

First Sunday of Lent

22 February 2026



*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

Pastoral Notes II, LENT

In Lent, the Alleluia is omitted at Mass and at the Liturgy of the Hours, even in celebrations of feasts and solemnities.

A homily is recommended on weekdays, especially during the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter. From Ash Wednesday, Ordinary Time is interrupted until after Easter Time.

The Reconciliation I-II Eucharistic Prayers are appropriate for use during Lent when there is a theme of reconciliation. They may be used with Prefaces which refer to conversion and penance, such as the Prefaces of Lent.

In Lent, memorials are optional and only the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the memorial is used at Mass. All other texts are of the Lenten day.

(from the Aust-NZ Ordo 2026 p 40)

Looking at the Readings

The readings leading up to the Gospel speak on how sin and death entered into the world and had plunged humankind into a gloomy state that seemed inescapable. Between the two readings, however, is the classic penitential Psalm: “Be merciful, O Lord for we have sinned” (Ps 50). For with sin comes mercy.

The first Sunday of Lent each year presents the gospel of the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness according to Matthew (this year), Mark or Luke. Each Evangelist gives their own take of Jesus encounter with temptation. One of the common elements to all three is that “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,” (Matt 4:1, Mark 1:12, and Luke 4:1). Yet “being led” has overtones of free choice and invitational gesture. Yet again being led into the wilderness to be tempted is evocative of the sentence in the Lord’s Prayer where we entreat God “Lead us not into temptation.” (Matt 6:13). Jesus overcame the wiles of the evil one. Our forty days of Lent in following Christ are days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

What is Almsgiving?

Simply put, almsgiving is the act of giving money, food, or assistance to those in need, motivated by compassion and spiritual belief and is common in many faith traditions.

Christianity: The concept of almsgiving forms a cornerstone of Christian ethics, with Jesus setting a profound example of selfless care for the poor.

Islam: Sadaqah: This is a voluntary charity given out of compassion and faith. It can be given at any time, in any amount, and encompasses financial gifts, food, time, and even a simple kind word or smile.

Buddhism and Hinduism: The traditions, originating in India, share a foundational concept known as Dana, meaning “generosity” or “giving.” In both faiths, Dana is considered one of the highest virtues and a prerequisite for spiritual advancement.

For more faiths and explanations visit <https://aro.org.au/category/general>

Pope Leo XIV

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.

On the Lighter Side

It's Lent already! If you made a New Year's resolution, and failed to keep it, Lent is a great opportunity to try again. It will be easier. A year is 365 days; Lent is only 40 days.



 Please email or contact the office to add names to the prayer list	For those who have died and those who are grieving	
	For those whose anniversary occurs at this time	Joan Dillon, Diane Nulcahy, Glenice Phelan, Peter Kerrins, Vincenzo Casuscelli
	Our sick and their carers	Harney McKinnon, Rita Fairchild

ROSTERS FOR THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Sunday 1st March 10:30am

Commentator: Rob Miller
Reader: Gem Reyes
Gospel Procession: Steve De Lai
Gifts: D Corrigan & P Moroney
Eucharistic Minister: Danny Reyes
Screen Operator: Debbie Worm
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: E Worm & M Gale

Sunday 8th March 10:30am

Commentator: Domelina Phelan
Reader: Anne-Marie Nihill
Gospel Procession: Connie Serra
Gifts: S & S De Lai
Eucharistic Minister: Ross Kelly
Screen Operator: Debbie Worm
Music Operator: Trish Warnett
Money Counters: L & D Worm

Saturday Mass times for 1st & 3rd Sunday of the Month

6:00pm (Oct – Mar) 5:00pm (Apr-Sep)

We thank all of our volunteers for their assistance during Mass.

Two Week Mass Timetable Week Commencing 25th February

Weekday Masses

Wednesday 25th February 9:15am (Liturgy)
Friday 27th February 9:15am (Liturgy)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 1st March 10:30am (Fr Grace)

Weekday Liturgy & Mass

Wednesday 4th March 9:15am (Liturgy)
Friday 6th March 9:15am (Fr Uday)

Weekend Mass

Sunday 8th March 10:30am (Fr Uday)

Monthly events

Anointing Mass every 1st Wednesday Mass at 9:15am

Italian Rosary every 2nd Friday at 2pm in the Church

Reconciliation every 1st Saturday of the month (30 minutes before Mass)

Saturday evening Masses: 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month
4th Sunday of the month: Shared lunch in St Mary's Hall

Ladies Cuppa & Chat

1st Wednesday of each month at 2pm in St Mary's Hall. All welcome.



The next one will be Wednesday 4th March.

Project Compassion Theme for 2026

Unite Against Poverty

Please use this QR Code to donate through the Tatura Parish



BAPTISM PREPARATION INFORMATION SESSION:

Wednesday 4th March at 7:00pm in the Church

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS: Please note that gluten free hosts are available to parishioners who are gluten intolerant. Please see the Trish or Fr Uday. For further queries contact the parish office.

NAMES ON PRAYER LIST: Please contact the office or by email to add names on the prayer list.



Donation QR Code



Plate Collection and Envelopes

Thank you so much for your generosity and support of the parish.

May God bless you always.



Last week: \$ 525.00

Shared Parish Lunch is today following 10:30am Mass.

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

Matthew 4:1-2

There will be no Saturday Masses while Fr Uday is away. Fr Michael Grace will be celebrating the Sunday Masses at 10:30am in February and the first weekend in March.

Weekday Masses will be replaced by Liturgies on Wednesdays and Fridays.

There will be no Anointing Masses or Reconciliation during February & March while Fr Uday is away.

Each Friday during Lent there will be the Stations of the Cross following Mass (or Liturgy while Fr Uday is away) at 9:15am.

Lenten Group

We are planning to meet weekly to talk about the Sunday Mass Readings of Lent. We will meet at 7pm on Wednesdays in St Mary's Hall.

If you would like to come along on any/all of the weeks during Lent, you will be most welcome.

Please add your name to the list in the Narthex. Denice Bourke

Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion in the lead-up to Social Justice Sunday in August on a key issue in society. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements – one in February and another in August ahead of Social Justice Sunday (August 30).

The February statement, launched last week, is titled ***The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good.***

Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

The **1st Sunday of Lent Year A** invites reflection on human weakness and God's saving grace. It shows the struggle with temptation and the hope of new life through Jesus.

TATURA WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

The theme for this year is **"I will Give You Rest: Come."** Matt 11:28-30 is prepared by WDP Nigeria.

This year the Prayer Service will be held at Olive and Vine (Uniting Church) in Hogan Street Tatura on Friday 6th March at 2pm.

All welcome and encouraged to come along and support this prayerful event.

Led into the Wilderness

The 1st Sunday of Lent Year A brings us into the story of Jesus in the desert. He fasts for forty days and is tempted by the devil. But Jesus stays faithful. He trusts God and chooses what is right.

This reading reminds us that Lent is a time to turn away from sin and follow Jesus more closely.

The first reading shows how Adam and Eve were tempted and gave in. They ate the fruit God told them not to eat. Their choice brought sin into the world. But the Gospel shows something new. Jesus is also tempted, but He says no. He shows us a better way.

St Paul helps us connect these two stories. He says that one man brought sin, but another man, Jesus, brings life. Through Him, we can be made right with God again. This message of hope is at the centre of the 1st Sunday of Lent Year A.

Lent is a season for change. It is a time to say no to things that pull us away from God. It is also a time to trust, to pray, and to begin again. As we walk through Lent, we follow Jesus, who shows us the way.

Lord, help us to follow Jesus' example of faith and obedience. Give us strength to resist temptation and trust in your love. Guide us through our struggles and remind us that we are never alone. May we grow closer to you through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Amen.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with our Parish Child safety officer Debbie Turvey on 0407 804 317.

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 First Nation Australians in truth, justice and reconciliation.

Sacred Heart Parish, Tatura

PO Box 110 Tatura VIC 3616

Phone: 0436 112 232

Email: tatura@sandhurst.catholic.org.au

Website:

<http://www.sacredheartparishtatura.com.au>

Facebook: Sacred Heart Catholic Parish Tatura

DIOCESE NEWS – 22-2-2026



Discover Catholic Podcasts and events happening across Australia – retreats, pilgrimages, workshops and more.

Visit www.CathEvents.org.au to find opportunities to grow in faith and community. Event organisers can also list their events for free, helping more people connect and participate.

Link for 2026 Lent Reflections on the Diocese Website:

<https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3010-lent-reflection-resources-2026>

The February statement, launched last week, is titled ***The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good.***

Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

The latest Along the Track can be found on our website under the heading of **Sharings / Along the Track**



Diocese Website: <https://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au>

Diocese Facebook Page: Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Donation QR Code



GET OUR SEAL OF APPROVAL
THIS EASTER AND BEYOND!

Treat yourself with responsibly sourced chocolate this Easter, supporting brands committed to eliminating slavery from their supply chain.

Learn the truth

A significant portion of chocolate available in Australia is produced using cocoa beans harvested by child labourers, many of whom endure enslavement and exploitative working conditions. Indulge responsibly, select ethically sourced chocolate, and support companies working towards eliminating slavery from their supply chain this Easter.

Here is how:

1. Join the one billion people who read the Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard (<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>) last year to discover their chocolate's true origins and evaluate their favourite brands' ethical practices.
2. Seek out the Fairtrade and Rainforest Alliance certifications on chocolate packaging.

Note these certification seals mean the certified ingredient was produced using methods that support social, economic, and environmental sustainability.

Take action and make a difference today!

**Project Compassion Theme
for 2026**

Unite Against Poverty

Please use this QR Code to donate
through the Tatura Parish



FIRST SUNDAY of LENT – 22 February

This Lent, our parish community is called to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Each year, Project Compassion invites us to encounter stories of courage and hope from people around the world who are striving for a brighter future.

In 2026, Project Compassion shares four stories of resilience and strength. We'll meet Sisilia, a young student from Tanzania, whose education was being disrupted by long daily walks to collect water for her family. With the support of Caritas Australia and people like you, Sisilia now has access to clean water from taps installed in her school and village.

We'll get to know Monoranjon from Bangladesh, where communities are heavily impacted by natural disasters and climate change. Caritas Australia, together with supporters across Australia, has helped Monoranjon to learn climate-resilient farming skills.

We'll be introduced to Manaini from Fiji, who struggled with poverty and food insecurity. With support, she gained training in food processing and gardening, improving nutrition and creating income to support her children's education.

And we'll hear the story of Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem worker from Gaza who was displaced many times due to ongoing conflict. Despite this hardship, he continues to serve families in need through Caritas' emergency response.



Sisilia (13) smiles as she stands in the middle of her classroom. Photo: Caritas Australia

Monoranjon lives in a region in southwest Bangladesh that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Photo: Caritas Australia

Manaini sells fresh fruits and vegetables that she and her community have grown and packaged on their farms, by the roadside in a small village in Fiji. Photo: Caritas Australia

Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem staff member in Gaza, sits in the ruins of a building. Photo: Caritas Jerusalem

Prayer of Intercession

For those experiencing poverty and marginalisation, that our support for Project Compassion during Lent will be a sign to them of the love of God for all people. We pray to the Lord.

REFLECTION for FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17. R. v.3 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There are plenty of people who would agree with him. One of them is Oprah Winfrey who said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and, yes, 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 often been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman. This is not true. 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 modern world, the serpent takes many forms. There are countless threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our natural 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. Today 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 all still learning. Pope Leo XIV has reminded us that the vulnerable are great teachers.

In Dilexi Te he 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.

The evil spirit will always focus on the negative and convince us that change is too difficult. The spirit of grace and truth will show us what is truly possible and help us sort our priorities.

Our generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, or by scanning your parish's QR code.



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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God' he said 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these,' he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2026. No 2131. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS

As is traditional on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus' temptation, an appropriate theme as we begin our own journey in Lent and begin to explore our own seductive temptations. We are all prone to these, and Matthew presents us with a Jesus similarly tested: an egoism exclusive of others especially God, the attraction to power and the seduction of wealth. These temptations are crafted in Old Testament terminology and imagery, particularly present in the Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today's story, Satan enters the scene, originally a member of the heavenly court (see Job) but, by the time of Matthew, God's adversary who tests the intention and fidelity of those who belong to God. Jesus is his target in three temptations. The first is about food and the temptation to break covenantal fidelity to God due to hunger. The second seeks to question Jesus' conviction of God's care of him. From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is told to throw himself from it, and test God's protection of him. In the third, with a vision of all the earth's kingdoms and seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew's point is quite clear writing to a Jewish audience most familiar with Israel's desert failures: Jesus is an authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite people, knows and experiences their temptations, but resists the seduction of egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to God and his covenantal relationship. In this first week of Lent, today's Gospel invites us to reflect on those self-centred seductions that may compromise our true relationship to God.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING

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

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. 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, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned.

If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

■ The word of the Lord.

Longer form 5:12-19