



*Readings for  
this week:*

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11



*Readings for  
next Sunday:*

Genesis 12:1-4  
2 Timothy 1:8-10  
Matthew 17:1-9



## Liturgical Jottings

### Lenten Penance

#### and the Synodal Journey

This year's Lenten Message of Pope Francis links the Gospel account of the transfiguration (Second Sunday of Lent) with the year's journey towards the Synod of Bishops on Synodality. He writes: "We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience. Excerpts from this year's message will be printed here during Lent. Pope Francis concludes his message with:

"Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit inspire and sustain us this Lent in our ascent with Jesus, so that we may experience his divine splendour and thus, confirmed in faith, persevere in our journey together with him, glory of his people and light of the nations."

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## Looking at the Readings

The Readings for this first Sunday of Lent carry several meanings. In the early Christian centuries Lent was the beginning of the year with reading of the beginning of the Bible (Genesis) and the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Matthew. It is the time also for preparation of Baptism for the Catechumens and a season of penitential acts for the Christian. It is a journey with Jesus, through the wilderness to the cross and resurrection. The author(s) of the Book of Genesis present wise reflections on the origins of the universe and humankind and of sin. The readers are also invited to reflect wisely on these texts lest they dismiss them as naive stories containing primitive science and history. We must read and listen with attentiveness and astuteness. The excerpt is brief but set before us life and prosperity, death and disaster (Deut 30:15) and we become seekers of wisdom, faith, truth and life through God's word..

The tempter is crafty and persistent but basically a fundamentalist in his use of scripture to win points and in his misunderstanding on the true nature and mission of Christ as the new Adam (Romans 5) and the Son of God who anointed him and whom Jesus will not deny. Yet Jesus experienced these temptations and told the evangelists who recorded them for our benefit in our journey of self-discovery towards salvation.

## Pope Francis Message for Lent 2023

Lenten penance is a commitment, sustained by grace, to overcoming our lack of faith and our resistance to following Jesus on the way of the cross. ... To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity. We need to set out on the journey, an uphill path that, like a mountain trek, requires effort, sacrifice and concentration. These requisites are also important for the synodal journey to which, as a Church, we are committed to making. We can benefit greatly from reflecting on the relationship between Lenten penance and the synodal experience.


## Prayer for Lent

Lord Jesus, sent by the Father, you came to fight in an immense combat to deliver Adam's children. Grant that we may be so close to you in battle and toil, that we may also share in your victory.

## On the Lighter Side

"Have patience with all things, but first of all have patience with yourself." St Francis de Sales.



	<b>Those who are recently deceased and those who are grieving</b>	Leona Ablett
	<b>For those whose anniversary occurs at this time</b>	
	<b>Our sick and their carers</b>	Vito Prinzi, Lesley Kennedy

DAY, TIME, DATE	COMMENTATOR	READER	GOSPEL PROCESSION	GIFT PRESENTATION	SPECIAL MINISTERS	SCREEN OPERATOR/ORGAN
Sun 10:30 am 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Carol Coulston	Anne-Marie Nihill	Ricki Waters	Shelia Gregg Mary Vraca	Denice Bourke	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Rob Miller	Kay Gaffy	Doreen Corrigan	Steve & Simone De Lai	Ross Kelly	Mary Gale Trish Warnett
Sat 6:00 pm 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Carol Coulston	Peter Crombie	Joan Webster	Joyce Caiafa & Delphi Hamilton	N/A	Anne Hutchinson Trish Warnett
Sun 10:30 am 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Rob Miller	Ross Kelly	Domolina Phelan	Nita Basile Marg Normington	Connie Serra	Debbie Worm Trish Warnett

## Two Week Mass Timetable Commencing 27<sup>th</sup> February

### Weekday Mass

Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup> February	No Mass
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9:15 am Liturgy
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	No Mass
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9:15 am Liturgy

### Weekend Mass

Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30 am Mass

### Weekday Mass

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9:15 am Anointing Mass
Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> March	9:15 am Mass

### Weekend Mass

Sat 11 <sup>th</sup> March	No Mass
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> March	10:30 am Mass

**Reconciliation** TBC when the next reconciliation will take place

## Saturday Masses

Please remember there are no 6pm Saturday Masses in February or on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The next Saturday Mass will be on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## 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.

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 5333 or 0422 472 567. WEB: [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

## Sandhurst Diocese Lent leaflets 2023

The Sandhurst Diocese Lent leaflets for 2023 are available on the Sandhurst Diocese Website. These simple resources for individual or small group reflection and prayer, draw upon Scripture readings for Lent, stories and insights of Saints.

To view or download these Lent leaflets online please go to the Sandhurst Diocese Website <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/2394-lenten-resources-for-2023> Copies can also be found in the Narthex

## Themes for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

<https://young-catholics.com>

The readings for the 1st Sunday of Lent Year A get us thinking about sin and temptation.

The first reading recounts the story of how Adam and Eve turned away from God. The psalm is a repentant appeal to the goodness of God. The second reading reminds us that even though we are sinners, we are saved through the obedience of Jesus Christ. And the gospel tells us how Jesus went to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days and resisted the temptations of Satan.

- Our Lenten plans
- Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving
- Temptations
- The misuse of power

## More Thoughts for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

The temptations in the desert can be considered in different ways. Some have offered that they represent the temptations of thinking that we will never want (bread), we will never suffer (the angels will rescue you), and we will control our destiny (we can gain what we desire).

The remedy is prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Almsgiving frees us to give away our goods, trusting that God will provide for our needs. Fasting unites our suffering with the suffering of others. And prayer helps us place our destiny in God's hands.

The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A is also a good time to remember that we have some superheroes called saints on our side. We can ask them to pray for us when we feel like giving into temptation.

## Reflection Questions for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A

- How am I going to try to grow this Lent?
- How will I use this time to resist the temptations in my life?
- Is there a saintly superhero I can call on who is a good example for me?

## Lenten Activities: Visit a Garden and Pray

<https://young-catholics.com/863/lenten-activities-visit-a-garden-and-pray/>

Christ went to pray at the Garden of Gethsemane during his final hours before his crucifixion. It is a prayer of total surrender to the Father's will. It is an intense and intimate prayer experience.

He presents his own wishes to the Father. "Let this cup pass from me." We can take heart from knowing that we can confidently bring our own desires before God without being embarrassed by the asking. But in the end, Jesus knows that his purpose is to do the Father's will. "Not as I will, but as you will." So we too must surrender to God's will.

### Visit a Garden and Pray

So as a Lenten activity, visit a garden and think about the Garden of Gethsemane. Gardens are mostly bare this time of year, but there might be some small signs of spring life emerging. Consider how improving your prayer life can help the Holy Spirit make new life emerge in your own spiritual garden.

Take your children and teenagers and teach them to pray as Jesus did. When you visit a garden, read Matthew 26:36-46 (below) and then let everyone share what they noticed in the story. For younger children, it may be more appropriate to read the story from a children's bible or to tell it in your own words.

## Thank you

A big thank you to Fr Michael Grace who has been looking after the parish while Fr John Paul has been in India.

We have enjoyed your many stories and listening to you play the button piano accordion. We hope you enjoyed your time in Tatura.

Also thank you to Fr Jackson Saunders who did the School Opening Mass so beautifully last Friday, it was well received and much appreciated.

## Acknowledgement to Country

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice

