

WELCOME TO

# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH



St Brendan's Parish is a Child Safe community. We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all and a zero tolerance to child abuse.

**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.

## Lenten Meditation Group with Fr Joe Each Thursday during

**Lent from**

**7.15am—7.45am**

**in the MPJC**



**Caritas AUSTRALIA**



After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old, **Laxmi** was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

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 our parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion), or 1800 024 413.



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# ST BRENDAN'S PARISH NEWS



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 Website: sheppartoncatholic.org.au  
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 Parish Priest: Fr Joe Taylor  
 Priest in Residence: Fr Joseph Kunnackattu  
 Associate Priest: Fr Jackson Saunders  
 Deacon: Francois Baguma  
 Office Manager: Diane Teitzel  
 Child Safe Officer: Jason Giuliani Ph: 5821 2633  
 Office Hours: Mon to Fri 9am - 2pm



*Christ in community ...  
 the heart of our faith*

**Recently Deceased:** Arnoldus (Arnie) Schroeders

**Anniversaries:** Margaret Surkitt, Wendy Surkitt, John Stein, Marie Barwick, Bernard O'Shea, Leo Clurey

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

We turn our hearts and minds to the people of the Yorta Yorta nation, who have occupied this country for thousands of years. We pay respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging, and commit to walking alongside Aboriginal Australians in truth and justice.

### **We have some new boxes at both entrances to our Church.**

The 'Bright Ideas' title is asking you to put your **Bright Ideas, Questions, Concerns, or Gratitude down on paper and place them in the box.**

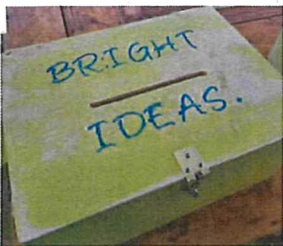
We are challenged to have our eyes open for opportunities to live for others.

We can quite easily come along to our weekly celebration of Mass and not be changed, not feel we have grown a little in love and faith.

This is not what faith asks of us. Jesus teaches us as we do unto others we do unto him.

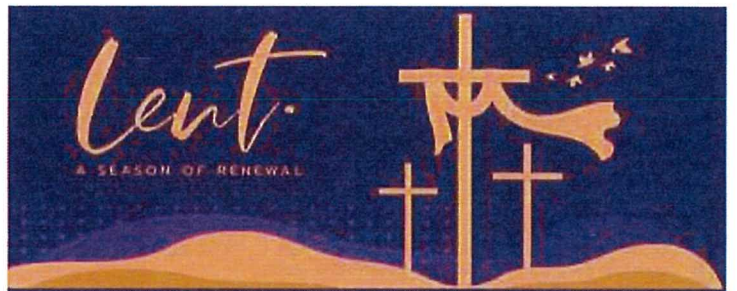
The 'Bright Ideas' box is the end product of a life lived with our eyes and ears open for opportunities, to give thanks, to voice concerns for ourselves and others, to ask questions.

We certainly encourage e-mail, phone or personal contact, but sometimes, at that time it is best to act in the moment, write down a few thoughts and place them in the box. If you would like a reply, please leave a name and a phone number.



### **Readers & Commentators 4 & 5 March 2023**

6pm	K. Hunt	C. Segrave
8am	D. Keenan	M. Keenan
11am	P. Crane	P. Chalkley



## **SAVE THE DATE**

*Mons Peter Jeffrey and Fr John Ryan  
 Jubilarian Mass for 60 years of priesthood  
 will be celebrated; Tuesday, July 25,  
 at 11.00am, at St Brendan's Church.*

*A local celebration Mass for Mons Peter  
 Jeffrey will also be held on Thursday  
 July 27, 5.00pm at St Brendan's Church.*

### **Calling all Actors & Actresses!**

**If you would like to join us in the  
 Good Friday Stations of the Cross  
 re-enactment (Friday 7th April 2023)  
 Please contact Dale Wright 0408 216 522**

### **MATTHEW'S GOSPEL Week 3 of 3**

Tuesday February **28**: 7.30—9.00pm  
 in the MPJC. Supper afterwards

**Maria Weatherill:** Jesus as  
 the Teacher in Matthew.  
**Fr Joe:** Jesus as the Healer



Our young adults' group for those between 18 and 40 meets weekly, 6-7pm Thursdays, in the MacKillop Room in the Parish Office (behind St Brendan's Church). The group will gather to reflect on the readings at Mass for that coming Sunday. There will also be time for prayer and fellowship. No RSVP is needed. Simply show up whenever you are available. For any questions, please speak with Mason 0403 824 346, Berni Sullivan, or Fr Jackson.





**Weekend Mass Times**

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 8am & 11am **PRAYING (with) CHILDREN**  
SUNDAY LITURGY

Saturday 8.30am *Syro Malabar Rite*, Sunday 5.30pm *Syro Malabar Rite*

**Rosary**— The Rosary is prayed in the Marian Chapel after weekday Masses and after the 8am Mass on Sunday.

**Holy Hour with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

Mondays 2pm to 3pm, Thursdays 7pm to 8pm, Fridays 5pm to 6pm

**Weekday Mass Times**

Tuesday to Friday 9.15am

**Reconciliation** Saturday 9.45am to 10.30am (in the Church)

**A few notes from Anthony Kilmartin, our Pastoral Associate..**



At the back of the Church, we have a library for you to borrow from—the books have recently been changed to provide fresh new reads. We look forward to hearing about what you find interesting.



**Our next Men's group is set for 7.30am, Saturday March 4, in the MPJC.**

We will start with a new idea from one of the groups, reflecting on the season of Lent. We will use the Triumph Lenten program from the Wollongong Diocese.

At our last meeting we discussed Pope Francis' recent visit to the Congo and South Sudan. Social Justice is one of the pillars of our faith. We are asked to be informed, educated on people and places where human life is devalued. We are blessed in the Men's group to have to men from the Congo, who share their life and the history of their country. We can feel powerless to help at times. The problems are so big so far away.

The Holy Spirit gives us the encouragement to start small and allow growth to come through our faith.

*This week our RCIA group will travel to the Cathedral in Bendigo for the Rite of Election being held on Sunday at 2.00pm. Ethan, Karlene, Kelly and Louis, along with their sponsors and support network will participate in the Rite of Election which:*

- welcomes them into the wider church,
- invites sponsors to speak on their behalf,
- asks them if this journey to join the Catholic church is what their heart desires?



*They are excited to visit the Cathedral, meet and talk with Bishop Shane, and join with others who are on the RCIA journey from throughout the Dioceses.*

**Anthony can be contacted on 5821 2633 (Tuesday or Thursday) or email: [anthonypastoral@bigpond.com](mailto:anthonypastoral@bigpond.com)**



**World Day of Prayer 2023:**

**Taiwan**

10-11am,  
Friday March 3  
Goulburn Valley

Christian Fellowship

9 Pine Road, Shepparton.

Contact Daniel: [daniel@gvcf.org.au](mailto:daniel@gvcf.org.au)

**FORMATION SESSIONS IN THE CHURCH for ALL MINISTERS OF COMMUNION**

If you have not yet already attended in February—we ask all Ministers of Communion, including those who distribute Communion at Mass and take Communion to the sick or elderly, to please attend the formation session: at St Brendan's Church,

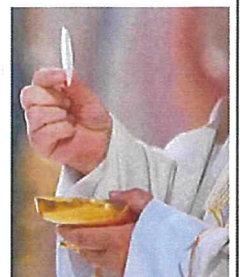
**Saturday, March 4, from 11am—12pm.**

The session will provide an opportunity to reflect on this important ministry and its theological significance.

The practicalities of serving as a Minister of Communion at Mass will also be discussed and there will be an opportunity for discussion/ input from all in attendance. It is essential that all Ministers of Communion please attend.

We thank you for all your dedication to this ministry.

God bless, Fr Joe and Fr Jackson



**SERRA CLUB MASS: 7.15pm,**

**Friday March 3.** Followed

by a cuppa in the MPJC.

Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament will be held from

5pm until the beginning of Mass.







St Brendan's invites you to **Alpha in the Catholic Context 2023!**

- Do you have someone you love who needs Jesus in their lives and you are willing to journey with them in this discovery?
- Do you know someone who is seeking more in their life?

If your answer is **"Yes"** Alpha Program might be a program for them, with you as their support.

**ALPHA IN THE CATHOLIC CONTEXT 2023**



Alpha is a program designed to encounter Jesus in an environment which includes hospitality.

If you are interested in joining parishioners who have delivered the Alpha program over the past 2 years and have Monday nights free between February and May 2023—please call Marie Fontana on 0435 899 830 for further information.

**Program Commences 27 February 2023 at 6:20pm**

**With the meal served at 6:30pm**

Childcare is provided free of charge with children also fed! Breaks for school holidays

**The Alpha program is a place where we meet to share in fellowship, a meal and explore Jesus in our lives. Open to anyone who feels they could use a refresh or have someone you care about who could see Alpha opening up a path for them.**

Any questions please contact Marie Fontana 0435 899 830 or Sr Agnes Murphy 0428 996 975

### Lenten Eucharistic Adoration

Beginning Friday February 24,  
And each Friday until and  
including March 31.

Following the 10am Mass at  
St Mary's Mooroopna. Mysteries of  
the Rosary will be recited at 12noon,  
2pm, 4pm & 6pm. We will finish at  
8pm. ALL WELCOME!

*Would you like to advertise your  
business in our bulletin?*

*Please contact Diane on  
5821 2633 or email:*

*shepparton@sandhurst.catholic.org.au*

### INVITATION:

We cordially invite you to  
our Mosque Open Day;



10am-2pm, Sunday March 5  
Islamic Centre (Albanian Mosque),  
cnr Maple & Acacia St, Shepparton  
Please join us to share a cuppa  
and conversation.

We would like to provide a glimpse  
into the teachings of Islam and  
recognise that whatever our

backgrounds and beliefs, we are  
united as Australians, with the goal  
to live side by side, faith by faith in  
harmony and peace. Please RSVP to  
Ramadan Ahmet 0407 299 345 or  
Imam Hysni Merja 0497 693 279.  
Albanian Moslem Society

# ST BRENDAN'S CATHOLIC PARISH SECONDARY SCHOOL SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM



**THIS PARISH BASED  
PROGRAM WILL PREPARE  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
STUDENTS WHO WISH TO  
CELEBRATE THEIR  
FIRST RECONCILIATION,  
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION  
AND CONFIRMATION.**

**Enrolments Close 26th March  
Program Begins Term Two**

**For more information and to enrol  
please contact either**

**Brendan Lindsay - [brendan.lindsay@notredame.vic.edu.au](mailto:brendan.lindsay@notredame.vic.edu.au)  
or Laura O'Sullivan - [sacramental.coord@bigpond.com](mailto:sacramental.coord@bigpond.com)**

Lent is a time  
when we can  
grow closer to  
God and prepare



our hearts for the true meaning of  
Easter. Be inspired. Be refreshed.  
Be renewed! This program is FREE  
and you can sign up here:

<https://BruceDownes.org/Lent23>

**HELP SYRIA.** Aid to the Church in  
Need (ACN) has launched an  
emergency appeal for the people  
in northern Syria desperate for  
help following the devastating  
earthquakes. To read more  
about what ACN is doing and  
to make an offering please visit  
[www.aidtochurch.org/  
syriaearthquake](http://www.aidtochurch.org/syriaearthquake)





# Along the track

## Ash Wednesday

Most Australians know a lot about ashes. For thousands and thousands of years, the first people of this nation used fire as a tool to 'care for country'. When Europeans came, we largely ignored those methods to our peril and bushfires became a destructive force across much of the country. It is only in recent times that we have begun to learn lessons by 'sitting in the ashes' as it were, heeding the wisdom of the past and learning the lessons of today. For example, until recent times, fire was used very effectively in farming sugar cane in North Queensland. Controlled burning to reduce undergrowth is now a regular part of fire prevention management, as it was for thousands of years before settlement. In fire prone areas, where and how we build houses is changing. All lessons learned from the ashes.

And so, each year we celebrate Ash Wednesday, we stop to learn the lessons from the ashes.

It is not simply for convenience sake that the palms from last year's celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem are burnt to provide the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Obviously, the symbolism of that action is a reminder that all of us will die and that the trappings of importance and wealth, of fame and adulation don't mean all that much – eventually they all pass. We hear the words, remember you are dust and unto dust you will return. Pretty sobering thought! But every now and then we need to sit in the ashes, not as some maudlin exercise in self-pity but to get our priorities right, to take stock of where we are personally and what is important to us.

Driving through country devastated by fire can be a very confronting experience. It can be frightening. How terrifying it must have been for those who were there in the fire! Then, driving through that country weeks later, green shoots are appearing and signs of life are returning. Even out of such powerful destruction, new life emerges and with that comes hope and renewal. Sitting in the ashes gives us a chance to see the signs of renewal in my life, where I find hope and perhaps discover what are the signs for joy and gratitude? In so many of those places devastated by fire, a strong sense of community emerged, a desire to care for one another, to come to know one another, to be a listening ear, to help where one another rebuild homes and lives.

So what are the lessons of the ashes for you this year?

Sitting in the ashes is an ancient symbol of mourning and repentance, of loss and a reminder of death. It also carries with it the idea that sometimes there is some inner work that is best done in a time of being alone, even in a time of sadness or even heaviness of heart and that we need sometimes to embrace these times. There are times when we may need to feel some powerlessness, to feel that we need others, to understand that we are not in complete control. Sometimes it is in these times when we feel emptiness, we can feel our need for God. Sometimes we need the space, the quiet withdrawal that sitting in the ashes can offer.

We can stop there, if we choose. We can choose mourning or we can choose to give thanks for the gift of those who have died, we can give thanks for the gift of life itself. Or we can see repentance as a time for renewal, for a change of mind and heart.

Isn't it interesting that those who threw palms and cloaks in front of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and hailed him as the messiah, a few short days later bayed for his blood – crucify him, they yelled. Kill him. What changed? How could they be so welcoming and then almost immediately turn into a cruel and unruly mob. And they didn't even have social media!! Sitting in the ashes can also be a time to take stock of where we are going as a community, what sort of culture we want to create, what sort of priorities are important to us, what or who are the main influences on our lives. Have we become like this crowd in Jerusalem, choosing one way, then heading off in a new direction because that's where the mob is heading?

Regards  
Jim Quillinan

Email: [jquillinan@dcsi.net.au](mailto:jquillinan@dcsi.net.au)





FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2023

*Have mercy on us,*  
God, in your kindness.

Reflection and Prayer for Lent with Sunday readings and a spiritual teacher  
from our Catholic tradition - St Augustine.



# SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Have mercy on us, God, in your kindness.

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## FROM THE READINGS

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**First Reading:** The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil.  
Then God breathed into his nostrils a breath of life ... *Genesis 2:7*

**Psalm:** 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. *Psalm 50/51:1-2*

**Gospel:** Then Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the desert to be put to the test by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was hungry, and the tester came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Human beings live not on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and set him on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He has given his angels orders about you, and they will carry you in their arms in case you trip over a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: Do 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. And he said to him, 'I will give you all these, if you fall at my feet and do me homage.' Then Jesus replied, 'Away with you, Satan! For scripture says: The Lord your God is the one to whom you must do homage, him alone you must serve.' Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels appeared and looked after him. *Matthew 4:1-11*

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## FROM SAINT AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (354-430)

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**Augustine** wrote about God's grace, love and power in human life, when many thought Christian living was all about will power. He was born to a Christian mother, Monica, and non-Christian father, in a small town in Algeria. He studied to a high level, began teaching in Rome and befriended a woman who was his partner for fifteen years. Their son, Adeodatus, later died while

still in his teens. Augustine wanted to learn about the meaning of life and what it is to be good. He tried philosophical and religious groups. One day, in 386 CE, he heard a children's song with the words "Pick it up and read it." Realising it could be God's message for him, Augustine found a bible. St Paul's call to a life based on Jesus Christ (Romans 13:13-14) had a huge impact on him. He listened to the preaching of Bishop Ambrose of Milan and, at age 33 in 387CE, together with Adeodatus and a friend, Alypius, he was baptised during the Easter Vigil. Augustine discovered that happiness and meaning are found in God who had loved him all his life. Augustine became a priest and Bishop of Hippo (today's Annaba) in Northern Africa. His writings, including his personal story, *Confessions*, continue to inspire people today.

## AUGUSTINE'S WORDS

**You have made us for yourself** and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. *Confessions AD 397 - 400.*

**I was tossed by every wind**, but you guided me as a helmsman steers a ship, by routes I did not know. *Confessions AD 397 - 400.*

**You called**, you shouted, you burst through my deafness. *Confessions AD 397 - 400.*

**We shall be made truly free** when God has fashioned us, formed us, recreated us, not as human beings (he has already done that), but as good human beings. His grace is doing that right now, that we may be a new creation in Christ Jesus ... *The Enchiridion AD 420.*

**If you want to see God**, you should consider that **God is love** (1 John 4:8). What is the face of love? What is its form, its height, its feet, its hands? No one can say — and yet love has feet, for they lead to the church; it has hands, for they minister to the poor; it has eyes, for through them the needy become visible. *Homily on the First Epistle of John*

**It is grace that enables us to know what we should do** and grace that enables us to do it. By grace we both believe what should be loved and love what we believe. *On the Grace of Christ.*



## PRAYER AND REFLECTION

- **Ask** for God's guidance.
- **Read** the scripture passages and words of St Augustine, aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, stopping to ponder any 'stand out' words or phrases. 10 mins
- **Respond** 10-15 mins

Individuals: Write or sit quietly with your reflections.

Groups: Share your responses and listen to others. 2-3 mins each

- What stands out for you?
- What do you want to take with you?

- **Express a hope for the future.**

### HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER OF ST AUGUSTINE

*Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit,  
that my thoughts may all be holy.*

*Act in me, O Holy Spirit,  
that my work, too, may be holy.*

*Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit,  
that I love but what is holy.*

*Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit,  
to defend all that is holy.*

*Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit,  
that I always may be holy.*

St Augustine





# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

26 February 2022 - Year A

***"Jesus fasted for forty days and nights and was tempted."***

### Something to Think About

Have you had to make any choices today? Maybe you had to choose which clothes to wear, or which game to play, or what to eat for breakfast. Have you ever had to make a really hard choice?

### The Story

In the first week of Lent each year we hear the story of Jesus' time in the desert where he was tempted by the devil. The devil tried to tempt Jesus to do the wrong thing – three times! - but Jesus was strong and he did not give in. Jesus remembered the words of Scriptures which gave him the wisdom to make the right choices. When the devil saw that he could not trick Jesus, he went away. Then angels came to help Jesus.

### The Scriptures

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

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert, so that the devil could test him. After Jesus went without eating for forty days and nights, he was very hungry. Then the devil came to him and said, "If you are God's Son, tell these stones to turn into bread."

Jesus answered,  
"The Scriptures say: 'No one can live only on food.  
People need every word that God has spoken.'"

Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city and had him stand on the highest part of the temple.

The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say: 'God will give his angels orders about you. They will catch you in their arms, and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.'"

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'Don't try to test the Lord your God!'"

Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms on earth and their power. The devil said to him, "I will give all this to you, if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The Scriptures say: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left Jesus, and angels came to help him.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video: [The Temptation of Jesus](#)





## Group Discussion

The main message for this first Sunday in Lent is that throughout our lives we will be tempted. We need to try and make good choices for ourselves and for others. It is important to remember that everyone is tempted sometimes, and that Jesus understands how it feels. When Jesus had difficult choices to make, he relied on teachings from the Bible and his relationship with God. Who helps you to make difficult choices?

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Gathered as one with all creation, let us pray for the needs of the world.

*Reader 1:* We pray for our leaders who have to make choices each day. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 2:* We pray for our parents who make choices to care for and look after us. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 3:* We pray that we always try to make the best choice as Jesus did. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 4:* We pray for those who find it hard to do the right thing. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader 5:* We pray for the courage to do the right thing. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Lord Jesus,  
Help us to listen to God's voice when we  
are tempted to do the wrong thing.  
Stay near to us and give us the strength  
to make good choices.  
Amen.

## Group Activity

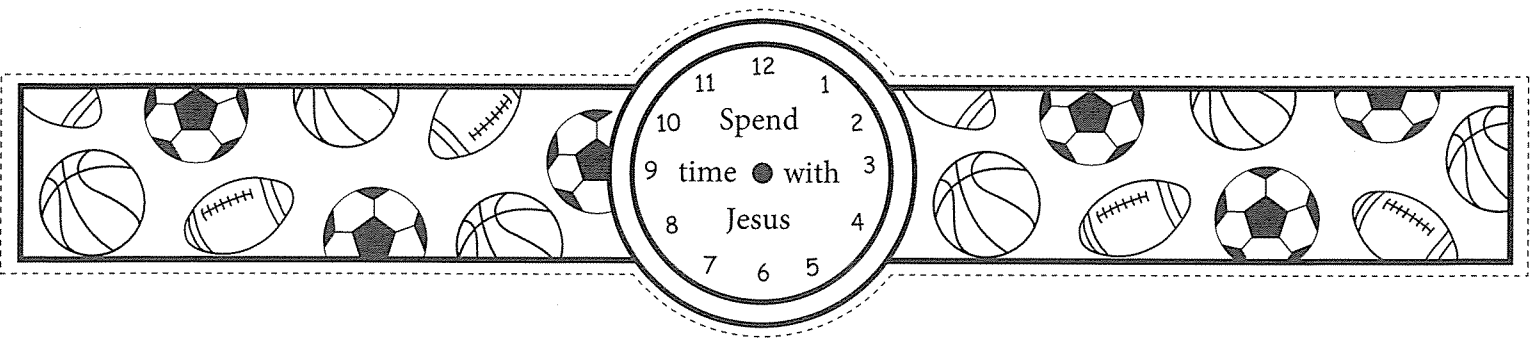
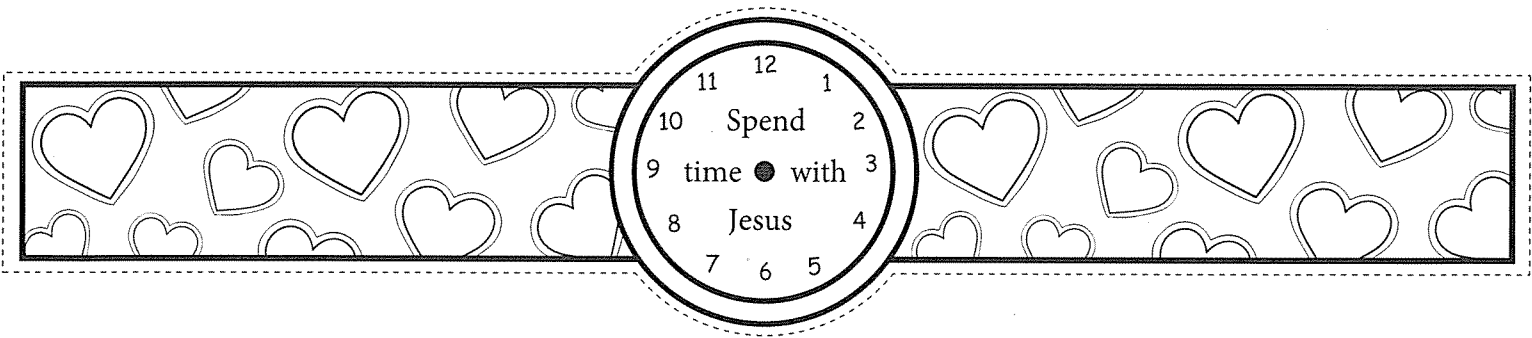
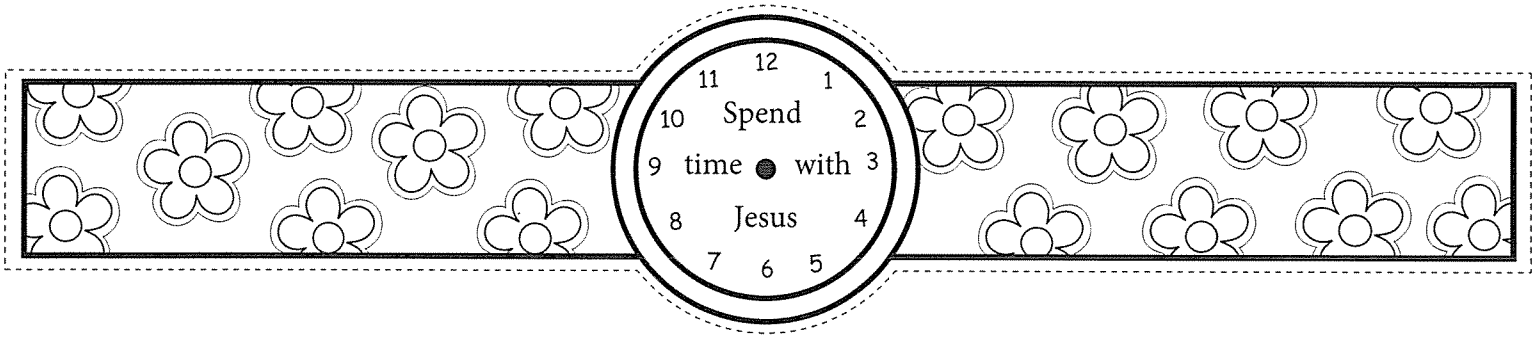
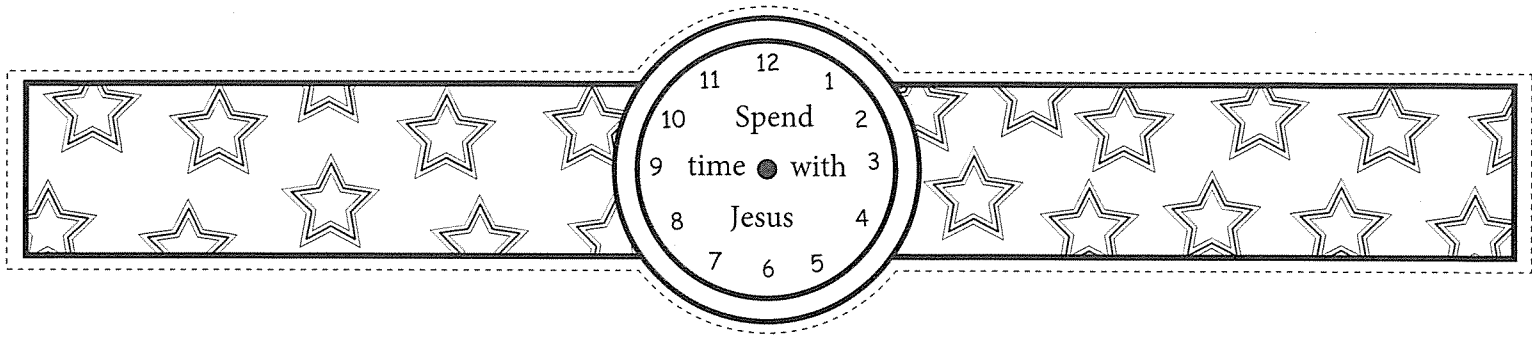
### Spend Time with Jesus

*You will need:* watch templates copied onto heavy cardstock, coloured markers, scissors, sticky-tape.

1. Children choose a watch design.
2. Remind children that Jesus will always be there whatever time of day or night they call on him.
3. In Lent, we try to spend more time with Jesus. Children can think about this as they colour in their watch.
4. Cut the watch out carefully and affix around wrist with sticky-tape.



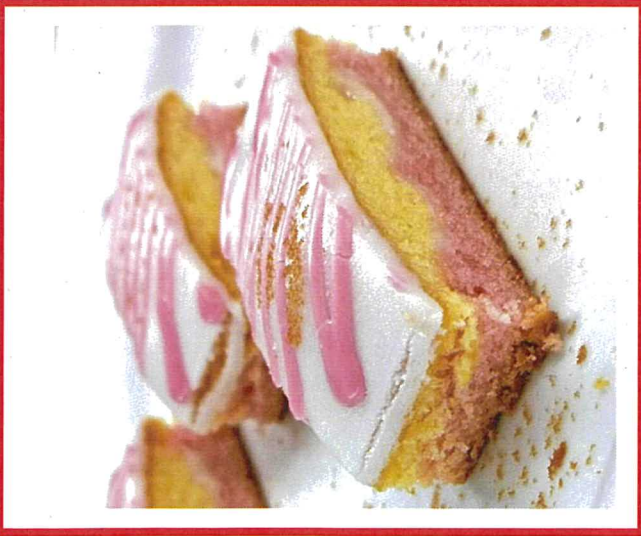




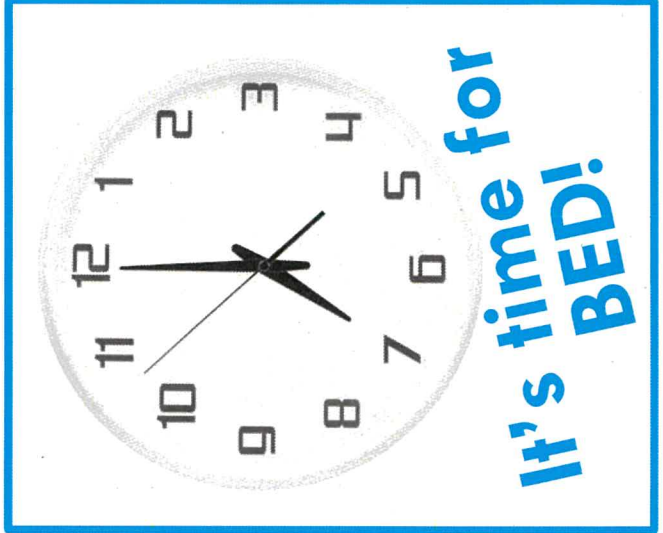
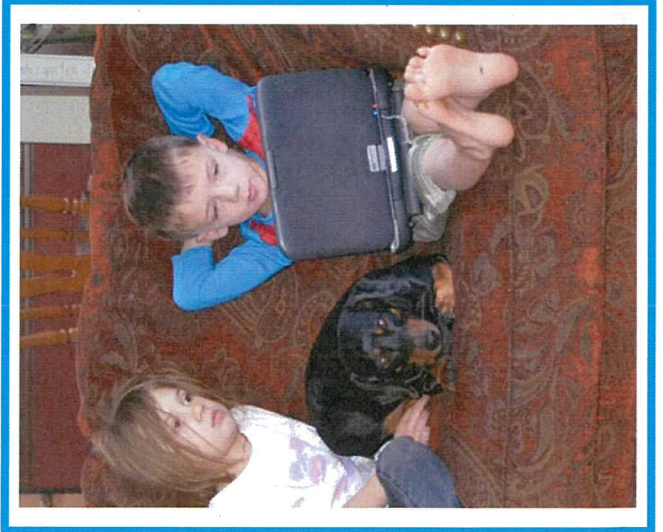


# DON'T TEMPT ME

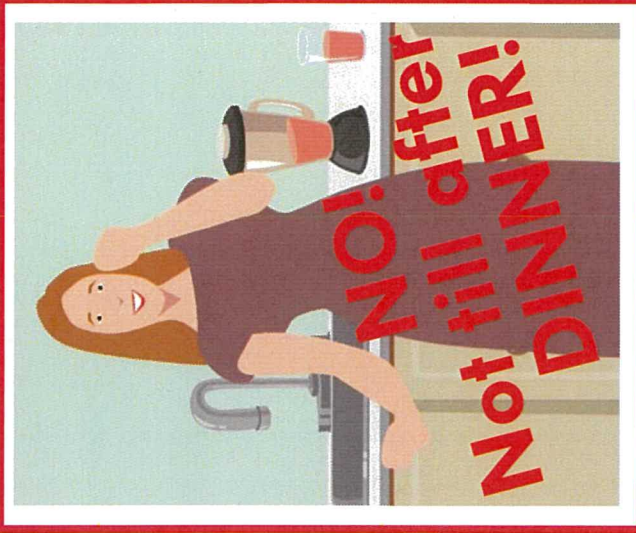
WHAT WILL YOU DO NEXT? DRAW YOUR ANSWER IN THE THIRD BOX.



**I WANT...**



**BUT...**



**WHAT TO DO?**

