



This Week's Readings

Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

Next Week's Readings

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 9:28-36



Send O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!

St. Mel's Parish

BULLETIN

Looking at the Readings

Control seems to be the political and societal flavour of the year. So many want to be in control of others. Though the Christian perspective is to be in control of oneself. The Temptations of Jesus in the wilderness presented in the Gospel of the first Sunday of Lent each year show that the devil wanted to be in control of Jesus and tempted Him, in turn, to be in control of all the kingdoms of the world and other matters. Jesus overcame these three temptations. He had the tools. He was filled with the Holy Spirit (4:1), he fasted (v2) and prayed to the Father. The Gospel of Ash Wednesday reminds the Christian of the three exercises which is eloquently expressed in one of the Lenten Prefaces (see left column) and that strengthens our minds, bodies and wills.

The First Readings for the Sundays of Lent from the Old Testament give episodes in the History of Salvation. Today's reading is an old creed from a liturgy of offering food. It recalls God's action and blessings.

The Second reading reminds the Christian that the faith we proclaim must be sincere, from the heart, and not just "doing" things by duty or habit.

Lenten Quote from the Saints

"We must fast with our whole heart, that is to say, willing, whole-heartedly, universally and entirely." *St Francis de Sales*

Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year until their 60th year. The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year. (CCL 97, 1251). The law of fasting prescribes or allows a single full meal each day according to accepted local custom. (III §2 Paenitemini, Paul VI, 1966) Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are to be baptised. Other celebrations must take account of the spirit on penance: musical instruments are only used to sustain singing and floral decorations are very simple. (*Aust/NZ Ordo 2025 page 45*)

Text for the Day

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble. *Psalms 90:15*

On the Lighter Side

Why will you never see Satan in an Armani suit? The Devil Wears Prada. What do you say when you greet the devil? Hell-o



Liturgical Jottings

Lenten Prayers 1

God of goodness and mercy,
Hear my prayer as I begin this Lenten journey with you. Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart and soul, noticing the times I turn away from you. Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to your love. May humility guide my efforts to be reconciled with you and live forever in your abundant grace. Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the strength to make myself entirely available to you every day as I prepare for Easter. Amen.

(*Dynamic Catholic.com*)

A Lenten Preface

Lord, holy Father, You call us to keep this holy season where through fasting and prayer and the discipline of your fatherly love you offer us in Christ a healing for our sins and the strength to grow in the practice of charity. (*Ambrosian Rite, Thurs 3 of Lent*)

St Mel's Parish would like to acknowledge the elders past and present of the Yorta Yorta Nation, and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our parish and church is situated.



Weekly Reflection

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS - *Let's reflect and learn.*

Luke has already told us of evil forces at work in the world – evil forces that will affect Jesus (1:79; 2:34; 3:19-20). Satan, the personification of evil, now tries to divert Jesus from his mission – but Jesus is “full of the Holy Spirit” and so is empowered to resist (v. 1).

Mark tells us that Jesus was tempted but does not describe the temptations (Mark 1:12-13). Matthew lists three temptations in this order: bread, pinnacle, and kingdoms (Matt. 4:3-9). Luke reverses the last two temptations – changing the order to bread, kingdoms, and pinnacle. He does this as part of his emphasis on Jerusalem. Nearly half of this Gospel consists of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem (9:51-19:44), and Jesus’ ministry climaxes in Jerusalem with his death and resurrection. Luke therefore has his temptation story build toward Jerusalem in keeping with the movement of the larger story.

The author of Hebrews makes it clear that Jesus bore these temptations for our sake. He was not an “ivory tower” high priest, far removed from the experiences of ordinary people. Jesus had “been in all points tempted like we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). As a result, “he is able to help those who are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). The three temptations correspond to temptations that Israel experienced in the wilderness:

a.) The temptation to “*command this stone to become bread*” (v. 3b) is suggesting that Jesus should relieve his own hunger. It is really a temptation not to trust God for sustenance – and is therefore analogous to Israel’s failure to trust God for sustenance in the wilderness. The Israelites complained to Moses, “We wish that we had died by the hand of Yahweh in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots, when we ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Exodus 16:3). In response, God gave them manna but forbade them to gather more than the day’s supply – except in preparation for the Sabbath (Exodus 16:4-5). God told Moses that this was a test to see “whether they will follow my instruction or not” (Exodus 16:4). “Notwithstanding they didn’t listen to Moses, but some of them left of it until the morning, and it bred worms, and became foul” (Exodus 16:20). Both the Israelites and Jesus were tempted in the wilderness by bread. The difference was that Israel stumbled over the temptation because they lacked faith, but Jesus held steady in the face of temptation.

“*It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone’*” (v. 4). The quotation is from Deuteronomy 8:3, which reads in full: “He humbled you, and allowed you to be hungry, and fed you with manna, which you didn’t know, neither did your fathers know; that he might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh.”

b.) The temptation to gain the kingdoms of the world by worshiping the devil (vv. 5-8) is analogous to Israel’s temptation to worship other Gods. God commanded, “You shall fear Yahweh your God; and you shall serve him and shall swear by his name. You shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the peoples who are around you; for Yahweh your God in the midst of you is a jealous God” (Deuteronomy 6:13-15a). The Israelites first failed this test at the base of Mount Sinai when they made and worshiped a golden calf (Exodus 32:4; Deuteronomy 9:16) – but that was only the first of many such failures. Jesus says: “*For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and you shall serve him only’*” (v. 8; Deuteronomy 6:13.)

c.) The temptation for Jesus to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple (vv. 9-12), forcing God to protect him, is really a temptation to test God. This is analogous to Israel’s testing of God at Massah and Meribah, where the people complained to Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?” (Exodus 17:3). Moses named the place Massah (which means “test”) and Meribah (which means “quarrel”) “because the children of Israel quarrelled, and because they tested Yahweh, saying, ‘Is Yahweh among us, or not?’” (Exodus 17:7; see also Deuteronomy 6:16). In Luke’s mind, the challenge to jump from the pinnacle is the climactic temptation, because it tempts Jesus to let Satan save him from death—perhaps not just now but also at the cross. Jesus must also find this offer quite tempting. He knows that the Father’s will is that he dies on the cross, but perhaps the tempter can find an easier way for Jesus to fulfill his mission. But Jesus responds with absolute conviction, “*It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’*” (v. 12).

Prayer of the Heart

Loving Father,

be our strength in times of temptations and when we are weak.

Take away our pride and give us hearts that are humble and contrite so that our Lenten observance may lead us all to the joy of Easter.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. – (FRM)



CCR SANDHURST

**Installation of Fr Arun Korlakanti
as Spiritual Director of CCR Sandhurst**

by Bishop Shane McKinlay

Mass 11.30am

preceded by praise and worship 11.15am

St Brendan’s

Knight St. Shepparton

Sat 29th March, 2025

Followed by lunch and talks by Fr Arun

at Mons Peter Jeffrey Centre

Lunch: Please bring a plate to share

All welcome

Contact: Brigita Hore: 0412 042 196 Mary Zobec: 0427 190 282

Denise Illot : 0407 506 813

Invitation to Pray for Vocations, for our Priests, and our Seminarians

Next Thursday 13th March at St Kilian’s church Bendigo the Bendigo Serra club will sponsor:

- 11.00 am. Adoration, prayers, and Benediction.
- 12.10 pm. Mass, followed by Serra meeting.

You are warmly invited to give your prayerful support to this important work.

For information phone 0448 188 343



2025 Sabbatical: "Honouring the Soul"

The Santa Casa Retreat Centre, owned by the Sisters of Mercy, is currently offering a 40-day sabbatical at Santa Casa Queenscliff, VIC from 1 September through 14 October 2025. They invite priests, lay and religious, women and men, who are ministering as Christian servant leaders in education, health, aged care and pastoral and social work. Please see the flyer on the notice boards in the Narthex with additional information.

Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles

Maria Weatherill and Fr Joe will present an overview of the Acts of the Apostles at St Brendan's Pastoral Centre (behind St Brendan's Catholic Church) 7.30pm—8.30pm, Tuesdays March 25, April 1 and April 8



Aims

To introduce us to the story of the early Church in Acts of the Apostles.

To better understand the life and struggles of the early Church.

To understand how Peter and Paul shaped the early Church through their personal missions.

Everyone is most welcome.

St Mel's Parish Debutante Balls

Over the next two weeks, four groups of St Mel's Parish Debutantes will be presented. We congratulate the Debs and wish them and their partners all the best for a wonderful celebration. Thank you to all involved in the preparing the Debs for these evenings.

Friday 14 March

HANNA TURNER & BEN O'CONNELL
SOPHIE EADE & ANGUS WILLIAMS
TAHLIE BLACK & CALEB AITKEN
LILLI AMODIO & SAM GARRAWAY
TESS BIRCHALL & JACK MELLINGTON
EADIE WILMOTT & RILEY MYERS
OLIVIA ROMANO & JONAH ROSSIGNUOLO
GRACE NOVOTNY & ANTHONY SOARES
HOLLY RALPH & THOMAS HUDSON
RUBY ANDERSON & AIDEN WHITELAW
KIERA SHAW & XAVIER TELFORD

Saturday 15 March

MAGGIE KERR & GEORGE CURRIE-MCLELLAN
MILLA BRISBANE & LUKE RICE
AVAH CREIGHTON & CRUIZ RIKYS
REMI OSBORNE & BLAKE SOFRA
JAYDE CAREY & JESSE DIFFEY
TULLY SIMPSON & KADE MADIGAN
JAMISON STOVELL & MAX BICKNELL
LARA MORONEY & JYE MCDONALD
LUCY BICKNELL & CRUZ BRAY
TAYA MULCAHY & GRIFFIN IRVINE
GEORGIE HANLON & KODI STILL
OLIVIA ANDREWS & TAJ LEADER
BELLA GALE & JUDD PELLY

Any interested people are invited to come to the St Mel's Parish Hall at 6pm to see the Debs prior to the ball, and they will perform a couple of dances.

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

During Lent, the Parish bulletin will be printed in black and white. If you wish to view the bulletin in colour, subscribe to Flocknote by using the QR code below.



Subscribe to Flocknote, to receive parish news & updates about upcoming events: Subscribe by using the QR Code.



Shepparton & Nagambie Mass Schedule

St Mel's

SUNDAY

St. Mel's 9:30 am
St. Mel's 5:00 pm

TUESDAY to SATURDAY

St. Mel's 9:15 am

St Malachy's

SUNDAY (1st & 3rd)*

St. Malachy's 09:00 am
*2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays
Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

CONFESSIONS

St. Mel's: Every Thurs at 8:10 - 9:10 am

BAPTISMS (St Mel's)

3rd Sunday of the month

MARRIAGE

2 months-notice required

Parish Staff

Fr. Joe Taylor
Parish Administrator

Fr. Ruel Desamparado RCJ
Assistant Priest

Sr Pam Barlow
Religious Sister of Mercy

Carmel Zito
Bookkeeper

Mel Shiels
Secretary
Sacramental Program Coordinator

Office Address
18 Hamilton Street
Shepparton VIC 3530
sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
www.smps.org.au
(03) 5831 2194

Office Hours
Tuesday to Thursday: 9:30am- 2:30pm
Friday: 9:30am -12:30 pm



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

First Sunday of Lent
8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

We ask for your prayers for the Eternal Repose of
Anniversaries: Antonino Andronaco, Arthur & Alma Crawford, Giuseppe Antonio Lorenzini

**Commentators/Lectors/
Special Ministers**

**Sunday 16th
March
February**

Commentators
9:30am Anthony Butts
5pm Tim Kelly

Lectors
9:30am David Sellwood (L1) Gabrielle Barrette (L2)
5pm Luisa Cassise (L1) (L2)

Special Ministers
9:30am Pauline Pettigrew & Elizabeth Holligan
5pm Angie Knez & Erin Tanner

Support your Parish!

Help fund our initiatives to move from maintenance to mission!

"Together we do more"

Use the QR Code to access our Donations Page.



\$14,227
March Target

\$
Week Four

\$
Week Three

\$
Week Two

\$3,657
Week One \$3,657

**TOGETHER
WE CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR
MONTHLY GOAL

**DONATE
TODAY!**

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We are committed to the
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**

We are a Safe Church Community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to abuse.

St Mel's Parish Safeguarding officer is Trish Mathisen. Ph: 0428 213 757

To find out more ways on how you can help improve our Parochial Community please contact Mel at **(03) 5831 2194**
Tuesdays to Thursdays, between 9:30am to 2:30 pm
email: sheppartonsouth@sandhurst.catholic.org.au
or visit our website at www.smps.org.au