



City Pastoral REGION

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Inner Newcastle Parish: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West; St Joseph's Church, The Junction; St Mary, Star of the Sea Church, Newcastle; Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill; St Laurence O'Toole Church, Broadmeadow. **Mayfield Parish:** Christ the King, Mayfield West. **Stockton Parish:** St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR A

Our Clergy

Fr John Lovell
Fr Paul Chackanikunnel
Fr Raphael Madukwe

Regional Office—St Benedict's Centre

25 Farquhar Street, The Junction
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
P: (02) 4979 1101 F: (02) 4962 4644
E: newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
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W: www.sacredhearthamilton.org.au

Our Staff

Margaret Cox (*Reception & Administration*)
Monday, Tuesday, Friday

Anne Warren (*Business Manager Finance*)
Tuesday and Thursday

Jade Simonsen (*Business Manager Property*)
Monday

Dr Anne Millard (*Music, Liturgy, Sacraments, Bulletin*)

Other Contacts

Lingard Hospital Team: Contact the Parish Office

Mercy Pastoral Team: Sr Patricia Whitten rsm
0448463679

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office

Parish Bulletin: Prayer requests and items for the Bulletin should be received at the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.



Lent - what is its purpose? To deepen our spiritual life and relationship with God and our neighbour, through daily prayer, reflection and works of charity. Each year through our Lenten observances we strive in a special way to prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week, when we will join our lives to Christ's: in His entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His Last Supper, passion, death and then the victory of the Resurrection.

Our Parishes incorporate suburbs located on the traditional country of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples. We acknowledge their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing relationship with the land, pay respect to their Elders past and present, and commit ourselves to work together for reconciliation and justice.

THE PARISH DIARY...(for the week ahead)

First Week of Lent, Year A

Monday—27th February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

Tuesday—28th February

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral ****CANCELLED**

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Diocesan Staff Mass (all welcome)

Wednesday—1st March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral

9:00am Mass @ Mayfield West

Thursday—2nd March

8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral **** Moved to Tighes Hill**

8:30am Mass @ Stockton

Friday—3rd March

9:50am Rosary for Ukraine @ The Junction

10:15am Mass @ St Joseph's

11:00am Exposition, Adoration & Reconciliation @ The Cathedral (until 12pm)

12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral

6:00pm Stations of the Cross @ The Cathedral (POLISH)

Saturday—4th March

9:15am Mass @ The Cathedral, followed by the Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help (followed by Reconciliation)

5:30pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:30pm Mass @ The Junction

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West

Sunday—5th March

Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

7:30am Mass @ St Mary's

8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill

9:00am Mass @ Stockton

9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral *

11:00am Mass @ The Junction (*Italian*)

11:30am Mass @ The Cathedral (*Polish*)

3:00pm Divine Mercy Devotion @ Mayfield West

5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

5:00pm Taize Service @ Tighes Hill

6:00pm Mass @ Mayfield West (*Vietnamese*)

* *Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel—www.youtube.com/c/SacredHeartCathedralHamilton and on the Diocese website*

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES

Available this week! Take one home to make a difference in the lives of others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

RECENTLY DECEASED: Lisa Bourke, Rosa Luciani, Linda Collins

ANNIVERSARIES: Richard Taper, Isabella Haggarty, Joan Levy, Norman Woodland, Helen McCullen, Fr. Luigi Giussani, ose Chia Uy, Consolacion Dagpin UY, Herminio Uy, Angela Worthington

SICK: Peter Kefcecek, Roslyn McGovern, Patricia Quayle, Christine Dowling,

Names may be placed here by contacting the Parish Office. Please refer to the Policy Document on the Parish website—visit www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/downloads.

TAIZE SERVICE

Sunday March 5: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Tighes Hill 5.00pm – 6pm followed by a shared supper.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Sin

The Greek word translated as 'sin' in the New Testament literally means 'miss the mark'. Its origin may lie in archery where the object was always to hit the mark; to miss the mark was to not achieve at one's best. Jesus set about trying to redefine the Jewish notion of sin from being a transgression against God that deserves punishment to the more compassionate idea that sin is a wandering off course that can be rectified – a missing of the mark. When he encountered someone who was missing the mark, Jesus called them back into right relationship.

PREPARING FOR EASTER

The Parish **Lenten** Group meets @ 9.30 am next **Thursday, 2 March** in the Parish Centre and continues during the weeks of Lent. Please see Gwen Haggerty (or ph 4967 5010) if you are interested in joining the group.

WE GRIEVE

Experiences of grief are stepping-stones in our human journey 'We Grieve' is an opportunity to explore our understanding of change, loss and grief



We have all experienced change and loss these last three years because of COVID and the normal rhythm of life.

Seasonal changes in nature provide us with rich insight into how life is constantly evolving. This eternal cycle of change and loss offers a message of hope.

Using the Seasons for Growth educational program as the foundation for this 3-hour session we invite you to join the conversation – to share and learn together, to gain some new insights or perspectives, and to move towards healing and growth.

All are welcome: family, friends, neighbours ...

FACILITATOR: Benita Tait

Wednesday 1 March 2023 @ 5.30 – 8.30 PM

OR

Saturday 4 March 2023 @ 2.00 – 5.00 PM

Both held in the Toohey Room @ Cathedral House,
841 Hunter St Hamilton (beside the Sacred Heart Cathedral)

REGISTER & ENQUIRIES:

P: 4979 1101

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE CANDIDATE FORUMS – 8 AND 9 MARCH

On 8 and 9 March the Hunter Community Alliance will host two Candidate Forums to hear how our Hunter candidates will address community concerns about climate change and housing. The event will see people share stories and expertise about housing, homelessness, and climate change. The group will present policy proposals that they have developed this year to help solve and alleviate these pressures. Then the Alliance will negotiate those proposals with Hunter region candidates for the NSW election and seek commitments to make them happen.

You can register for one or both of the following forums:

[Wednesday 8 March:](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-forum-for-affordable-housing-and-climate-action-march-8th-tickets-482325898747) Wallsend, Cessnock, Maitland and Port Stephens: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-forum-for-affordable-housing-and-climate-action-march-8th-tickets-482325898747>

[Thursday 9 March:](https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-forum-for-affordable-housing-and-climate-action-march-9th-tickets-482336169467) Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Charlestown and Swansea <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/community-forum-for-affordable-housing-and-climate-action-march-9th-tickets-482336169467>

FOOD BASKET FOR THE NEEDY

Items of dry goods or tin food e.g. (Vegemite, cornflakes or breakfast foods, sugar, packet or tin soup, sardines, tea, coffee, tin fruit etc but NOT PEANUT BUTTER), can be placed in the basket at the back of **St Joseph's Church**, The Junction. St Vincent de Paul members will pick up for distribution to the needy who are very grateful to receive the items. When donating please check expiry dates. Thank you
Questions to Sr Carol Woodland rsj (mob) 0423 700 523 or 4967 2998

Collection baskets also at Tighes Hill

CatholicCare Social Services Community Pantry food donation bins have been placed in the Sacred Heart Cathedral and St Mary's Star of the Sea Church. These are blue flip-top bins with our flyer on the lid, suggesting the types of foods that could be donated.

We are appealing to the parish community to support people in need in our wider community by donating non-perishable food items. These donated items are put into our 'Community Pantry', from which we are able to provide emergency food hampers. We are desperately low of all foods in our pantry at the moment as we have seen an unprecedented need lately for this service. Ideal foods to donate are: UHT Milk, Breakfast cereals, Rice, Pasta, Pasta sauce, Sweet and savoury biscuits, Instant coffee, Tea bags, Canned soups.

TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance.

We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe.

Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy.

Visit: www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

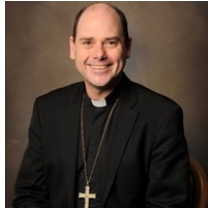
ROSARY FOR UKRAINE

Pray the Rosary from 9.50am on Fridays at St Joseph's Church, The Junction.



BISHOP MICHAEL ROBERT KENNEDY

Bishop Michael Kennedy will be installed as our next Bishop on Friday 17 March 2023. @ 6pm



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR 2023/2024 CHRISTIAN FORMATION COURSE ARE NOW OPEN

Are you wanting to know more about Christianity and develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic Church?

The Christian Formation Course (CFC) is a learning experience that allows participants to explore the foundational elements of the Catholic Faith Tradition. This one-year course introduces participants to scripture, theology, church history, sacramental life and liturgy.

The Course runs across twelve (12) months and comprises eight (8) units. All who complete the Course are awarded a diocesan Certificate in Christian Formation

By engaging in the course, it is hoped participants will:

- ✧ become more confident in understanding the Catholic faith
- ✧ grow in their capacity to reflect on their life's journey
- ✧ realise that Christian faith is nurtured in community
- ✧ be affirmed in their gifts for participating in the life of the faith community
- ✧ grow in awareness of what it means to be a responsive member of the faith community

Commencing on Tuesday 2 May 2023, no prerequisite formation or qualification is required to enrol.

To find out more about the Christian Formation Course, visit: www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/christian-formation-course/

VIEW, CHEW, AND CHAT:

Meets 1st March to continue the Diocesan Lenten Program. To access the program document, copy and paste or type the following address into your web browser:
<https://tinyurl.com/mnlent23>

VATICAN COUNCIL II 60TH ANNIVERSARY – EXPLORING ITS KEY DOCUMENTS IN 2023

The Second Vatican Council promulgated sixteen major documents. The reception of those documents, and all that flows from them, continues to be the work of the Church in every place and through every unfolding year and decade.

What are these documents and what wisdom do they reveal to us today? An enjoyable way to read and reflect on these texts is in the tradition of a book club, or 'document club' in this instance. In 2023 you might consider forming a document club in your parish with a focus on the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. The Diocesan Liturgy Council (DLC) has prepared a simple reading plan that anyone can use to guide their own 'document club' and can offer support in getting started.

It is hoped that several document clubs may spring up throughout this year. To bring our document clubs to a close the DLC is looking to host an in-person 'fun' gathering on Monday evening 4 December 2023. To receive your invitation, you may like to send the names and email addresses of your document club members to sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au.

BOOK CLUB

Sunday, 5 March @ 6:15pm:

Bookclub meets to discuss *Exiles* by Jane Harper. If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email the office



RITE OF ELECTION – 26 FEBRUARY 2023

The Rite of Election on Sunday 26 February 2023 is an opportunity to welcome all the catechumens who will be baptised in their parishes at the Easter Vigil [a catechumen is an unbaptised person whose search for meaning has brought them to the Catholic Church]. You are invited to join the People of God in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic from 2.30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea. Please RSVP for catering to 4979 1134

or sharon.murphy@mn.catholic.org.au

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Gen 12:1-4

2 Tim 1:8-10

Mt 17:1-9

HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF SYNODALITY - FREE ONLINE COURSE OFFERED BY BOSTON COLLEGE

Through an online platform you will have access to a series of pre-recorded videos during the months of February and March 2023.

"Synodality is not the chapter of a treatise on ecclesiology, and even less a fad, a slogan or the new term to be used or manipulated in our meetings. No! Synodality expresses the nature of the Church, its form, its style, its mission." Pope Francis

To register go to: <https://formaciononline.bc.edu/en/home/>

FINDING OUR PURPOSE—WITH A PINT

Calling all young people in the Diocese for 'Pint with a Purpose!' Come and join us at the Sydney Junction Hotel as we reimagine the journey together.

Date: Monday 6th March 2023

Time: 6pm

Location: Sydney Junction Hotel

SISTERHOOD CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Sisterhood conference is a weekend for women aged 18 + to grow in their faith and encounter a community of like minded Catholic women committed to their faith.


The conference will be held at The Tops Conference Centre at Stanwell Tops 17-19th March. This is a live in weekend. Places are limited.

For more information visit www.sisterhood.org.au or email info@sisterhood.org.au

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer for the Inner City region will be held on 3rd March, 2023 @10am in St Augustine's, Merewether.

THE CHUCKLE

 During our priest's sermon, a large plant fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the ground. Acknowledging his reputation for long-windedness, he smiled sheepishly and said, "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep."

ENROLMENTS FOR 2023 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

A child's catholic faith journey began with the Sacrament of Baptism and continues with the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Confirmation and First Eucharist.

The preparations for these sacraments in the Inner Newcastle Parish run between February and June of every year and are designed for children going into Year, 4, 5 or 6 in 2023. Preparations are completed as a family with online activities and volunteer work within the community.

Enrolments are now open for the 2023 program. If you are interested in being a part of the program this year please visit the parish website and complete the online enrolment form.

<https://www.newcastlecatholic.org.au/sacramental-enrolment-form/>

For more information please contact the office on 49791101 or newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

The program launched last week. There's still time to sign up.

MISSION: CHANGE THEIR LIVES ... AND YOURS.

Communities in Africa, Asia or the Pacific are seeking Australians from a variety of professions and trades to share their skills with those who have less opportunity to develop their talents.

- You will re-ignite your professional passion as you share skills with colleagues abroad;
- You will strengthen individuals and organisational processes and procedures so that generations of people will have opportunities for growth long after you return home.
- You will Learn. It is a life changing opportunity to work with and live amongst some of the most appreciative and resilient people you will ever meet.
- You will be Supported. Since 1961, Palms Australia has supported qualified and experienced Catholics motivated to undertake this Mission.

Explore 35 positions by scanning the QR code below. On our website you can also see news including stories from those currently supported in Timor-Leste, Samoa, American Samoa and Thailand.

Please enquire further about potential assignments for you or someone you know: RING: 02 9560 533 or 0422 472 567. WEB: www.palms.org.au



Palms Australia



REFLECTION

by Richard Leonard

Hearing the story of Adam and Eve in today's first reading reminds me of the little boy who opened the large family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mummy, look what I found', the little boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'

The Genesis story about the origins of sin in the world rewards very careful reading. The serpent promises Eve two things: that her eyes will be opened to know good from evil and that this will make her like God. Such a temptation was irresistible and nothing has changed.

Knowledge is a gift given us by God. I am always grateful for being a Catholic because, along with other long-standing Christian denominations, we highly value scholarship, rational thought and inquiry. As anxious as the Church has sometimes been about scientific investigations, our best traditions are to see God revealed in human thoughts and scientific achievements that ennoble our human family. It is the application of knowledge, or the way it is abused, that can be harmful.

On the domestic front, many families have a 'know-it-all', the relative who has an extraordinary ability to retain facts and figures and who seems to gain a sense of self-worth by correcting us mid-sentence when we get a number, place or fact wrong. He or she can be very irritating. On the world stage we have seen how scientific knowledge can try and seduce us into believing that all scientific achievements are good no matter how unknown the consequences of these choices might be for future generations. Every new piece of knowledge brings with it wonderful potentialities and serious responsibilities.

As this story demonstrates, the temptation to know as much as God has never been more real than it is right now.

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. The scientists walk up to God and say, 'God we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost.'

God listened patiently and after the scientists were finished, said, 'Very well! How about this? Let's have a woman-and-man-making contest.' To which they agreed. However God added, 'How about we do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam?' The scientists said, 'Sure, no problem', and bent down and grabbed some dirt. God just looked at them and said, 'No, no, no. You go and get your own dirt!'

Today's Gospel is about knowledge too. Satan knows who Jesus is. His temptations are an attempt to get Jesus to betray his humanity and not endure the limitations of his daily life. Jesus knows that the only way to be true to his divinity is allow us to see it shine in and through his human life. The rejection of the temptation to compromise his frail human frame gives us the hope that we, too, can glimpse the power of God's greatness in every moment we reject the desire to be directors of our own destiny and to see good triumph over evil in the choices we make.

It's a relief to know we don't have to be God!

May this Lent see us do what we are created for: to use all our knowledge to praise, reverence and serve the Loving One who willed us into being.

© Richard Leonard SJ

SISTERS IN FAITH DINNER

The Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council would like you to join us for our Sisters in Faith Dinner to mark International Women's Day. It's an opportunity for all women of faith to come together to form friendships.

Date: Wednesday 8 March

Time: 6pm to 9pm

Location: Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West

Cost: \$30 per person

RSVP by: 1 March

Registration is open now: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-of-faith-dinner-tickets-513511305137

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message. Commencing February 8.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00-5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071

For more information contact:

rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

JUNIOR WORDSEARCH

God is always merciful

Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7
Ps 51:1, 10, 12, 15 R.v.3a
Mt 4:1-11

A F G A F R U I T M F W R
R O S F H E W H W U S R H
K R O M O U N T A I N O U
E T Z S U R O J B T S N H
M Y C Z B O B D F S R G I
B F T G B E J N R U I R F
P A D E S E R T R Q B S I
Q N U Q P M U S A T A N G
M I D D L E R T M C Z Z O
Y U R R O Z R D E V I L A
O L O G A A G H U T F S D
V X S Q P T R A V R I E A
Z K A D L I T A N E S D M
S T O N E S K O A E E G R

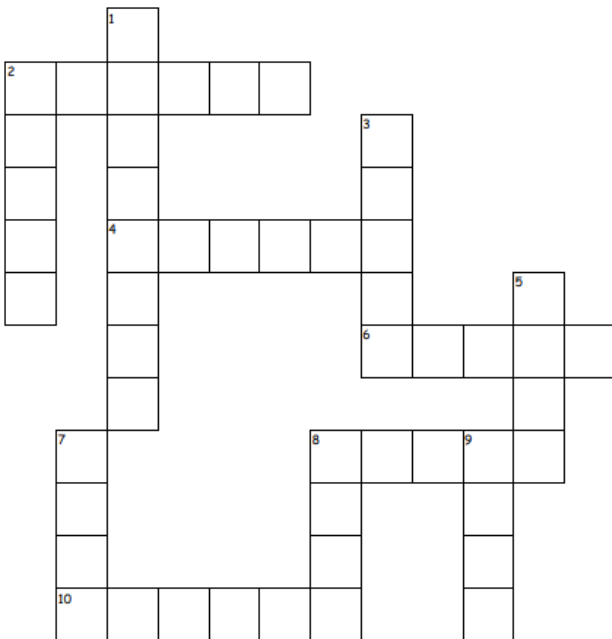
Try to find these words:

Adam
desert
devil
fig
forty
fruit
middle
mountain
Satan
stones
tree
wrong

CROSSWORD

Jesus fasts and is tempted by the devil

Mt 4:1-11



Across

- 2: the devil told Jesus to turn these into bread
- 4: a place to worship God
- 6: he tested Jesus in the desert
- 8: Jesus did not eat for this many days and nights
- 10: a barren, sandy environment

Down

- 1: a very tall, large land mass
- 2: another name for the devil
- 3: a common food made from wheat
- 5: a large area with many people and buildings
- 7: you eat this when you are hungry
- 8: these have toes on them
- 9: an exam

TODAY'S LITURGY

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.

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

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see 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: Rom 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

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

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Communion Antiphon: Mt 4:4

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

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SAVE THE DATE

TORONTO MEN'S WEEKEND

A MenALIVE Men's Weekend will be held at the St Joseph's Toronto Parish on the weekend of 25 and 26 March 2023. The weekend is suitable for all men from 18 years of age and provides an opportunity for attendees to explore what makes them feel fully alive.

More information including how to register will be provided closer to the date. For more information on MenALIVE, visit: www.menalive.org.au

MEDITATION GROUPS AT LIVING WATERS CENTRE

34 Kenrick Street, The Junction, on Wednesday at 7.30am and Friday at 11.00am. All are welcome, including new meditators.

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION AT TIGHES HILL

This is non-denominational and everyone is very welcome. Please come.

WHEN: Monday afternoon 3.30 for 3.45 start

WHERE: Mercy Offices

20 Union Street

(Next door to Mercy Services)

Off street parking available

The Meditation session begins with short guided relaxation exercises then we have a reading from Fr. John Main which leads into 20 minutes of silent meditation

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Trusting God

The testing and temptation of Jesus echoes the plight of the people of Israel as they wandered in the desert for forty years. They relied on God to provide them with food and protection and ultimately lead them into the land that was promised to them. They had to trust that God would deliver these things in God's own time and way. Jesus is tempted to ignore God's time and ways by seizing for himself food, protection and ownership of the land. The temptations of Jesus and the people of Israel are all about trusting God.