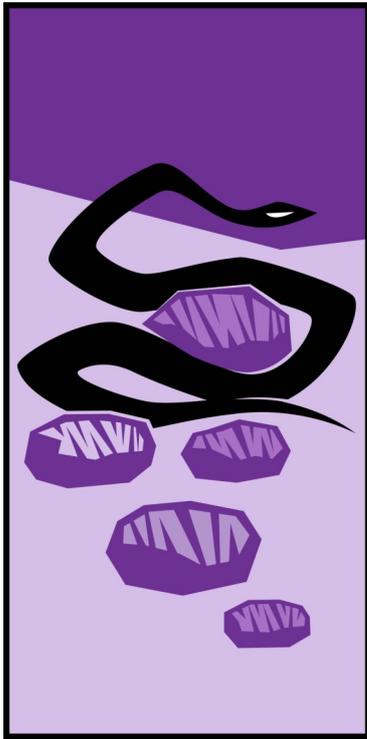


St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish:

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.

Mayfield Parish: Christ the King, Mayfield West.

Stockton Parish: St Peter-in-Chains, Stockton.



Sunday 22 February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent

Dear Parish Family,

Prior to ordination my seminary required each ordinand to write a synthesis, roughly 28,000 words, on their understanding of church and faith. After presentation to the examiners, it would later be publicly examined in a two-hour defence. I chose to base my writing on a book by a Japanese Christian author in Shusaku Endo called 'Silence'. I titled my work 'The Silence of God'. My supervisor, Fr Tim Costello sdb (now Archbishop of Perth), the following year supervised a friend of mine who titled his work 'God Speaks'. I tried to explore what it feels like often in our faith and to pray in times of difficulty when God feels slow to respond or to not respond at all, 'The Silence of God'.

'Silence' is an interesting and wonderful read, a novel written by a convert to Catholicism, first published in 1966 and later translated into English in 1969. It has also been adapted into film three times, the latest in 2016 by director Martin Scorsese – you can source the movies. It traces the story of the Jesuits as Catholic missionaries re-enter Japan, albeit in secret, through the eyes and writing of one Portuguese Jesuit priest, Fr Sebastiao Rodrigues, in 17th century Japan.

There is darkness in the book as it explores what suffering, sin and feelings of abandonment can look like in Christian life, from a very personal and intimate journey with God. Fr Sebastiao eventually will face the reality of good people losing their lives for the faith, watching them tortured and executed, his own challenges as a captive in medieval Japan, and for a time his abandonment of the Church. Through it all, as he cries out to God, unpacking for us the readers his sense of loss, his sense of sin, his sense of aloneness. Whilst the images depicting in the book and indeed the films are graphic, the sentiment of 'God's Silence' resonates certainly in my faith; however I suspect that every Christian at some point would empathise with this.

Toward the end of the book Fr Sebastiao is made to apostasize (renounce Christ and his faith) to save the lives of other Christians and his own from torture. His torment and anguish are palpable. Eventually he steps on the face of Christ and it's at this point Fr Sebastiao feels Christ break the silence with these words written by Endo the author "It was to be trampled on by men that I was born into this world. It was to share men's pain that I carried my cross." In another part he reflects beautifully on a God who 'has chosen not to eliminate suffering, (*or free will*) but to suffer with humanity'.

Lent is a reflective time to help us unpack the challenges to and the sins of our own Christian life. Fr Sebastiao faces extraordinary obstacles to his faith and the faith of the Christian community around him, betrayal, torture, prejudice, hardship and persecution. The book would resonate with the early Christian communities as portrayed in the letters of Paul, Peter and the Acts of the Apostles. 'Silence' explores sin in an interesting way. Fr Sebastiao reflects, "I have come to know that sin is for one man to walk brutally over the life of another and to be quite oblivious of the wounds he has left behind." He must explore his own frailties and come to terms with them and it's in that moment he finally stands humbly before God. Lent is an opportunity for each one of us to do exactly that.

Greg, Parish Priest

Parish Priest

Fr Greg Barker

Assisting Clergy

Fr Niel Olano
Fr Anthony Coloma
Deacon Kevin Gadd

Parish Administration

McAuley Building, 242 Parry St,
Newcastle West, 2302
PO Box 6, The Junction 2291
Phone: (02) 4979 1101
Email:
newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Website:
www.newcastlecatholic.org.au

After hours emergency phone:

0494 390 653

Anne Warren (*Business Manager*)
Jenny Pascua (*Parish Secretary*)
Daloras Howes (*Administration*)
Peter Davies (*Administration*)
Mary-Anne de Luca (*Sacraments*)
Dr Anne Millard (*Music & Liturgy*)

The Parish Diary...(for the week ahead)

1st week of Lent, Year A/2

Mon 23 Feb

- 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 11:00am Funeral Mass @ The Cathedral for Bronislav Wilnierak

Tues 24 Feb

- 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton
- 10:30am Mass at Badcoe House

Wed 25 Feb

- 8.15am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Mayfield
- 9:00am Mass @ Holy Family School

Thurs 26 Feb

- 8:15am Mass @ The Cathedral
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton
- 5:30pm Mass @ Seafarers Mission, Wickham

Fri 27 Feb

- 10:15am Mass @ The Junction
- 11:00am Exposition, Adoration and Reconciliation @ The Cathedral
- 12:05pm Mass @ The Cathedral
- 5:00pm Polish Stations of the Cross @ The Cathedral
- 6:00pm Young Adults' Stations of the Cross @ The Cathedral

Sat 28 Feb

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

Second Sunday of Lent

Sat 28 Feb

- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Cathedral
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ The Junction
- 5:30pm Vigil Mass @ Mayfield West

Sun 1 Mar

- 7:30am Mass @ St Mary's
- 8:00am Mass @ Tighes Hill
- 9:00am Mass @ Stockton
- 9:30am Mass @ The Cathedral * followed by Holy Hour - See notice about the Eucharistic Congress
- 11:00am Italian Mass @ The Junction
- 12noon Polish Mass @ The Cathedral
- 5:00pm Mass @ The Cathedral

* Livestreamed on the Cathedral's YouTube channel - search Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton

Prayer Requests



RECENTLY DECEASED: Michael Mather, Bronislav Wilnierak

ANNIVERSARIES: Emilia Milosavjevic, Des Daley, Edith Raymond, Ray & Eileen Howard, John Tully, Richard Taper

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: John Hayes, Gary Valaire, Jeremy Eden, Braxton Rayner, Patricia Gillett, Tui Innes, Raymond Morley, Louise Hall, Phil Riordan, Twon Nguyen, Eileen Jennings, Gwen Haggerty, Nick Fazzini, Rose Gathercole, Alexander Klein, Patty Keegan, Kathryn Kennedy, Leonetta Papichio, John Woods, Rae Booc, Hoagy VanEwyk, Pat Fitzpatrick, Loreto Olano

Please send prayer requests and items for the Bulletin to the Parish Office by 5pm on Wednesdays.

Welcome Fr Paul



This weekend we welcome Fr Paul Chackanikunnel for a couple of weeks to help out while Frs Niel and Anthony are away. Thank you Fr Paul!

Farewell

We farewell this weekend a number of visitors from overseas who have been with us visiting family and who have become members of our parish family. In thanks we ask the Lord to bless and keep safe as they head home; Bernadeta, Julijana and Stela heading back to Croatia, and Shanthil Lal and Jennifer who are returning to Sri Lanka. It has been a pleasure having them with us and wonderful grace for their families. They will return to us again I am sure. God bless them and their families. Fr Greg

Parish Teams

Promoters of Safeguarding: Louise Outram, Cynthia Tamonan, Alex Tamonan, Sr Kath Williams rsm, Annie Evans.

Bereavement Team: Margaret Cox, Gail Lovell, Christopher Gregory, Margaret Beard, Margaret Newton, Anne Millard (02) 4979 1252.

St Joseph's Pastoral Team: Contact the Parish Office.

RCIA: Contact Mary-Anne at the parish office. Our website has a form which can be used to express interest in becoming a Catholic.

Sacramental Program: Contact Mary-Anne at the Parish Office.

Baptism team: Meets on the first Tuesday of the month, with parents who are preparing for their children's baptism.



Holy Hour - Sunday 1 March 2026

The Catholic Church in Australia will begin the journey to the **Eucharistic Congress 2028** on the second Sunday of Lent.

Parishes across the country will hold an hour of Eucharistic Adoration following Mass on this Second Sunday of Lent. Hearing the Gospel of the Transfiguration proclaimed on that Sunday, it is hoped that we may all be united in prayer across the country, seeking a eucharistic transfiguration of our own lives and within our communities.

YOU are invited to join with us as part of a nationwide **Holy Hour** on **Sunday, 1 March 2026 at 10.30am** in **Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newcastle West**.

“In 2028, Australia will host a landmark moment as Sydney hosts the International Eucharistic Congress (Eucharist28). This is more than a single event. It marks the beginning of a journey of renewal, transformation and mission, centred on an encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. A moment to believe. The journey has begun.” Search eucharist28.org to find out more

EUCHARIST28

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost.

Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ.

Amen.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

First Sunday of Lent
21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

Easter Raffle



To help us prepare for a giant Easter raffle, we're asking each family to donate an egg, bunny or bilby. Baskets are available at the main entrance of each church on weekends. During the week you are welcome to bring along your donation to the parish office.



Regular Opportunities for Prayer and Meditation

- **Tighes Hill Christian Meditation** (non-denominational) - each Monday 3.30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Tighes Hill



- **Living Waters Meditation Centre** - each Wednesday 7.30am and Friday 11.00am at 34 Kenrick St The Junction

- **The Rosary** - each Wednesday after 8.15am Mass at The Cathedral, First Saturday of the month after Mass and Novena at The Cathedral



- **Divine Mercy Devotion** - first Sunday of the month 3.00pm at Christ the King, Mayfield West

- **Taize Service** - first Sunday of the month 5.00 - 6.00pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Tighes Hill, followed by a shared supper.



Hunter Men's Rosary Group

We invite all Men 18 years old and up to join our spiritual family. We pray the rosary together on the first Saturday of the month after the Novena at 10.30am Sacred Heart Cathedral. University students are welcome to attend - Call Jason 0499854928.

Newcastle Region Parish Luncheon

This Monday 23 February 2026 at 12pm, Souths Leagues Club, Llewellyn St, Merewether. After a long break – please come along, share a meal and time together. ALL WELCOME.



Welcome to Our Newly Baptised!



We joyfully welcome those receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this weekend: At Mayfield West, Ari Howard; At the Cathedral, Hazel Griffen-Kinchela, Zoe Smith and Milliani Ngatuvai.

The Chuckle

A little girl prayed, “Dear God, thank You for my baby brother.”

Then she added, “But I asked for a puppy... so I’m still waiting.”



Parish Group Meetings

St Joseph’s Prayer/Discussion Group has commenced our 2026 program with the Wollongong Lenten Program. We meet on Thursdays during Lent at 9.30am in the meeting room at The Junction and will continue until Easter. All welcome. Contact Janet Tully on 0435 518 671.



Book Club meets on Sunday, 1 March, to discuss *Always Home, Always Homesick* by Hannah Kent. For April it will be *Legacy* by Chris Hammer.

If you would like to participate in book club meetings, please email:

newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

View, Chew, and Chat has started a new series, *Parousia: The Bible and the Mass*. Join us on Wednesdays as we explore how Scripture comes alive in the Mass and deepens our understanding of what we celebrate each week. Watch the first episode: [Parousia: The Bible and the Mass - St. Paul Center](#). All welcome to join us! To participate, please email the parish office:



newcparish@mn.catholic.org.au

Faith Sharing on the Sunday Gospel at Tighes Hill Church after 8am Mass on 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th March 2026.

Our Columbaria

Those in our Columbaria with February anniversaries:

At Sacred Heart Cathedral:

Robert Charles	Xuyen An Le
Bartholomew	Patricia (Trish) Leishman
Jean Rosario Belcher	Alan James Long
Gwenneth Bennett	Fiore (Frank) Monaco
Anthony Bookallil	Stan O'Brien
Beryl Jean Clarke	Kathleen O'Neill
Marie Forrest	Roger Saunders
Joanne Franks	Robert Smith
Giuseppe Grach	Gregory Smith
Edna Jean Hancock	Toni Van Schyndel
Peter William Heggart	William (Bill) Warren
Michael Henessy	Clare Alice Withers
Ronald Joseph Jarrett	Joan Woodcock
Czeslaw (Cec) Kizeweter	

At St Joseph’s:

Nicholas Evans	Gerald Meighan
Robyn Field	Bob Smyth
Marie James	Kath Walsh
Marie Maddrell	Alan Watt
William McNeil	Johanna Schmuck
Margaret McVie	Rodney Wright

YOUTH MINISTRY

Stations of the Cross

Join other young adults (18-35) on Friday nights during Lent to pray the **Stations of the Cross** together.

Together, we will celebrate this sacred season by walking with Jesus in his Passion, drawing closer to him in prayer and to each other in fellowship. Come as you are, bring a friend, and journey with us toward Easter in hope.

Dates: Fridays in Lent (excluding Good Friday)

Time: 6pm

Location: Sacred Heart Cathedral

Social Night

EPIC won trivia last year... now it's time to spend the voucher! Pop in for a fun **Social Night** at The Oak in Tighes Hill as we cash in our victory and enjoy a relaxed evening together. No agenda, no pressure, just good food, great chats, and the chance to build friendships beyond our usual gatherings. If you haven't been to an EPIC event before, this is the perfect opportunity to connect, laugh, and unwind with other young adults. Open to all aged 18 to 35.

Date: **Tuesday 17th March**

Time: **6pm**

No RSVP required, contact Jono on 0432 504 217 with any questions.

Follow us on Insta at @epicnewcastle to keep up to date on young adult events!



EPIC Young Adults – Vision and Mission

EPIC is inviting all young people aged 18-35 to have their say in shaping the future of our Young Adults ministry!

Join us for a **Vision and**

Mission Writing Day --a

chance to reflect, dream, and contribute your voice to what

this community is becoming. Whether you're deeply involved or newly curious, your perspective matters.

Come connect with other like-minded young adults, share ideas, and help articulate a vision grounded in faith.

Date: Saturday 28th February

Time: 10am to 3:00pm

Location: Diocesan Resource Centre

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/EPICVandM>



Our Catholic Schools

St Joseph's Primary School: Karen McGinlay (*Principal*)

Union Street, The Junction NSW 2291

(02) 4961 2827

www.merewether.catholic.edu.au

Holy Family Primary School: Shannon McGregor (*Principal*)

Pell Street, Merewether NSW 2291

(02) 4963 3009

www.merewetherbeach.catholic.edu.au

St Columban's Primary School: Penny Banister (*Principal*)

Church Street, Mayfield NSW 2304

(02) 4968 3315

www.mayfieldsc.catholic.edu.au

St Peter's Primary School: Dennis Nolan (*Principal*)

Dunbar St, Stockton NSW 2295

(02) 4928 1861

www.stockton.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier's College: Greg Ptolemy (*Principal*)

Parkway Avenue, Hamilton NSW 2303

(02) 4961 2863

www.hamilton.catholic.edu.au

San Clemente High School: Emma South (*Principal*)

78 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

(02) 4014 7300

www.mayfieldsanc.catholic.edu.au

St Dominic's Catholic College: Rachel Jones (*Principal*)

76 Havelock St, Mayfield NSW 2304

(02) 4968 1295

www.mayfieldsd.catholic.edu.au

Diocesan Events

<https://tinyurl.com/cdmnevents>

Rite of Election 2026

The Rite of Election on Sunday 22 February 2026 is an opportunity to welcome all 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. Please join in witness and prayerful support of those who choose to be Catholic. 1.30pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Newcastle West, followed by afternoon tea.

Diocesan Resource Centre

Opening Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 10am to 4pm. Open 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, 10am to 2pm. cnr Tudor and Parry Sts, Newcastle West.

All resources are available to borrow; and are searchable on the library catalogue, which can be accessed through this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/DOMNLibrary>

OR use the QR code.



Praying Scripture Group

Diocesan Resource Centre - Cnr Parry & Tudor Streets, Newcastle West

The Praying Scripture group has started meeting at 2:30pm on Saturdays during Lent, at the Diocesan Resource Centre adjacent to Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton, to pray and reflect on the Lenten Gospels. We will continue to meet after Easter with a particular focus on the Gospel of John this year. You can contact Wayne Caruana for more information on 0466 631394.

Formation Film

Saturday 7 March, 11am, cnr Parry & Tudor Streets, Newcastle West – beside Sacred Heart Cathedral. Join us as we watch and discuss the 2024 release film ***Small Things Like These***.

Lunch will be served after the film.

Reservations requested:

<https://tinyurl.com/CDMN-FormationFilm>

or call Mary on 0249230682



Mission to Seafarers



Volunteer Drivers Needed for our Afternoon/ Evening Roster. For the centre to run to capacity we need drivers willing to drive on weekends and in the evenings Monday to Fridays from 3pm – 10pm (closing early if no seafarers onsite).

Enquiries to mark.spencer1@mn.catholic.org.au or 0408 895 951.

Meditation/reflection/sharing

Exploring the poetry of the mystics

Reading and listening to poetry before becoming silent and still. It engages the whole person-mind, heart and body.

Saturday, March 28th 9.30am to 12.30

Location: DoMN LIBRARY

(Corner Tudor and Parry St, Hamilton. Parking behind Library off Tudor St and Sacred Heart Cathedral Car Park)

Donation: \$10.00

Morning Tea Provided at 9.30

RSVP by March 23rd

annecuskelly@hotmail.com or 0407436808

Become an SRE Teacher — Share Faith, Bring Hope

Monday 2 March 1-3pm

Mullane Room, 841 Hunter St Newcastle West

Our parishes are looking for generous hearts to join our team of Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers. This beautiful ministry allows you to share the love of Jesus with children in our local public schools, offering them encouragement, connection, and a sense of belonging.

If you've ever felt a nudge to serve, this is a wonderful place to begin. All training, support and resources are provided - you simply bring your witness and willingness. Come along, meet the team, and discover how your "yes" could make a real difference in a child's life. Contact Nicola Graham 0417 773 444 nicola.graham@mn.catholic.org.au

Food Baskets for the Needy

Items of dry goods or tin food can be placed in the blue bins located at our churches. When donating please check expiry dates. We request that you do not donate peanut butter. Any of the following non-perishable items are welcome: UHT milk, cereal, spreads, tinned goods, pasta, rice, pasta sauces, tea, coffee, biscuits, custard, jelly, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant.



Safeguarding

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding: 02 4979 1390, or email childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au or visit www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

Sacraments of Initiation - Enrolments for 2026



Our parish wishes to support parents in their sacred duty of initiating children into the Christian life through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. These sacraments form an inseparable whole: Baptism welcomes children into God's family, Confirmation seals them with the Holy Spirit for witness and strength; and the Eucharist unites them fully to Christ's Body, the source and summit of Christian life. These special sacraments help open their hearts to experience more of God's love and goodness in their lives, guiding them toward a deeper ability to love others selflessly and to follow the example of Jesus.

To support parents in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation (healing) Confirmation and First Eucharist, we are holding parent information sessions at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. The remaining session is:

Tuesday, February 24 6:00pm -7:30pm

If you feel called to assist parents in preparing children for Sacraments of Initiation, or if you would like more information please contact our pastoral associate for Sacraments Mary-Anne de Luca on 0409 077 373 or email mary-anne.deluca@mn.catholic.org.au

If you are interested in registering your child to be part of the sacramental journey this year, please fill out the following form:

<https://tinyurl.com/Initiation2026>

Donation Options

For anyone who wishes to make donations to the parish via direct deposit: Details are provided below for the individual parishes.

Account name: **CDF** BSB: **066739**

Account number: *see below**

Reference: **Donation [Surname]**

***Account numbers:**

Newcastle Parish – A/c no: **100008696**

Mayfield Parish – A/c no: **100007169**

Stockton Parish – A/c no: **100003308**

Parish Census & Planned Giving Forms

You can use the link or QR code to complete and submit the form online.

<https://tinyurl.com/newcparishcensus>



Weekday Mass Goers

If you come to weekday Mass, even occasionally, we would like to have your contact details. Sometimes priest availability may impact the Mass schedule at short notice, and we'd like to be able to let you know when this happens. If you haven't used the sheets available through last week, please contact the parish office to let us know how to contact you if necessary.

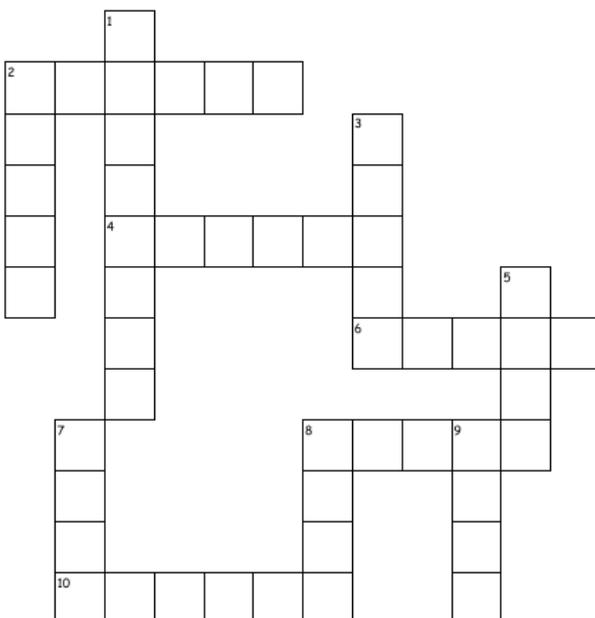
Bequests

To help our Catholic Pastoral Region continue its mission of proclaiming the Good News, you might consider including us in your Will. You just need to specify which parish(es) you would like to help.

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 Psalm 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 Genesis 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 Romans 5:12-19

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

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

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Communion Antiphon Matthew 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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Next Week's Readings

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A

Gen 12:1-4

2 Tim 1:8-10

Mt 17:1-9

Scripture Commentary

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.

Today's readings certainly suggest the value of learning. The story from the **Book of Genesis** comes from pre-history. It has been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman. On the contrary, the readings tell us that the world is good. When humans try to overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows, and the experience of beauty and harmony is threatened. We need to choose our teachers. Are we going to listen to God or the serpent? In our world, the serpent takes many forms. There are many threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our environment.

Likewise, today's story of the temptations in the wilderness from **Matthew's Gospel** shows us that some lessons are difficult. Jesus teaches the devil. He tells the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus must decide which voices he will follow. He must learn that some ideas may not be as good as they sound. All the kingdoms of the world, Jesus learns, are no substitute for an honest and life-giving relationship with God.

Each week during Lent, **Caritas Australia asks us to think about the world and learn more about our role in building God's kingdom.** We start with an introduction to Project Compassion, which allows us to appreciate how much the Catholic community has been able to achieve across the decades for the most marginalised people of the world. We are still learning.

In *Dilexi Te* Pope Leo XIV writes:

Christians must not abandon almsgiving... It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts... for our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor.



Bulletin Survey - with a prize!

We'd love to have your feedback about the parish bulletin - what you like, what could be done better, what new content could be included.

Submitting a response to the survey puts you into a draw to win a \$100 gift voucher.

Here is the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/Newcparishbulletinsurvey>

Or use the QR code:

