



CATHOLIC PARISH CENTRES OF PAMBULA

Parish Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent, Year A 22 February 2026

Our mission as a Christian community of the Catholic Parish Centre's of Pambula is enlightened and inspired by the Holy Spirit, is to be salt and light through the loving way of our words, actions and respect for the dignity of all, so that others may experience the love of Christ. We acknowledge the Yuin people and honour Elders past, present and emerging, and all First Nations peoples worldwide.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest

Fr Kuriakose Chennelil Joseph MS (Fr Kose)
kose.joseph@cg.org.au
Phone: 0470 498 321

Parish Office

Open to the public on Wed & Fri from 10am-2pm

Parish Secretary

Mrs Su Chantler
Phone: 0435 036 236 or 02 6495 0683
Email: pambula@cg.org.au
Web: www.cg.org.au/pambula
Address: 79 Main Street / PO Box 249
Merimbula NSW 2548

Parish Centres

Merimbula: St Joseph's
Pambula: St Peter's
Eden: Our Lady Star of the Sea

Sisters of St Joseph

Sr Marie Carson

Parish Council Chair

Mrs Bernadette Wood

Liturgy Coordinator

Ms Sue Heffernan

Finance Chair

Mr Michael Wood

Parish Safeguarding Volunteer

Mr Philip Roach
pambula.safeguarding@cg.org.au

Lumen Christi Catholic College

Mr Shane Giles 02 6495 8888

PARISH INFORMATION

Reconciliation (Confession)

Merimbula: Friday before Mass,
Eden: Saturday before Vigil Mass
Pambula: Wednesday before Mass
At any other time by request

Anointing of the Sick

Eden: Thursday 26 February 10am
Merimbula: Friday 27 March 10am
Pambula: Wednesday 29 April 10am

Sacrament of Baptism

Families are warmly invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism in our parish. A Welcoming Mass is held on the 4th Saturday/Sunday of the month prior to Baptism, with the Baptism celebrated during Mass on the 1st Saturday/Sunday of the following month. For all enquiries and Baptism preparation arrangements, please contact the Parish Office.

Weddings

By appointment only: Minimum 6 months advance notice.

Adoration

Merimbula: Friday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

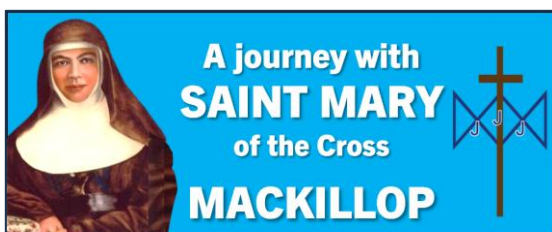
Merimbula: Sunday 9:30am & Friday 9am

Rosary

Merimbula: Cenacle & Holy Hour 11am Monday
Pambula: Wednesday 9:30am
Eden: Thursday 9am followed by Mass at 10am.

PARISH CALENDAR/MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 5pm Merimbula
Wednesday: 10am Pambula
Thursday: 10am Eden
Friday: 10am Merimbula
Saturday: 5.30pm Eden
Sunday: 8am Pambula
10am Merimbula



A journey with
SAINT MARY
of the Cross
MACKILLOP

I knew God would take care of all and make everything right in the end. (17.7.1892)

God wants us by every means in our power to lead others to life. (1899)

Do not let your troubles disturb your trust in God. (19.2.1885)
No matter how many or how great be your shortcomings, you shall certainly succeed in the end. (16.2.1874)

COMING EVENTS/NOTICES

Aged Care Facility Mass

3 March 2pm Albert Moore Gardens, Merimbula
5 March 11.30am Imlay House, Pambula
12 March 11.30am Uniting Age Care, Eden

New Parishioners

Could anyone new to the Parish contact the Parish Office or Fr Kose, so that the Parish has your contact details. Thank you.

Service for World Day Of Prayer

St Joseph's Church, Merimbula, is hosting this year's World Day Of Prayer. The country of focus is Nigeria. All are welcome on **Friday 6th March**, with the service commencing at **11am**. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

If you are able to assist or would like further information, please contact Alice – 0439200943 or Anne – 0408241230.



School Opening Mass 2026

Please join us for the Opening Mass at Lumen Christi on **Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 9:30 am**



Way of the Cross

During this Lenten season, the Way of the Cross will be held every Fridays immediately after the 10am Mass at St Joseph's Church, Merimbula



Meeting and Parish Financial Report Presentation

The presentation of the Parish Financial Report will take place on Sunday, 1 March, immediately after the 10am Mass at Merimbula.

All parishioners from Pambula, Merimbula and Eden are warmly invited to attend this important meeting. The Finance Council will present the report and provide an overview of the Parish finances.

We encourage everyone to be present and participate. Thank you.

SOLEMNITIES/FEAST DAYS

19 March (Thursday) St Joseph, spouse of the blessed virgin Mary
25 March (Wednesday) The Annunciation of the Lord
29 March (Sunday) Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



PRAYER INTENTIONS



We pray for all the faithful departed or whose anniversaries occur including:

Shirley Aldridge, Lynette Robert, Janette Robert, Murray Beveridge, Dragan Pelt, John Reynolds, Jenny Reynolds, Frank Elton, Sr June Bath rsj, Marykutty Joseph, Warwick Glendenning, Hugo, Tom Kennedy, Damien Lambourne, Ann Johnston

Let us pray for and support those who are sick and for all who have asked for our prayers:

Pat Wong, John Liston, Jocelyn Petty, Ros Beveridge, Mary Scanlan, Anne Cooper, Monica Paffen, Garry Moorhead, Cristina Embac, Beverley Ann Barr (The list will be refreshed every first week of the month. If you would like the names to continue, please inform the Parish office via email or phone)

COLLECTIONS

Last Week Collection:

First: \$1065.55 - Support Clergy in Parish & Archdiocese
Second: \$866.60 - Support running the Parish

Planned Giving Collections:

THANK YOU to ALL parishioners who continually support our Parish through our plate collections at Mass, through the envelopes and direct banking. Without your financial help our Parish could not continue to function.



Catechism Corner

How can a person be delivered from a serious sin and reunited with God?

In order to heal the break with God that is caused by a serious sin, a Catholic Christian must be reconciled with God through confession.

Thank You

On behalf of all our parishioners, we sincerely thank you, Fr Daniel, for your faithful service, guidance, and care for our parish community during Fr Kose's absence. Your dedication and presence are deeply appreciated.

St Peter's Parish is committed to safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable people. We seek to empower children, their families and carers, and vulnerable people to have their say, to be listened to and to be protected. This approach is at the centre of all of our thinking.

COMMUNICATING CONCERNS: You are encouraged to raise any concerns by emailing Fr Kose, the Parish Office, the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer or directly to Maria Hicks at the Institute Professional Standards & Safeguarding (IPSS) on ipss@cg.org.au

Important Notice – Scam Alert



Please be aware that there have been reports of scam attempts involving individuals contacting parishioners and requesting donations or financial assistance.

Please note that any legitimate requests for payments or donations will only be communicated through the parish bulletin, official parish announcements, or directly by Father Kose.

If you receive a phone call, message, or email asking for money, please do not respond or make any payment unless you have confirmed it with Father Kose or the parish office.

Thank you for your vigilance and cooperation in keeping our parish community safe.

27 February – 1 March | Lenten Retreat: Meeting Christ in Our Deepest Need

You are invited to a 3-session Lenten retreat, Meeting Christ in Our Deepest Need: A Lenten Journey, facilitated by Greg Sunter. Greg is an experienced facilitator with a strong background in small-group ministry. Holding Master's degrees in Theology and Education, he helps people engage deeply with Scripture, grow in prayer, and connect faith with daily life. He is well known for his parish newsletter gospel reflections, which explain Scripture in its historical and cultural context and relate it to contemporary lived experience.

More about Greg: <https://www.wholehearted.com.au/about/>

Greg will reflect on this year's Lenten Gospels and there are times for personal reflection and optional sharing.

Everyone is welcome no prior study needed and no pressure to speak.

Time:

Friday 27th February 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Saturday 28th February 10 am - 11 am

Sunday 1st March 4.30 pm - 5.30 pm

Place: 25 Blackham St, HOLT ACT 2615

Cost: \$20 for all 3 sessions

Register: belconnenwest@cg.org.au

Project Compassion – Lenten Appeal

Project Compassion envelopes and boxes are now available for this Lenten season.

Parishioners are warmly invited to take one and support this important appeal.



5 March | Archdiocesan Women's Taskforce International Women's Day Breakfast

The 2026 International Women's Day Breakfast event, hosted by the Archdiocesan Women's Taskforce will be held on 5th March from 7.30 am at the Ainslie Football Club. This year's guest speaker is Chiara Porro, Australian diplomat and former Ambassador to the Holy See will share her experience in her role.

Cost: \$45. More information

at <https://www.cgwomen.com.au/> Registrations: <https://events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-breakfast-2026-ty8dvmx7>

Enquiries: Helena Zobec 0405 440 463



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First Sunday of Lent, Year A

22 February 2026

First Reading Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

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

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

(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 Rom 5:12-19 (or Shorter form Rom 5:12, 17-19)

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

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 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 Mt 4:1-11

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

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 by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus was offered three shortcuts for his ministry. Firstly, exceptional powers to satisfy his own needs (bread out of stones). Secondly, when he needed to take risks, angels to keep him safe. Thirdly, when he wanted to change the world, absolute political power.

These were the Temptations of Christ, but also for us. If you or I are tempted to sin, we will find the marks of this threefold pattern. We want the whole world to change to satisfy us, or we want to take stupid risks and come out unscathed, or we want to exercise total power over others.

How can we try to follow Jesus without the shortcuts of the fantasy world which the Devil may offer? Note that Jesus resisted each temptation with: 'It is written'. The forty days of Lent are a perfect opportunity to read what 'is written' in the Gospels about the episodes and pattern of the life of Jesus Christ.

We could pause for a moment to find what is written and to imitate what we find. That is how the Devil is defeated.

mtate@bigpond.com

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