



Holy Family Parish Northeast Mallee

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Incorporating the Communities of St Mary's Sea Lake, Sacred Heart Culgoa, St Michael's Lalbert, St Joseph's Nandaly, S's Peter & Paul Quambatook & St Mary's Swan Hill as well as the Lake Boga Families & Faith Group



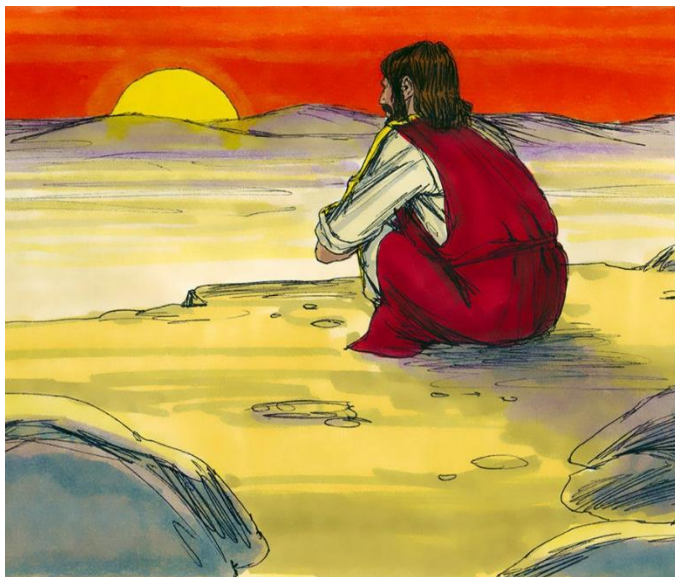
26TH FEBRUARY 2023

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

PUTTING OUR TRUST IN THE FATHER

Today's readings invite us to enter into two contrasting stories. In Genesis we hear the story of the Fall, then in the Gospel the story of Jesus' forty days in the desert. Both stories tell of a test. Adam and Eve are tempted, and so is Jesus. Adam and Eve fail the test, but Jesus holds true. Why the difference?

I think the best word to describe this difference is 'Trust'. God wanted what was best for Adam and Eve. He showed in so many ways that he was their loving Father. His command 'not to eat of the tree' came from that place of love. When the serpent tested them, he made them question whether they were ready to trust in the Father's goodness and love for them. Despite all the ways God had shown them he was trustworthy, they sadly failed that test. And despite all the many, many ways the Father has shown me that he is indeed trustworthy, I know that I fail that test too, time and time again.



Jesus' story however gives us hope. He too is tempted, and in some very clever ways. He is desperately hungry, would turning some stones into bread be that bad? And think of the setting he finds himself in. Adam and Eve were surrounded by a rich garden full of everything they needed. Jesus is on his own, in the desert. There seems nothing there to remind him of the Father's goodness, and yet Jesus never falters in his trust. As hard as it must have been, he pegs everything he has and is on the Father's trustworthiness and turns the tempter away. His trust wins out, and he will keep that trust all the way to the Cross. And here is the message of hope and joy; we now share in that victory. No matter how

hard it may be for us to keep our trust in the Father, Jesus shows us the way. No matter how many times we may falter, he is ready to pick us up.

Lent is a special time for us to renew and strengthen our trust in the Father's goodness. When we pray, we open our hearts to his will for us and the great plans he has in store. When we fast, we leave aside something we want and desire to focus more firmly on what the Father wants for us. When we give alms, we give generously of what we have, trusting that the Father will provide us with everything we need. And by placing our trust in the Father in all these small ways, we allow him to show his trustworthiness anew. By placing ourselves in his hands, we can come to know more and more deeply his love for us.

Father, I trust in you! Jesus, I trust in you!

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Office Hrs: Tues and Fri 10:30 -2:30

Parish Priest

Fr James Kerr

Parish Office:

Glenda Klabbers & Mary Kennedy

Child Protection Officers:

Damian and Karen Kelly

Child Safe Church

Here in the Parish of Holy Family North East Mallee we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.



Please keep in your prayers
Recent Deaths

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Wilhelm Wierderman, Mary Giddings
Vincenzo Iannuci, Flavia Dutto, John Quirk
Lozz Nolan, Simon Hayes, Gary Patching
Ted Corrie, John Walsh, Ellen Sheehan
Giuseppe & Nella Bellofiore, Mitchell Donohue,
Francesco Salvo (Frank), Norah Walsh
Mary Eleanor Ryan

SICK LIST

Elizabeth Williamson, Paul Donohue, Jayden
Williams, Margaret Foott, Jarrod Crimmins,
Michael Bourke, Sarah Kenny, Jack Donohue,
Jude Lewis, Susan, Yvonne Annan,
Bridget Phyland, Carmel Ryan

THIS WEEKEND 25/26TH FEBRUARY

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Quambatook
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

WEEKDAYS IN SWAN HILL

Tuesday to Thursday NO MASS
Fr James away for annual retreat

Friday: 10am World Day of Prayer
11am Adoration, 11:30am Mass
(Please note move to earlier time)

Also Confessions 5:30, Stations of the Cross 6pm

Saturday: Confessions 9:30am, Mass 10am

NEXT WEEKEND 4/5TH MARCH 2023

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 6pm Swan Hill
Sunday 8.30am Sea Lake
Sunday 10:30am Swan Hill

NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER- SWAN HILL



The Swan Hill celebration of this years' World Day of Prayer will be held at St Mary's Church this coming Friday 3rd March at 10am. All welcome. The theme this year is taken from Ephesians 1:15-19, "I have heard about your faith", and the prayers prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan.

CHANGE TO FRIDAY MASS TIME SWAN HILL

We've moved the weekly Friday Mass forward to 11:30am. Adoration will still begin at 11am, together with the Rosary. The Angelus will now follow Mass at 12pm. This change has been made to avoid conflicting with the St Mary's Primary (Swan Hill) Assembly time, so that I and a few parents and grandparents are now able to attend both without a mad rush.



CUPPA NEXT SUNDAY

The monthly cuppa and chat will be offered again next Sunday 5th March after the 10:30am Mass in Swan Hill.

FATHER JAMES AWAY ON RETREAT

I will be away this week for our annual priest's retreat, returning on Friday in time for Mass.



LENTEN PAPER CHAIN

You perhaps already have chosen a few little ways you are looking to observe Lent this year, but if you are after a few more ideas, how about being part of our Parish's Lenten Paper Chain?

Each 'chain-link' suggests an activity we might take up and offer as a gift, for example one is 'Write down 20 things you are thankful for'. If you aren't keen on the suggested activity, feel free to write your own on the back and bring that in instead. We will then link up all the individual activities in a single chain.

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SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER DURING LENT- STATIONS AND CONFESSIONS

It will vary slightly from week to week, depending on circumstances, but I am planning to offer some times to pray the Stations of the Cross in Swan Hill. This coming week it will be Friday at 6pm, which will continue through Lent if there is interest, and after next week there will also be an opportunity on Wednesdays after the 10am Mass.

I will also be offering extra opportunities for Confession on Friday evenings from 5:30-6pm (except when I am due for Mass in Culgoa) and Saturday mornings from 9:30-10am.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING DURING LENT- REMEMBERING THE POOR

Many of you have a great tradition of supporting Caritas' Project Compassion Program each year. The envelopes and boxes will hopefully have arrived by next week, but in the meantime you can also donate via their website caritas.org.au. Perhaps you might also like to consider some of the other many charities offering aid throughout the world? For example, Aid to the Church in Need aidtochurch.org, Catholic Mission catholicmission.org.au and Salesian Missions salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au are all worthy bodies with strong connections to the communities they serve, and each are currently running special appeals for the victims of the earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

The opportunities for charity and almsgiving are endless, but thankfully so too is the great store of God's love freely offered to us each and every day.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOR LENT

- Try not to eat any snacks for one day.
- Give up television and internet for one day.
- Genuinely complement someone who isn't expecting it.
- Donate a bag of food to St Vinnies.
- Go to a weekday Mass.

COLLECTIONS LAST TWO WEEKENDS

1st (In support of our Priests): \$1690

2nd (In support of our Parish): \$1830

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION- GREG SUNTER 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.

AN INVITATION

Lent is a season of invitation. It is an invitation to step into the desert with Jesus; to confront our own purpose and ministry and to renew our trust in God's vision for the world and for us individually. Seen in this light, Lent is so much more than fasting from meat and giving up ice cream for a few weeks. The whole idea of fasting and sacrifice is an attempt to simplify our lives. Through simplifying our life and removing some of the daily distractions, we can share in the desert experience of Jesus and then truly celebrate the hope reborn in the Easter season. © Greg Sunter

HAVE YOU THOUGHT?

What might it mean that Jesus was 'led by the Spirit out into the wilderness'?

In what way can the temptations Jesus faced be seen as testing his trust in God?

From where do you seek strength and support when your will and commitment are 'tempted'?

How can you become better aware of the way God calls you to live your life?

Why might this gospel reading have been chosen for the Lenten season?

How do the actions of Jesus balance or counter the actions of Adam and Eve?

What temptations do you face and how do you try to address them?

When have you put trust in God to resolve a situation beyond your control?

READINGS NEXT WEEK: 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

First Reading: Gen 12:1-4

Second Reading: 2 Tm 1:8-10

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

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. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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.

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.

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.

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.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.