

First Sunday of Lent Year A, 21/22 February 2026.

PRESIDER

Dear friends, the season of Lent calls us to make strong and wise choices for what is good. Answering the call, let us pray for a new church and a new world.

READER

We pray for Pope Leo, the bishops and all the followers of Jesus. May we relish the gift of Lent and choose to be renewed in faith and mission. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for our parish community and especially their teachers and leaders as they are commissioned today. May they be nourished by your Holy Spirit as they care for, and teach, their students this year. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the Catholic community in Australia. May the bishops' Social Justice statement on the cost-of-living crisis bear fruit in a common commitment to a fair economy for all. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray our RCIA candidates Michelle and Jasper, and for all who are celebrating the Rite of Election in the Cathedral today. May their desire to be baptised at Easter grow ever stronger as Lent unfolds. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

For our support of Project Compassion this year. May we be inspired by the stories from Tanzania, Bangladesh, Fiji and Gaza. May our support assist in providing clean water, access to education and appropriate healthcare. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who have died recently including Lorraine Davis, and those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time especially Annie Vaughan Muller and Edward Francis Muller. May they receive in full the free gift of life in Christ. (Pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

PRESIDER

Holy God, your Son Jesus stood firm against the tempter in the desert. By the power of your Spirit, set us free from the false gods that lay claim to our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.