

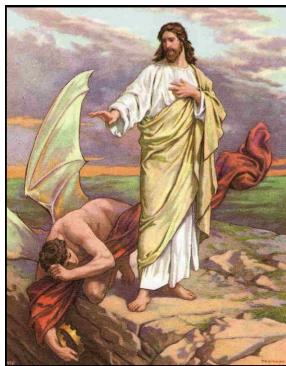


Sacred Heart Parish (Canonically Erected 1868) Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 22 FEBRUARY 2026



“It is necessary that temptations should happen; for who shall be crowned but he that shall lawfully have fought, and how shall a man fight if there be none to attack him?” - St Bernard

Entrance Antiphon: 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

A reading from the book of Genesis

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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

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, 17-19 (Longer form 5:12-19)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
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.

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

Mon, 23 Feb & Fri, 27 Feb - 8am to 1pm

Tues, 24 Feb - 8am to 12pm

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

We pray for: Repose of all those whose death anniversary occurs at this time especially Anthony Aboud; Repose of all souls in Purgatory.

the Recently Deceased: Rachel Shortt.

the sick: Jennifer Wheeler, Christina O'Brien, Chris Perceval, Julie Daley, Christopher Pay, Lara Bentley, Elizabeth Albany, Fr David Crabb, Rebecca Lane, Brian Barker, and all the sick members of our parish.

Please contact the Parish Office to add or remove names to/from the Sick List, and if you know a sick parishioner who would appreciate a visit from the priest.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Mon: No Mass — Church open 8am to 1pm

Tues: 8.30am Rosary, 9.00am Holy Mass

Wed: 6.30am—Holy Mass

Thurs: 10.00am Holy Mass at McLean, 11.30am Rosary, 12 Noon Holy Mass, 12.30pm Holy Hour

Fri: 8.30am Rosary, 9.00am Holy Mass, 4.30pm Holy Hour, 5.30pm Stations of the Cross

Sat: 3.30pm Holy Mass — Tingha
5.30pm Rosary, 6pm Holy Mass

Sun: 8.30am Rosary, 9am Holy Mass

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE CLERGY AND THE PARISH

1st Collection: Presbytery (for support of priest)

BSB 082105 Account No. 001023550

Account Name: Sacred Heart Presbytery Inverell Savings Ac.

2nd Collection: Church upkeep, maintenance, expenses

BSB 082105 Account No. 001013072

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.

If you wish to join the planned giving program, please contact the parish office.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Liturgy Committee: Sat 21 Feb 2026, 9.00am

Finance Committee: Wed 25 Feb 2026, 4.00pm

Sunday Morning Tea: Sun 8 March 2026, after Mass

Men's Breakfast: Wed TBA 2026, 8.30am at Aussie Café

Pastoral Council: Wed TBA 2026, 5.00pm

Altar Society Roster For February: Melissa Newham & Hugueth Rossel

Reflection: This Sunday's reflection may be read on the parish website (Resources>Parish News) or on the parish Facebook page on Sunday morning.

Detailed Weekday Liturgy Schedule (including Confession times): This can be found on the noticeboards in the church and on the parish website.

Project Compassion

Boxes and envelopes are now available at the entrances to the Church.

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. Stations of the Cross will be prayed in the Church each Friday of Lent. For the time each week, please check the Liturgy Schedule. Booklets for group/personal use are at the doors of the church.

World Day of Prayer 2026

All parishioners are invited to join the wider Christian community at the Inverell Community Uniting Church on Friday 6 March from 9.30am to 10.30am for a prayer service. Morning Tea will be held after the service in the Uniting Church Hall.

Calling on All Men - Join us for breakfast!!

We're pleased to announce that the Men's Breakfast for the gentlemen of the parish will now be held on the second Wednesday of each month, at a date to be confirmed, at 8.30am at the Australian Café, 96 Otho Street.

★ Calling all the young and the young at heart to ★
★ serve the Lord as ALTAR SERVERS. The first ★
★ Meeting will be held on Sunday 1st of March, ★
★ after the 9am Mass. ★

St Patrick's Day Concert

All parishioners are invited to attend the St Patrick's Concert that will be held **after the 5pm Mass on Saturday 21 March**. Please bring your best singing voice and a plate of delicacies to share! Anyone interested in performing a musical number, telling a joke, or any other item, is asked to contact Shayne O'Brien.

In Lent

The Gloria is omitted during Mass.

Catholics are urged to go to confession, make some form of penance (e.g. fasting and abstaining from meat on Fridays), perform acts of charity (e.g. almsgiving), and to increase time spent in prayer.

Sunday Missal (Red Missal) for Sunday Mass:

* Proper of Mass, Pg 193

* Preface of the First Sunday of Lent Pg 32

* Eucharistic Prayer No. 1, Pg 61 or No. 3 Pg 72

Weekday Missal (Blue Missal) for Weekday Masses:

First Week of Lent commences on Pg 159