

## 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



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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

26 FEBRUARY 2023

## IN JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

At the dawn of human history, Adam and Eve were seduced into trying to grasp equality with God. In their quest to become like God they gained some knowledge, but it left them chastened and disillusioned. Created in God's image they now saw that dignity was distorted by sin and became aware of their nakedness, vulnerability and need for God.

Prior to commencing his public ministry, Jesus undergoes a time of testing and preparation. During this time Jesus shares in all the trials that Israel experienced in the desert. They lost their way in the desert but Jesus gives us hope as he reveals the qualities that mark God's children. He knows the source of his life is to be found in God so there is no need to make his own bread. He knows that God is with him, and does not need to put God to the test. He is certain that God is the source of his life and power, and rejects the call to worship Satan.

Paul looked at all of salvation history and saw that Adam and Jesus marked two vital moments in God's dealing with humanity. What had been lost by one had been more than regained by the other. Through the gracious gift of Jesus' death, we are able to begin anew as God's children. As we begin the season of Lent we are invited to reflect on our own story, to begin once again with thankful hearts, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Christopher Monaghan CP**

## 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*





Sacred Heart Parish Church

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PPC Chair: Mr David McMahon

FC Chair: Mr Anthony Michael

Holy Trinity Principal: Mrs Jillian Rainger - 67224066

Parish Secretary: Peter Turner - 67221103

Office Hours: Mon 27 Feb & Fri 3 Mar - 8am to 1pm

Tues 28 Feb - 8am to 12pm

PARISH MASS TIMES

Sacred Heart Church Inverell

Saturday 6.00pm (5.30pm from May to August)

Sunday 9.00am

Monday, Tuesday and 1st Saturday 9.30am

Wednesday and Thursday 12 noon

1st Friday Mass and Benediction 12 noon

First Wednesday Anointing Mass 12 noon

McLean Village Each Friday except 1st Friday 11.00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8.15am - 9.15am

Sunday 8.00am - 8.30am

Tingha St. Francis' Church Saturday 4.00pm

(Saturday 3.30pm from May to August)

Ashford St Patrick's Church 1st & 3rd Sunday 11.00am

Bundarra St Mary of the Angels 2nd Sunday 11.00am

Yetman St Joseph the Worker 5th Sunday 11.30am

Baptism (Saturday only) 11am;

Marriages and Funerals by Appointment

O' Sacrament Divine.

All Praise and all Thanksgiving,

be every moment Thine...

Prayer in Honour of St Joseph

Gracious St Joseph, protect me and my family from all evil as you did the Holy Family. Kindly keep us ever united in the love of Christ, ever fervent in imitation of the virtue of our Blessed Lady, your sinless spouse, and always faithful in devotion to you. Amen.



PARISH SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

FEBRUARY - THE HOLY MONTH OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

MON 27th Feast Day of St Gregory of Narek, Doctor Rosary 9.00am Mass 9.30am

TUE 28th Rosary 9.00am Mass 9.30am

MARCH - THE HOLY MONTH OF ST JOSEPH

WED 1st Rosary 11.30am Mass 12 Noon

THUR 2nd Rosary 11.30am Mass 12 Noon

FRI 3rd First Friday Rosary 11.30am Mass 12 Noon Stations of the Cross 5.30pm

SAT 4th First Saturday Rosary 9.00am Mass 9.30am Vigil Mass 6.00pm

SUN 5th 2nd Sunday of Lent Mass 9.00am

OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION

We as a PARISH, try to live out our VISION: To continually form a Christ-centred community based on the Gospel Values expressed through SERVICE in peace, justice and love. MISSION: To know Christ more, His life and His teachings. To imbibe Christ's message of love and service. To try to share generously what graces and blessings we have and to be instruments of the Gospel message.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Rest of the souls of: all those in Purgatory.

We Pray for the Recently Deceased

Richard Wales, Jilly Hallam, Florence Emerson, Alan Wratten, Dora Kneipp. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Nathanial Marsh, June Saint, Levi Goodison, David Crabb, Zara Bentley, Betty Dodd, Shirley Thompson, Jim Hanlon, Margaret Jones, Beau Zappa, Clare Lockwood, Miriam Ballam, Matthew Smith, Eileen Hagan, Margaret Kahler, Lloyd Fleming, Herb McArdle, Bernie Graham and family, Fr John Willis, Jenny Turner, Emma Donaldson, Paul Saint, Kerrie O'Keeffe, Rex Parry, Danny Dickins, Brian Barker, Denise Taveira, Joanne Essey, Graham Tom, and all the sick members of our parish.



"How beautiful is the family that recites the Rosary every evening." - Pope St John Paul II



HOME ROSARY

Bernie & Colleen Graham 11 Diamond Street, Tingha Wednesday 1 March at 4.30pm

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Finance Committee Mon 27 Feb 2023 5.30pm Pastoral Council Wed 1 Mar 2023 5.00pm Liturgy Committee Sat 11 Mar 2023 8.30am

Church Choir: Choir practice has been postponed until further notice.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUR PRIESTS AND UPKEEP OF THE CHURCH

1st Collection: Presbytery for priest support BSB 082105Account No. 001023550 Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Account 2nd Collection: Church for upkeep & maintenance (PGP) BSB 082105Account No. 001001010 Account Name: Sacred Heart Parish Inverell For those on the Planned Giving Program could you please quote your surname and envelope number for the reference.

FEBRUARY 26TH - 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

"Each year, Lent stimulates us to rediscover the mercy of God so that we, in turn, become more merciful toward our brothers and sisters."

- Pope Benedict XVI

A friendly reminder: Please maintain a respectful atmosphere of reverence before and after each Mass so those praying may do so without distraction. Any conversation should be conducted quietly. Also, please remember to turn off your mobile devices.

"By devoutly assisting at Holy Mass you render the greatest homage possible to the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord."

St Leonard

ALTAR SOCIETY ROSTER FOR MARCH

Holy Trinity Team



Prayer of Reparation for Offenses Made Against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Merciful Jesus, my King and my God, I worship You. O Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate, I cherish you. For those who offer you insult, I offer you praise. For those who offer you mocking, I offer you honour. For those who offer you disbelief, I offer you trust. For those who offer you hate, I offer you love. For those who offer you cursing, I offer you blessing. For those who offer you ridicule, I offer you loving gazes. For those who offer you blasphemy, I offer you adoration. For those who offer you rebellion, I offer you obedience. For those who offer you indifference, I offer you devotion. For those who offer you obstinate pride, I offer you a contrite heart. For those who offer you scorn, I offer you fidelity. Soften the hearts of those who offend you, that they may come to know you and love you as you deserve. Make my heart more fervent so I may pray without ceasing for the conversion and salvation of souls. Amen.

A Lenten Prayer (St Pope Pius V)

Look with favour, O Lord, on Your household. Grant that, though our flesh be humbled by abstinence from food, our souls, hungering after You, may be resplendent in Your sight. Amen.

A reminder that a planning meeting for our Saint Patrick's Day celebration will be held on Tues 28 Feb at 5.30pm in the parish meeting room for anyone who would like to be involved.

Table with 7 columns: Roster, Greeters, Projector, Readers, Commentator, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Counters. Rows include dates like 25Feb-Sat 6pm, 26Feb-Sun 9am, 4Mar-Sat 6pm, 5Mar-Sun 9am.



Farewell Mass and Celebration for Bishop Michael Kennedy

A reminder that the Mass to farewell Bishop Kennedy will be held next Sunday at the Saints Mary & Joseph Cathedral in Armidale at 10am.

This will be followed by refreshments at the

Armidale City Bowling Club at 12pm. We thank Bishop Kennedy for his good and holy leadership these past 11 years. We pray that God will continue to bestow His graces upon him as he shepherds his new flock in the diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Lent consists of 40 days of fasting, prayer and penance in preparation for the celebration of Easter. It traditionally begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. All Catholics (where health and age permits) are asked to fast and abstain from meat on each Friday of Lent and on Good Friday. Catholics are also encouraged to make extra time for prayer, giving alms, and offering other forms of daily penance (e.g. going without a favourite dessert, helping a neighbour instead of watching TV, limiting time spent on social media or other form of entertainment) and all for the love of God.



Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross, also known as the Way of the Cross, is a beautiful meditation to honour the Passion of Christ. Recalling the fourteen Stations of the Cross reminds us of the passionate love Jesus has for each one of us. Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the church each Friday of Lent at 5.30pm. Booklets for group/personal use are at the back of the church.

Food for thought

What kind of thoughts and desires possess my soul? Do I realise that if it is wrong to do a certain thing, then it is wrong to think about that thing? That the way to keep my actions clean is to keep my thoughts clean? That it is not when the act has been committed that the danger to the soul begins, but when the thought has been freely and favourably accepted by my will?