



WELCOME TO ST MARYS PARISH

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Office Hours: Tues and Frid: 9.00am —3:00pm

The Living Word

First Sunday of Lent, Year A

26 February 2023

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.

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ST MARY'S PARISH MOTTO

"Reaching out to each other
- growing together in love"

St Mary's Mooroopna acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Nation and the Aboriginal people who have walked this land for thousands of years

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

| | |
|-----------|---------|
| Sat Vigil | 6.30pm |
| Sunday | 10.00am |

RECONCILIATION

10.30am to 11.00am Saturday

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Mon 27/2 | Mass | 6.00pm |
| Tues 28/2 | Holy Hour Exposition Mass | 5.00pm 6.00pm |
| Wed 1/3 | Mass | 6.00pm |
| Thur 2/3 | Mass | 6.00pm |
| Frid 3/3 | Mass | 10.00am |

PARISH / SCHOOL NEWS

EASY WORSHIP

Sat 25th February Carmel Fasano
Sun 26th February AM Carroll

Sat 4th March Valoia Family
Sun 5th March AM Carroll

PARISH MEETINGS

Tues 28th Feb—Finance Committee Meeting
(Note—new date)

You can help to improve the lives of children like Laxmi by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes, visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or phoning 1800 024 413

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT LAXMI'S STORY—NEPAL



16-year-old Laxmi lives in one of the most remote communities in Nepal which experiences high levels of poverty.

Laxmi's chance at a better life was through education, supported by her parents. Sadly, when she was 10 years old, her father passed away and Laxmi stopped going to school.

Before her father's passing, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school that was run with the support of Caritas Nepal, through the Nepal Livelihoods and Resilience Program. Child's clubs support students to develop their speaking, writing and leadership skills through extracurricular activities.

Thanks to the support of her child's club, Laxmi was encouraged to resume her education. She became an active member of her child's club, where she developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

"If I don't get to study, then I'll experience hardship. I'll have to struggle like mother. If I don't get to study, then I'll have no knowledge," Laxmi said.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She has become a mentor to other girls in her village, encouraging them to stand up for their rights and creating lasting change *For All Future Generations.*



THE AGE

This article was printed in The Age Newspaper on Thursday 23 February 2023

Two hours north of Melbourne, in the northern Victorian town of Mooroopna, Catholic primary school St Mary's has had its best two years of NAPLAN testing, raising its results to be one of the best performing schools in the Shepparton region, with most students making above-average progress in literacy and numeracy.

It wasn't always like this. Five years ago, St Mary's students made below-average progress when measured against students across Australia who were at similar level.

Principal Anthony Butts said the school had purposely invested more in its literacy and maths programs, and "really worked hard to develop a culture that promotes learning."

"We have a really strong belief that every student is capable of successful learning," Butts said. "We work really hard to make sure that no student slips through the cracks and that all students have the opportunity to succeed at whatever level they're at."



Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council - Expressions of Interest (EOIs) are OPEN:

On Wednesday 15 February, at the Diocesan Gathering, Bishop Shane Mackinlay called for EOI's from members of the diocese to join him on the new Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council. All relevant information and the EOI form is available on the Sandhurst website: <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/mission-and-pastoral-life/mission-pastoral-council>

The contact at the Chancery is Jill Doncovio
(Executive Assistant to Bishop Shane)
Ph: 03 5445 3630 or



"Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..."
Pope Benedict XVI

World Day of Prayer 2023

Friday 3rd March
at 1.30 pm at the
Activity Centre,
Rodney Park Village,
Knight St, Mooroopna.



St Mary's will require 2 people to read.

Please let Cathie McMaster know if you would like to read. M: 0434 343 327

Lenten Eucharistic Adoration



Every Friday until and including 31 March 2023. Following the 10am Mass at St Mary's Mooroopna. At 12noon, 2pm, 4pm and 6pm the Mysteries of the Rosary will be recited.

Combined Churches Prayer Event: The first gathering for the year will be held: **7pm, Saturday, February 25**, at Mt Major, Major TV Road, Dookie. Gates open at 6.30pm –7pm. Gates will be closed while we meet. So, we need to be there before 7pm.





Readings for this week:

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11



Readings for next week:

Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9

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YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

Sick List: Graeme Weir, Cherie Mammone, Jim McIntyre, Pat Treacy, Irene Murphy, Irene Biesiekierski, Dennis Corboy, Barry Monaghan, Fr Steve Bohan, Parish Priest of Yarrawonga, Annette Kay [Friend of Rosemary Haigh] Kim Smyth, Noela McIntyre, Sam Sali, Rosemary Wingrave, Angelo Conti, Patrick Keane (Mons. Nephew), Nathan Hayes, Francesco Laface.

Recently Deceased: Arnold Schroeders

Anniversaries: John Stein, Pietro & Concetta Laface

ALTAR HELPERS Feb 25th not required Mar 4th Kath Brett and Di Morris

BINGO Mar 4th Narissa Russell, Vicki Emmanuelli, Sarah Richards and Francesca Richards

| 25th & 26th February | COMMENTOR | READER | SPECIAL MINISTER | OFFERTORY |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 6:30 pm | Liz Donnelly | Kevin Murphy | Ester Janke | Checca Richards |
| 10.00 am | Jacques Martin – Lefevre | Laine Martin –Lefevre | Margaret Campbell | Valoia Family |
| 4th & 5th March | | | | |
| 6:30 pm | Angelo Conti | Liz Turk | Miriam Hogarty | Josie Buttegieg |
| 10.00 am | Inez Raleigh | Cecily Dumaresq | Marg Lee | School Mass |