



First Sunday of Lent 20th / 21st February 2021

Parish Clergy

Fr Martin Cruickshank

Parish Office

Gemma Whitehead—Monday

Fran Kernaghan—Wednesday, Friday

9.00 am – 2.00 pm

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Mass Times

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6.00 pm

SUNDAY: 9.30 am

WEEKDAYS MASSES: This Week

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.30 am

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY: 5.15 PM-5.45 PM

BAPTISMS—By appointment.

Preparation Course: 0411 883 661



Lent – a new liturgical season, and an opportunity to start again. We can give thanks to God for giving us this season of grace. Lent is closely associated with God's Covenant and with baptism, and the readings this Sunday strongly underline this.

In the **First Reading** from Genesis, God makes a Covenant with Noah's people, saved from the flood by the ark. It is a Covenant of peace, symbolised by the rainbow.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, reminds us that just as Noah is saved from the waters, so we are saved by the waters of baptism. It is a pledge made to God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The **Psalms** is a prayer that we may walk in God's ways: a suitable prayer for beginning our Lenten journey.

The account of the temptations of Christ in Mark's **Gospel** is brief. It is only after this experience that Jesus begins his ministry, calling people to repent and believe the Good News.

This week, we may give thanks for 'this joyful season' (as the Lenten preface calls it) – a time to prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery.



Parish Community



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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Bert Gogoll, Myles Borg, Brian Rolfe, Frank Dunn, Harry Struck, Mark Harrington and Kath Duck.

ANNIVERSARIES: Pat Scott, Margot Murray, Jan Hodge, Mary Corrin, Sr Jean Murray, Fr Gerry Iverson, Ethel Herbert, Savina Patten, David Rodgers, Alexander Irvine, Colin Watson, Harry Bevan, John Evans, Jack Gilbert, Monica Bayley, John Drewe, Roy Mee & Hazel Richardson.

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

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: 20th / 21st February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Sr Carina Morton	Roy Thompson
Lector 1	Justin Clancy	John Dowling
Lector 2	Paula Waters	Gavin Dykes
Eucharistic Ministers	Jeneice Harding	Sue Betts
Cantor	Catherine & Judy	Simon Goss
Musicians	Judy Foley	Val Hayes
Counters: Carey Menz-Dowling & John Dowling (Sunday) Group 2		

Sat /Sun: 27th / 28th February

Ministry	Vigil	9.30am
Commentator	Colleen Day	Richard Parkinson
Lector 1	Kellie & Jasmine Gordes	Mercedes Goss
Lector 2		Ann McIntyre
Eucharistic Ministers	Pauline Mulquiney	Carey Menz-Dowling
Cantor	Margie & Ed Brown	Bernadette O'Donnell
Musicians	Judy Foley	Wendy McFarren
Counters: Gordon Bryant & Laurie Moylan Monday Group 3		

Project Compassion Prayer

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

May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, our almsgiving be an act of justice and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.

**Through living simply and loving generously, may we care for our global family and our common home, as we "Aspire not to have more, but to be more." *
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(*Saint Oscar Romero)

Thought for the Week (Pope Francis):

"Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to "make his dwelling" among us. "

Parish News

Visitation of Bishop Mark Edwards

Thanks to all those involved in welcoming Bishop Mark to our parish and school communities over the three days of his pastoral visitation. On Friday he spent the day visiting staff and students at St Anne's and Xavier. The staff of St Anne's joined Bishop Mark for the celebration of Eucharist a prayerful experience which he very much appreciated. Thanks to Cassandra Jones (R.E.C., St Anne's) and Ed Brown (Director of Faith and Mission, Xavier) for initiating and co-ordinating school visits. On Friday evening Bishop Mark met with members of the Parish Pastoral Council and their families for a social gathering. Bishop Mark celebrated both weekend masses and after each occasion there was an opportunity for shared fellowship.

Thanks to John Van Lint for providing specimens of his bonsai collection on the sanctuary - or as one child put it, 'It was like being in a real forest'. Thanks to our musicians and choir who turned up in numbers to enhance our liturgical celebration. Gratitude is expressed to both Gemma & Fran who did much of the work behind the scenes and to Sandra for the provision of meals and assistance with catering.

Bishop Mark through his prayerfulness, listening approach and relaxed manner expressed his desire to engage positively with individuals and our parish community as a whole as we continue by our lives to witness to the Good News of the gospel.

World Day of Prayer 2021

This Prayer Day is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women throughout the world who welcome us all to join in prayer and action.

The prayer service this year is prepared by the Christian women of the Republic of Vanuata.

The local service this year will be held in Sacred Heart Church, Mate Street, North Albury on Friday 5 March at 10.30am. This will be followed by morning tea. BYO plate to share. All welcome.

UPDATED COVID-19 DIOCESAN PROTOCOLS

If you are feeling unwell, have a cough or cold, sore throat or flu like symptoms please do not attend our physical gatherings as this puts others as well as yourself at risk. After having your name registered or ticked off please use the hand sanitiser located at the four entrance points of the church at the beginning of our liturgical celebration and as you leave the church building. Communion will begin with those on the car park side and then move to those seated on the Swan Street side. Please allow space between each recipient..

Congregational singing is not permitted indoors. Choirs of up to 5 people are permitted indoors.

Return of the Roster System

Commentators/Lectors/Eucharistic Ministers/Counters Needed

Thanks to those who have volunteered to participate in the counting of the second collection. We currently have 21 names which means that the commitment can be well spread.

Volunteer counters should have received a roster by email. Paper copies available Swan St entrance.

If you wish to participate in our liturgy as a Lector / Eucharistic Minister please add your name to the list at the Swan Street entrance.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

This year we will be using the 'It's All About Hope' - a modern Lenten program that takes us through the six weeks of Lent. It's another Chris Monaghan explores the theme of 'Hope' using prayer, a careful selection of readings, reflection and his own stunning personal photography.

Groups meet each Tuesday and Thursday at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. All welcome to participate and attend as you are able.

Project Compassion 2021

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Oscar Romero

Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, she has been able to access food, shelter, counselling and vocational training that will help to support her family. Project Compassion brochures, boxes and envelopes are available at all church entrances. Please donate as generously as is possible.

HEARTBEAT

It is intended to produce an Easter edition of our parish journal. All articles, photos and reports need to be sent to Karen Purtle by the 14th March. Karen's email is bevispurtle@internode.on.net



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

Thomas Hurcum, son of Kayleen & Nicholas Hurcum and Elijah Gibson, son of Kerrie & Andrew Gibson.

Liturgy of the Word

First reading Genesis 9: 8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See I establish my Covenant with you and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you; everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh. The word of the Lord.

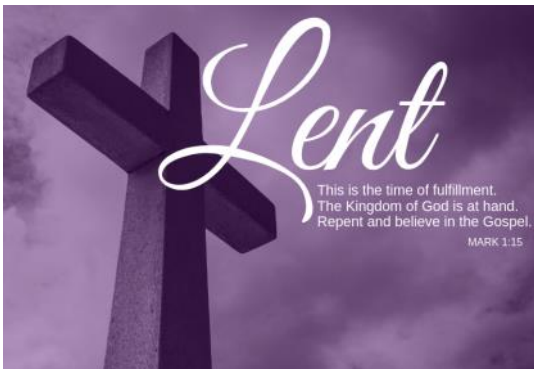
Responsorial Psalm 24

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

Lord make me know your ways,
Lord teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth and teach me
For you are God my saviour. **R**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
Because of your goodness, O Lord. **R**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R**



A reading from the letter of St Peter 3: 18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison.. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

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!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12—15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.