



First Sunday of Lent

17th / 18th February 2018

Parish Administrator

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Fran Kernaghan

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAY MASSES THIS WEEK:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9.30 am

First Tuesday of the month: 11.00 am Mass
at Mercy Place.

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



Today's readings show us that Lent is a time for us to receive God's grace. We are not the ones who, through our penance, are meant to accomplish great things. Rather, it is God who acts; it is God who makes the sacrifice; it is God who accomplishes great things for us.

Each reading describes a different kind of conflict within which we might find ourselves: a world-wrenching upheaval, such as happens during social discord, war or natural disaster; the struggle between right and wrong, between fidelity and disobedience; the struggle with temptation. In the midst of the conflicts of life, God initiates a covenant with us. God saves the world from the chaos into which it was thrown, makes a covenant with all living things and with the earth, and sets a bow in the heavens as a perpetual reminder of the covenant. Christ dies for sinners, and offers them baptism that will save them from the chaos of their lives. The Spirit drives Jesus into the desert, there to be tested, but to emerge triumphant. His victory is not for him alone, but for all who will heed his words and follow his example.

The bow in the sky is a sign of the good news of the covenant; baptism is both the good news of salvation for us and our pledge of fidelity to God; Jesus' proclamation is that the reign of God is at hand. With the psalmist we praise God for inviting us into this covenant relationship.

(Dianne Bergant CSS)



Parish Community



We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially:

RECENTLY DECEASED: Audrey Stenson, Julie Yonson, Neale Austen.

ANNIVERSARIES: Jack Lonergan, Maurice Higgins, Eileen Duck, Matthew Hartwig, Peter Rothe, Aileen Sheahan, Michael Jones, Glen McConville, Kylie Evans, Barney Frauenfelder, David Rodgers, Roy Mee John Drewe, Monica Bayley, Jack Gilbert, John Evans, Harry Bevan, James Mallay, Jane Student, Colin Watson, Drago Hanzic, Sr Jean Murray.

Gather our loved ones into your arms. Quiet our doubt and anger and send us your healing grace. Through Christ our

Prayer for the Sick

We pray for all those who are sick. May they draw strength and healing from God's presence with them and from our prayers and thoughts for them.

May they have peace in their hearts and know they are greatly loved by all.

We offer our prayers believing that God's presence and power can do more than we can ever know. Amen

ROSTERS

Sat / Sun: 17th/ 18th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Rosalie Martin
Lector 1	Karen Purtle	Michael Stephenson
Lector 2	Michael Byrnes	Wendy McFerran
Eucharistic Ministers	Judy Lindsay Pat Hopkins	Kevin Kennedy Trish Parkinson Kansas Michael
Cantor	John Van Lint	Judy Lindsay
Musicians	Mary Hunt	Catherine Cutler
Counters: Peter Toner & Gordon Bryant		Church Cleaning: Group 6

Sat /Sun: 24th / 25th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Nano Clancy	Colleen Day
Lector 1	Justin Clancy	Bede Hart
Lector 2	Volunteer	Roy Thompson
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney Volunteer	Frank Glennon Robert Brown Carmel Butts
Cantor	Margie & Ed Brown	Bernadette & Wendy
Musicians	Judy Foley	
Counters: Brian & Carmel Butts		Church Cleaning: Group 7

Prayer as we commence Lent

God, as we take this journey that draws us ever closer to you walk with us, sustain us, nurture us.

God, as we walk through the pot holes of life, the valleys, the pits of life, guide us with your hand keep our feet steady, and our vision on you.

God, whether we choose to give up something for Lent or do something positive, let us not do it out of obligation or the tyranny of oughtness, but out of love for you.

Keep us in your paths of love, mercy and grace.

Lord help us to remember we are not alone but that we are walking with others . Amen

A Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

'...when we fast from indifference, we can begin to feast on love. In fact, Lent is the perfect time to learn how to love again. Jesus—the great protagonist of this holy season—certainly showed us the way.'

Parish News

Parish Pastoral Council meets this Wednesday 21 February in the Presbytery at 6.00pm.

Mass of Thanksgiving for the life of Audrey Stenson will be held this Wednesday 21 February at 11.00am in Sacred Heart Church, North Albury.

Project Compassion boxes/envelopes are now available at Church entrances.

In Nepal, a Caritas supported program has helped Janaki turn her life of poverty and disadvantage around. She is now running her own successful sewing business, training others and has become a role model in her community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help our most vulnerable neighbours in Nepal to build a just future for their families and their communities.

World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer focuses on one country each year. This year the Christian women of SURINAME have prepared the one hour prayer service for all to share. This service will be held at Holy Spirit Church, Prune St Lavington on Friday 2nd March at 10am. Morning tea provided. All Welcome.

During our Lenten journey

- ◆ May the stone of hatred become the bread of love
- ◆ May the stone of despair become the bread of hope
- ◆ May the stone of gossip become the bread of silence
- ◆ May the stone of abuse become the bread of respect
- ◆ May the stone of greed become the bread of generosity
- ◆ May the stone of arrogance become the bread of openness
- ◆ May the stone of poverty become the bread of plenty
- ◆ May the stone of pride become the bread of humility
- ◆ May the stone of deceit become the bread of truth

Feast Days during the Week

Wednesday 21st February—St Peter Damian
Thursday 22nd February—Chair of St Peter
Friday 23rd February—St Polycarp



This weekend we welcome into the community of the Church through the sacrament of Baptism:

Remi Kaye Blackburn, daughter of Steven & Nerah
Patrick Ky Kenneth Rowston, son of Mark & Karley
Logan Francis Youngs, son of Gregory & Rosanna

Project Compassion 2018 Prayer

God of all peoples and nations, you accompany us on our Lenten journey.

Through the life and mission of your son,
you give us the gift of mercy.

May we learn to walk your way of
justice and compassion with all your
people.

In a special way, we keep in mind the
children, women and men around the
world who are most vulnerable to
extreme poverty and injustice.

In the Year of Youth, may we support
young people as they recognise that
through their efforts, their desire to
change and their generosity, they too
are participating in the building of a
better world.

Bless our prayers, our fasting and our
Lenten gifts to Project Compassion.

Through these actions, may our hearts
be open to receive your grace as we
work towards a just future for all your
creation.

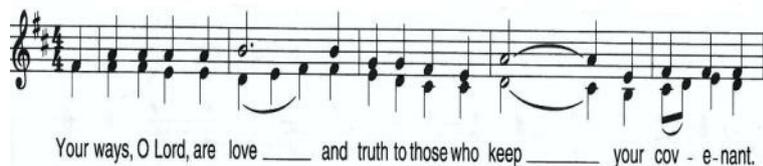
We ask this in the name of Jesus, Amen

Liturgy of the Word

First Sunday of Lent—Year B

Readings: Gen 9: 8-15; 1 Peter 3: 18-22 ; Mk 1: 12-15

Responsorial Psalm:



Your ways, O Lord are love and truth to those who keep your covenant

Gospel Acclamation:

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!

Reflection on the Readings

All our readings today remind us of the faithfulness of God and God's desire that we participate and be in relationship with all creation. The second reading from the first letter of St Peter highlights Jesus' mission: to lead us to God. In the Gospel story of the tempting of Jesus in the desert, a version of which is proclaimed every year on this first Sunday of Lent, we learn of Jesus' 'stay' in the wilderness.

In biblical times the wilderness or the desert is often 'code' for a time of searching, even challenge. If we think about the desert, we imagine a dangerous place, a lonely place where people get lost and confused. The wind blows and the whole landscape changes. It is also the place where our God who is ever faithful and always present speaks into our hearts in the silence and loneliness of our own desert experiences.

The Caritas Australia Project Compassion story this week tells us of Janaki. Her story suggests that she too has experienced a time of wilderness in her life. She grew up in a world of poverty and disadvantage in Nepal and was forced to marry at an early age. Janaki made a number of choices that put her on the path to a better future. She joined a youth club where she took part in training and was encouraged to follow her dream of having her own sewing business.

She took a loan from the youth club to purchase her first sewing machine and two years on, Janaki is living a life of independence and influence. She has 11 sewing machines and is running her own business, as well as teaching others how to sew. She is considered a role model in the community. Janaki was committed to following her dream of having her own business.

With the supportive relationships of Caritas Australia's partners, Caritas Nepal and Ekata Foundation Surkhet, Janaki gained the confidence and the skills that empowered her to support herself and her family. In the words of her mother Khima, "due to her we are able to live a happy life." The Project Compassion theme is 'A Just Future'. For Janaki and others in her community, a just future started with empowerment. Janaki's story reminds us of the words of Pope Francis when speaking to young people he said, 'let us not be satisfied with a mediocre life. Be amazed by what is true and beautiful, what is God.'



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