



Sunday 6th March 2022

Parish Priest: Fr. Steven Rigo **Assistant Priests:** Fr. Tao Pham & Fr. Martin Tanti

Parish Pastoral Associates: Jacinta Bright & Sr. Margaret Sapsford

The Partnered Parishes of:

St. Mary's

204 Grimshaw St.,
Greensborough, 3088

Parish: 9435 1543 **Presbytery:** 7036 9329

Email: Greensborough@cam.org.au

Website: www.cam1.org.au/greensborough

Secretaries: Francesca Olofsson & Sharon Prosser

Mass Times

Tuesday to Friday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30pm

Sunday: Mass 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.00pm

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: By Appointment only please call the Parish Office

Parish School Principal

Mrs. Marisa Matthys **Ph:** 9433 4000 **or Email**
principal@smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au

Sacred Heart & St Peter's

25 Gipson Street,
Diamond Creek 3089

Parish: 9401 6361

Email: DiamondCreek@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Secretary: Pat Guatta

Mass Times

Wednesday & Friday: Mass 9.15am

St Peter's: 1st & 3rd Saturday 7.15pm

Sunday: Mass 9.00am

Reconciliation Times

Friday: 9.45am to 10.15am

Parish School Principal

Mr. Jim O'Sullivan **Ph:** 9438 1590 **or Email**
principal@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

St. Thomas the Apostle

251 Diamond Creek Road,
Greensborough Nth 3088

Parish: 9434 7373

Email: greensboroughnorth@cam.org.au

Website: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Secretary: Lisa Leahy

Mass Times

Tuesday & Thursday: Mass 9.15am

Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Sunday: Mass 10.30am

Reconciliation Times

Saturday: 9.30am to 10.00am

Parish School Principal

Mr David Delaney **Ph:** 9434 4565 **or Email**
principal@stgreensboroughnth.catholic.edu.au

THE CELEBRATION OF MASS IN OUR PARISHES

Weekday Masses have resumed in our 3 Parishes.

Sacred Heart: 9.15am Wednesday & Friday. **St Mary's:** 9.15am Tuesday-Friday. **St Thomas:** 9.15am Tuesday & Thursday.

Mass is recorded each weekend and uploaded onto our Websites for you to view.

St Mary's: www.cam.1.org.au/greensborough Sacred Heart: www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

St Thomas: www.pol.org.au/greensboroughnorth

Mass at Home: St Patrick's Cathedral: On Channel 31, 44 on Digital TV, for Sunday Mass at 11.00am

Mass for You at Home - Diocese of Wollongong: Sundays on Channel 10 at 6am, Foxtel Channel 173 at 10am, and online at

www.massforyou.com.au



Lent is a time when we are invited to go into the desert with Jesus: to share both his conflict and his victory, to feel something of our own weakness and temptations, to know the depth of our reliance on God's grace.

Fr Brendan Byrne SJ

Sacred Heart, St Mary's & St Thomas the Apostle are all members of the Diamond Valley Deanery.

Diamond Valley Deanery

www.diamondvalleydeanery.org.au

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

www.cam.org.au



Our Partnered Parishes respectfully acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to the Elders past and present.

PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS

LENTEN THEME 2022 - COURAGE TO HOPE

Lent is the liturgical season for prayer, reflection and contrition for any wrongdoing we have made in our lives as we prepare for the joyous season of Easter. The theme for this year is particularly timely as the world has suffered greatly over the past two years through the pandemic, and the temptation to lose hope and fall into despair may be strong. With political turmoil at home and abroad, a climate that needs nurturing and our communities that have suffered fear, uncertainty, restrictions and profound loss and grief, we need the courage to hope more than ever and we look to our God to sustain us.

This is the time to find our courage, to turn in hope to our loving God. It is through challenges and hard times that we find the strength within and draw on our faith to persevere and look with confidence to the future. Without courage we dare not hope. Without faith and hope, life is empty. During this Lenten time of reflection and prayer, let us remember that our God is always present, to hold us, to love us, to lead us forward to the Kingdom.

“May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” **Romans 15: 13**

WEEK 1 GOSPEL REFLECTION

In the Gospel today Jesus goes into the wilderness, filled with the Holy Spirit, fasting and preparing for his mission. There the devil tempts him to use his power to further personal desires - to overcome physical needs, to be glorified and worshipped, and to prove to all that he is the Son of God. Jesus, as human and divine, has the courage to resist these temptations and to declare that God's commitment to the people of God will not be tested. He places himself and his hope to bring the Good News to all people of the world in the hands of God.

Let us follow Jesus' leadership, and with courage and hope we face our own temptations and place our lives in the service of God. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord! **Psalm 31:24**

UPDATE FROM THE PARTNERED PARISHES PLENARY FACILITATORS' GROUP

Currently, as an action that we can take up locally, the Group is exploring ways of acknowledging the pain caused by sexual abuse perpetrated by Church personnel. There are three projects underway. One is a plaque to be placed in a prominent place outside each church, acknowledging the pain caused and expressing sorrow. Another is a ritual of lament, or something similar, for each of our parishes and the third is a letter to the Archbishop with a request for a sculpture and plaque to be installed in the Cathedral garden, facing Albert Street.

When our three parishes gathered for the Plenary Listening and Discussion - and Discernment sessions, one major focus for most groups that emerged, was the sexual abuse of children perpetrated by Church personnel. You may recall that we have two avenues of response proposed to us by the Plenary Council. One was to consider what God was asking the Church of Australia at a national level and the other was to consider what God is asking of us locally. We have been working together to respond as best we can as Partnered Parishes, addressing those local issues. So far relationships have been strengthened or developed with our local Catholic secondary schools, we have written to the Plenary Council in response to their document outlining the fruits of their discussions last year, we have established a Faith Circles Group, we have developed a PowerPoint welcoming all to our churches, from St Mary's - a response to the desire expressed for the parish to have a focus on mental ill health and we are liaising with our Liturgy Teams with your feedback. We hope that our parishes continue to be a sign of the Spirit active in the world, as we find ways to respond to the desires that you, our parishioners, have voiced during those Plenary times. **Any feedback from you is welcome.**

PROJECT COMPASSION 2022 First Sunday of Lent

Anatercia 12, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia- supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports.

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling **1800 024 413**.



PARTNERED PARISHES NEWS CONTINUED

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR PRESBYTERIES.

The St Thomas and St Mary's Parish houses are looking for a reliable house cleaner.

St Thomas requires a cleaner on a weekly basis for 3-4 hours. St Mary's requires a cleaner fortnightly for approximately 2-3 hours.

Duties include vacuuming, dusting mopping, cleaning of bathrooms washing sheets and towels, possibly ironing.

You will need a current Working with Children Check and also a Police check.

For further information please contact Lisa at St Thomas on 9434 7373.



COMPUTER DONATION SOUGHT?

Sacred Heart community is seeking a desktop computer for use in its Children's Ministry. Perhaps you know of someone who is replacing a desktop with a newer model or you may have a functioning desktop waiting to be recycled.

Please contact Sr Margaret Margaret.Sapsford@cam.org.au or the Sacred Heart Parish Office (Ph. 9401 6361) if a donation is available for the children.

The Retreat in Daily Life – can be a life changing experience. What is your image of God? Does this image engage you in an intimate and loving relationship with God, or does God seem distant or even irrelevant to your life? Do you feel grounded in your life, or confused and wonder if your faith and spirituality can make a difference? Do you desire to deepen your relationship with God? Or, are you perhaps just curious? The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are a life changing retreat and offer rich prayer material, different methods of discernment and the opportunity to discover the ways in which God is calling you at this particular time of your life. The retreat will run from the **8th of March until early October**, with retreatants having material with which to pray, at home, each day and time to gather as a group for sharing each week and regular one to one time with a spiritual director. The venue for the information and enquiry afternoon which is on March 8th at 1.00pm, as well as the future group sessions, is the Gathering Space of the church. The Ignatian spiritual directors leading this retreat are Terry Fanning and Jacinta Bright. Cost – by donation. For enquiries prior to the introduction and enquiry afternoon, please contact Jacinta at the parish office, 9435 1543 or Jacinta.bright@cam.org.au

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Have you ever doubted the true presence of Jesus, Body, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist ???

HEAVEN

Does your heart burn with a desire to better understand the amazing mystery of the Eucharist ???

God's Salvation Plan in Old Testament

God's Salvation Plan in New Testament

IHS

EARTH

Do you need Equipment to defend the Real Presence of the Eucharist ???

3 nights
23, 30 Mar, 6 Apr

7.30-9.30pm
ZOOM

book before 11am Tue 22 March

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXUAJ>

Presented by Catholic School of Evangelisation

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SACRED HEART & ST PETER'S



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Code of Conduct Declaration Forms: have been circulated and are also available from the Parish Office.

All volunteers in Ministries are required to read and sign. .

Parental Supervision: A number of families with children are attending our Masses. We are aware the toilets are out of sight at both Sacred Heart and St Peter's churches, so parental supervision of your children is required while they use the facilities.

Sacred Heart Parish Pastoral Council Meeting: Next Thursday 10th March 7.30pm in Parish Centre. Suggestion box in church foyer.

Senior Moments: Wednesday March 16th Lunch and Games in Parish Centre.

Wednesday 6th April, 12.00pm lunch at Bridges Restaurant Hurstbridge.

Lenten Program: Booklets available from Parish Office, or contact Moya Roadley.

Volunteer work: Diamond Creek St Vincent Paul are in need of a treasurer. Home visitations are not mandatory and attending monthly meetings would be appreciated if available. Please contact Ray on 0413185722 or by email ray.belli57@gmail.com

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Mario Molinaro, Catherine Leonard, Peter Mejak, Joan Moran, Tony Ledda, Margaret Holland, Bridie Burke, Mary Rafferty, Thomas Keenan, Owen Doyle

We pray for those who have died including Maureen Hewitt and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

Les Ginnivan, Madeleine Blake, Laurence Dunn, Patrick Coyle

Roster for Weekend 13th March & St Peter's 19th March

Saturday St Peter's 7.15pm Reader: R. Nicolaisen

Eucharistic Minister: Y. O'Brien, P. Keenan

Sunday Sacred Heart 9.00am Reader: T. Jenkins

Eucharistic Minister: M. Jenkins, J. Bruce

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST THOMAS



Safeguarding Children: All volunteers in all of our Ministries are required to fill out a new Code of Conduct Declaration. Copies of the Combined Parishes Code of Conduct and the declaration form will be available in the foyer at Mass this weekend.

Could you please read the Code of Conduct and return the signed declaration to the Parish Office or drop it in the tray provided.

Parental Supervision: With the return of families at our Masses and as our toilets are out of view, parental supervision of your children is required while using the facilities.

St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council: The following parishioners have accepted their nomination for the St Thomas Parish Pastoral Council. We thank them for making a commitment to our Parish.

- ◆ Michael Bates, Sandra Bishop, Tim Holland, Chris Leahy, Cathy O'Brien, Michael O'Keeffe, Emilia Sacchetta
- ◆ Lisa Leahy, Jade Scibilia (ex officio members)

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30pm in the Parish House meeting room.

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners and friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Peg Wilcox, Dawn Ellis, Miran Kasalo, Owen Doyle

We pray for those who have died and all those whose Anniversaries occur in the month of March that they may enter Joyfully into God's Kingdom:

John McGauran, Kath Glennen, Sydney Raymond, Michael Pase, Carl Troiano, Rollo Jackson, Elizabeth Salm, Antonio Gallo, Kathleen Sheehan, Lina Bertuna, Bernadette O'Brien, Bonnie Dickson, Ian Stephens, Annette Hyland, Kellie Stuckey, Jean McMahon

Rosters for Weekend 12th & 13th March

Saturday 6.00pm:

Reader: T. Holland

Commentator: J. Bohan

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Bishop, K. Salm, C. Leahy

Set Up: M. McKenzie

Sunday 10.30am:

Reader: L. Hobson

Commentator: S. Millar

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Riordan, A. Kerr, B. Riordan

Set Up: C. O'Brien

Counters: C. O'Connor, E. Sacchetta

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST MARY'S

Vision Statement "To be a vibrant Christian community engaging with the world"



PLEASE NOTE NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Francesca and Sharon will provide for our **secretarial needs on Tuesdays 9am-5pm and Thursdays and Fridays 10am-4pm** and Jacinta's **days will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-5pm.**

Please continue to send any bulletin contributions to Francesca and Sharon at greensborough@cam.org.au by 2pm Wednesday to ensure inclusion in the weekend combined bulletin.

St Mary's Prayer Shawl Group Meets in the Gathering Space 10am - 12pm on Mondays. Enq: Maureen Leahy—0407 687 517; Anne Fleming— 0409 234 326 .

Communion to the Sick at St. Mary's— If you or someone you know cannot attend Mass due to illness and would like to receive Communion, please contact the parish office on 9435 1543.

FIRST EUCHARIST CANDIDATES We welcome First Eucharist candidates and their families at our Masses this weekend as they are presented to our Parish Community in preparation for the receiving of the Sacrament of First Eucharist later. Our prayers and support are with you all.

WELCOME To staff and students of Chisholm House, Loyola College. Their presence at the 10.00am Mass is always warmly anticipated.

OUR LENTEN ENVIRONMENT During Lent, our Masses and worshiping space are simplified representing the desert where Jesus fasted for 40 day and 40 nights. This is in keeping with the Lenten season when we are encouraged to pare our lives back to the basics and look into the depths of our hearts with honesty. Only then can we truly see our need for repentance and change. For this reason, there will be no music at Masses during Lent, except on the weekends when children are receiving their First Eucharist, and no flowers or greenery in the Church.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT Two Stations services will be available on our parish website during Lent – one based on the Gospel of St Luke and the other Mary's Stations. There will be no Stations in the church on Friday evenings during Lent.

HELP WITH TRANSPORT TO MASS: A parishioner who is unable to get to Mass would greatly appreciate if anyone would be available to take them to 10.00am Mass on Sundays. If you are able to help could you please contact the Parish Office 94351543.

ST MARY'S FUNERAL MINISTRY TEAM is urgently seeking new members capable of preparing and/or running the audio-visual presentations at funerals. Please contact the parish office for more information 9435 1543 or greensborough@cam.org.au
Thank you

FREE FLOOR RUG: A large floor rug, measuring approximately 8 feet x 10 feet is being offered by a parishioner for anybody who may be interested.

It is a beige/fawn colour with oriental designs. It is a thick, good quality rug purchased from Hong Kong. Great for a holiday home or bungalow. If interested, please contact the Parish Office on 94351543.



LADIES AUXILIARY: On Wednesday 16th March, our St. Patrick's Day morning tea will be held in the Gathering Space at 10.30am. All are very welcome. Cost is \$10 per person. Enquiries: Maureen 9435 5906; Lucy 9435 6990

SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP NEWS

PROJECT COMPASSION. Project Compassion boxes can be found in the Gathering Space.

For newcomers to our parish: The boxes give us the opportunity to make a donation each week during Lent. They are to be returned at Easter.

You may want to support these initiatives: Clean Up Australia Day – Sunday March 6 2022 – perhaps put on your gloves and pick up rubbish in local parks, streets or at the beach.



SUNDAY CATECHIST CLASSES for primary school children attending Government Schools are now commencing at 9.00am in St Mary's School. Classes are for children from Grades 3 to 6, cover the Sacraments and are held during each term. We would like to have a class for Grades 1 and 2 but need a teacher. Would there be a Senior or University student who would like to help with the younger children - lesson plans and all support will be given. All enquiries, contact Geraldine after 6.00pm - 0438 148 896.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST MARY'S CONTINUED

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT? *In the words of St. Francis*

- ◆ *Fast from hurting words and say kind words,*
- ◆ *Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude,*
- ◆ *Fast from anger and be filled with patience,*
- ◆ *Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope,*
- ◆ *Fast from worries and have trust in God,*
- ◆ *Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity*
- ◆ *Fast from pressures and be prayerful,*
- ◆ *Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy,*
- ◆ *Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others,*
- ◆ *Fast from grudges and be reconciled,*
- ◆ *Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Special Prayers are asked for Bridget and Glenn's baby during the pregnancy.

March Baptisms: Eleanor Borg, Stevee Pearse, Molly Milne, Leela Forrest, Vance McVeigh

Our prayers have been asked for sick parishioners & friends that they may be healed & comforted during this time:

Peter Mejak, Pat Garrard, Michael Mc Aleer, Helen Sinnott,

Recently Deceased:

We Pray for those whose Anniversaries occur this week, may they enter joyfully into God's Kingdom: James Laux, Daniel White, Robert Pike, Harry Sealey, Steven Devine, Michael Bowlen, Anne Cousins, Marie Johnson, Harry Alderson, Clive Reid, Phyllis Sertori, Alice Hoy, Ana Paula Fernandes, Anne Zuckor, Tony D'Amico, Christian Breier, Bill Munford, Leigh Eddington, Renee Hodges, David Sutton, John Rutter, Margaret Pitts, Neil Zanardo, Barry Foley, Graeme Armstrong, Peter Liaw, Margaret Ericson, Deirdre O'Reilly, Diane Davine, Kevin O'Donnell, Gregory Bourke, Rose Costello, John Desmond, Joseph De Costa, Anthony Pereira, Kathleen Drill, Linda Gogel, Michele Mastropaolo, Margaret McLennan, Genoveffa Sbaglia, Connie McNamara, Edna Ferguson, Rogelio Cruz, Cesar Guerrero, Louisa Pereira, Jack Beattie, Annie Barnes, Magdalena Varga, Mary Jolley, Helen Michalski, Victor Wittman, Mary Cass, Archer Trevanion, Margaret Rule

ARCHDIOCESE AND COMMUNITY NEWS

MEDITATION AT ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH: Are offering Meditation on Saturday's from 10.00am-10.30am, at 1 Monckton Road, Bundoora. No cost involved. For further details contact: Ranjit 0403 654549.

ST GABRIEL'S PARISH, RESERVOIR: invites you to a spiritual afternoon with St Joseph, 2-5pm Sunday 20 March 2022. The afternoon will include two talks given by Anna Krohn and Sr Mary Sarah OP on different aspects of the life of St Joseph, Litany of St Joseph, Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction, and afternoon tea. All welcome! Entry by donation. For more information and to register go to : www.sapientiproject.com or call St Gabriel's Parish Office on 9460 6036.

HEART OF LIFE CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL & PASTORAL FORMATION : 'Windows onto God', Saturday 26/3/22, 10am-3pm (in-person event). In this reflection day, we invite you to explore the windows of incarnation, darkness, abundance and self-acceptance. Incarnation, seen in the broad sense of God being in the world, takes in the joy of being alive. With this joy, there is the experience of darkness, which is also part of our human reality. Abundance picks up the theme of incarnation. It reminds us that God is lavish with her/his gifts and wants us to enjoy them. Self-acceptance is linked to these themes since it means accepting both the darkness and the light in ourselves. This day will be interactive and will allow time for reflection and sharing. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch) Book and pay via website www.heartoflife.melbourne or email info@heartoflife.melbourne tel 9890 1101.

'Lenten Reflections': via Zoom), Thursday evenings, 7.30pm-8.30pm from 3/3/22 to 7/4/22. Join us on a Thursday evening during Lent for some reflective time. Each week there will be guided meditation, time for quiet reflection and the opportunity for group sharing. Come to one or all. Cost: Donation. Book via website www.heartoflife.melbourne or email info@heartoflife.melbourne tel 9890 1101.

INFORMATION SESSION - PERMANENT DIACONATE: The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE! An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 2 April 2022, 10:00 -11.45 am at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne. For more information:

A new Vocations website is under development, however the links below (copy, then paste) are working.

Watch: Melbourne's Deacons <https://youtu.be/q2RhNDbtT50> Watch: Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons <https://youtu.be/NuG99HD1LaY>

Read More: [Brochure] <https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate>

Contact: Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Stones and the loaves of bread can be similar in shape, colour and texture, but appearances are as deceptive as the tempter in this story from Luke's gospel. The inducement to turn stone into bread plays on the basic human need for nourishment, but also it plays on the desire to get something for nothing – like magic or three wishes from a genie in a bottle. Jesus can accept the harsh reality of stone in the short term because his worldview also encompasses the promise of God's kingdom – the place of plenty.

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

6 March 2022

First Reading Dt 26:4-10

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

(R.) Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' (R.)
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. (R.)
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. (R.)
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 10:8-13

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe

in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

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 Lk 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

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

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

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

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Lent is a time when we are reminded that there is nothing we can do to win our salvation. It is a pure gift from God. Like Jesus in the wilderness, we are to allow God's plan to unfold in and through us. Lent is a time for us to enter actively into the mysteries of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and there to marvel at what God has done for us.

The temptations of Jesus are the same temptations that we face when we are inclined to think that somehow we are in control. While the goals of the temptations may be admirable – feed the hungry, bring the world under the control of good, trust in God's power to protect us – we often choose to accomplish them in ways that are less than admirable. We try to perform the extraordinary so that what we do reflects favourably on us. We use brute force in order to achieve control. We put God to the test rather than live peacefully with God's plan as it unfolds within and around us. We seek to become the super-hero, the super-minister, the super-Christian on our own. In his responses to the tempter, we see Jesus constantly deferring to the power of God: It is not by bread alone . . . worship only God . . . do not put God to the test. In a real sense, these temptations are a reminder that the fundamental temptation is to deny our human limitations and refuse to let God be God for us.

The psalm responses are from the English Translation of the Lectionary for the Mass ©1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved. The psalm texts, from The Psalms, A New Translation, ©1963 by The Grail, England and used by permission of the publishers. The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers. © 2017 Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd All use must be in accordance with your user licensing agreement.