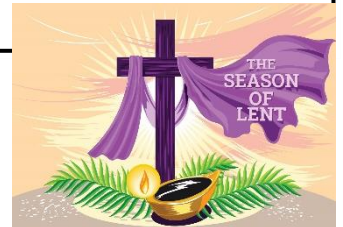




1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
YEAR A

26 February 2023

LITURGY AND BULLETIN



OPENING PRAYER

*Father,
Through our observance of Lent,
help us to understand the meaning of your Son's death and resurrection,
and teach us to reflect it in our lives.
Amen.*

FIRST READING: 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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Response: 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: A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans

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. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. 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.

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!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

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.



Reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 4:1-11 by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings for the First Sunday of Lent act as a kind of overture to the entire season. They enable us to engage in a double confession: a confession of sin and the repentance which follows; and a confession of praise for the mercy of God which is shown us in spite of our sin.

The very first reading reminds us of our fragility. We are made of the dust of the ground, the very stuff that represents death and decay. We were reminded of this when ashes were used to sign us on Ash Wednesday. At the beginning of Lent we are invited to acknowledge honestly and realistically our fundamental human weakness.

Despite our weaknesses, the situation within which we find ourselves is not hopeless. Somewhere deep within ourselves we know that we are not helpless prisoners of our limitations. God has not deserted us to our guilt. The form that God's compassion takes is outlined in the reading from Romans. It is in the death and resurrection of Jesus that we see the extent of this divine compassion. Its scope is first measured by the yardstick of human sinfulness, and then it outstrips those dimensions. God's gracious gift far exceeds the effects of human transgression.

The gospel reading moves us from both the anthropological and the theological considerations to the crowning Christological reflections. As we look to Jesus, we see humanity at its best, tempted but not overcome. There will certainly always be human limitations, human weaknesses that will open the door to temptation. But Jesus shows us that we are not thereby doomed. Jesus is a model for our own journey to new life.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

We pray for all who are struggling to bring emergency aid to the stricken people of Turkey and Syria. May their efforts to shelter and feed the survivors save countless lives. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all in Ukraine and Russia: that the war be swiftly ended. (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who love and protect wildlife around the world. May this week's World Wildlife Day (3 March) call us to care for all of God's creatures. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who work at the frontiers of science and technology. May their endeavours be guided by an ethic of what is truly good for humanity. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for asylum seekers still held in off-shore detention and for refugees living on bridging visas in Australia. May their ordeal come to a merciful end. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the children in clubs run by Caritas Nepal. May our support for Project Compassion help improve their livelihood and resilience. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are suffering ill health, especially Archbishop Frank Carroll, Eadaoin (pronounced Aideen) Corkoran, Maurice Farley, Ann McDougall, Ross Lawless, Val Biggers, Rongo Tee Peeti, Helen Montgomery, Judy Nielson, Tony Riley and all who need our prayers; that they will be cared for by loving family, friends and community (Pause) Lord, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased – David Nicholson, Anthony Kelly and Father Neville Drinkwater, . . . and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time. May they be led safely to eternal life by Christ the Lord. (Pause for silent prayer) Lord, hear us.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

*Father, you increase our faith and hope.
Help us to live by your words
and to seek Christ, our bread of life,
who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.*

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays: 9am – 3pm; Fridays: 9am – 12pm

Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 10.00am

Meditation: Thursdays in Presbytery at 10.30am

Social Justice Group: Tuesday 1 March 2023 at 9.30am, at the Presbytery

Dear Parishioners,

Markets in Ryrie Park: 9am - 1pm 25th February.

Produce; Crafts; Plants; Antiques & Collectibles; Trash & Treasure;

Monthly Raffle Donations of cooking etc gratefully accepted at the Parish table.

Enquiries to Cathy Ffrench on 0418 262 011



News from the Pews:

David Nicholson's funeral will be held in St Bede's Church this Friday 24 February at 11am.

Braidwood Skate Park Opening Event: 25 February Official Opening 1.30pm followed by pro skaters demonstrations

Anthony Kelly's graveside service will be on Wednesday 1 March at 1pm in the Braidwood Lawn cemetery.

First Thursday Community Luncheon at the Club: March 2, commencing at 11.30am. please call the Club on 4842 2108 to book or for transport.

Tech help drop in at the Library: 28 February 1-3.30pm

Braidwood Scouts 2023 Mega Car Boot Sale: Saturday 11th March 2023 at Braidwood Scout Hall on Coghill Street. 9am to 2pm.

Majors Creek Festival: 17 - 19 March

NSW State Election Saturday, 25 March 2023 - 8am-6pm



After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old, **Laxmi** was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Readings for Mass: 1st: Gen. 2:7-9, 3:1-7. 2nd: Romans 5:12-19. Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Readings for next week: 1st: Gen. 12:1-4. 2nd: 2 Tim. 1:8-10. Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9.

Ministry Rosters for our Masses

Date	Acolyte	Welcomer	Readers
28 Feb	Felix	Cathy F	Bobbie/Tommy
4 Mar		Helen P	Wendy H/Germaine
11 Mar	Felix	Geraldine	Wendy M-B/Ann T
18 Mar		Helen P	Michael/Cathy F

Ministries of service:	<u>24 February</u>	<u>3 March</u>	<u>10 March</u>
Altar Decorating:		no flowers during Lent	
Cleaning:		Bani & Ella	
Counters: 1 st Sunday:	Pauline & Bobbie.	2 nd : Sunday: Wendy H	
3 rd Sunday:	volunteer please	4 th : Phil Owen	

Please advise if you are unable to fulfil your roster, so alternative arrangements may be made.

Take care of each other
Helen Hart

The Parish of St Bede's Braidwood acknowledges the Yuin people, the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for many thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.