhaps for others we know who are going through a stormy time.

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The Living Word

First Sunday of Lent, Year B ***18 February 2024***

First Reading Gn 9:8-15

I will recall the covenant between myself and you...the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

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

1. 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. *(R.)*

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

3. 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.)*

Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Parish
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Website: www.pol.org.au/sunshine/Home.aspx
Office Hours: Monday, & Wednesday 10am-3.00pm; Friday 10am-4.00pm.
Sunday Masses: *English:* **Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9am, 10.30am, 5.30pm**
Mass in other languages: *Chin - Burmese* **Sunday** 2.30pm; *Tongan* TBC
Vietnamese **Saturday** Vigil 7pm, **Sunday** 12.30pm, **Friday** 7pm
Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday **9am;** Friday **11am;** Tuesday **7.30pm**
Confessions: **Saturday 9.30am** (*English or Vietnamese: 1st & 4th week*) **Novena:** Tuesday **8.00pm**

MASS INTENTIONS 17-24 February

Sat	5.30pm	Elisa & Victor Bartolo RIP
Sun	9.00am	Angela & John Spiteri RIP
	10.30am	Catherine & Daniel Thanksgiving
	5.30pm	*Pro Populo*
Mon	9.00am	School Opening Year Mass
Tues	7.30pm	Rose Arthur RIP
		Lewis Sciberras RIP
Wed	9.00am	Parish Intention
Thurs	9.00am	Mary Catherine Lee RIP
		Sam Tabone RIP
Fri	11.00am	Thanksgiving Mass
Sat	9.00am	Prayer for Conversion

"Come to me all you who labour and carry a heavy burden and I will give you rest…" *Matthew 11:28-30*

INVITATION to come and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament:



Each Friday 12pm -3.00pm
Come for just a short visit or for as long as you wish.

DONATIONS Please support our parish
Thank you!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAY
7.00pm English
7.30pm Vietnamese

Week 4	5.30 pm	9.00 am	10.30 am	5.30 pm
Lectors	Bradley Borges	Althea D'Souza	Tongan Choir	Filipino Choir
Extraordinary Ministers	Anita Mastroianni	Sr. Shirani Britto	Jennifer Godfrey	Filipino Choir
Data Projector	Connie Sposato	Antoinette Spiteri	Tongan Choir	A. Ramat / Choir
Weekly Counting	John Francis & Michael Payne			

The New Creation: *Scott Hahn Reflects on the* 1st Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 9:8–15; Psalm 25:4–9; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Mark 1:12–15

Lent bids us to return to the innocence 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 Second Reading.



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.

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, living in harmony with the wild beasts, being served by angels.

Like Adam, He too is tempted by the devil. But while Adam fell, giving reign to sin and death, 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. We were made children of God, new creations.

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.

We are led on this journey by Jesus. He is the Saviour—the way and the truth we sing of in today's Psalm. He feeds us with the bread of angels, 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.

NEXT WEEK - *NOTE DAILY MASS CHANGE*

MONDAY 26/02 - **9.00am MASS** - SCHOOL YEAR OPENING
THURSDAY 29/02 - **10.00am MASS** - ANOINTING of Sick & Elderly

Child Safety Reminders & Important Notice for Parents

- ***Please accompany your child if they need to leave the church building.***
- ***Please ensure you know where your child is if not beside you.***

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CARDS - Free for VOLUNTEERS If you NEED to RENEW your WWC Card, go to https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au and select the option **'Renew my card'** or **APPLY for a Card** if you don't have one.

Our parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children and the vulnerable.