



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

1st Sunday of Lent

Year A Cycle II

22 February 2026



Human Condition

When I was young, the second Scripture quote was my favourite verse of my favourite psalm: “He will put you in his angels’ charge, and they will support you on their hands in case your hurt your foot against a stone”. I dreamed of going through life surrounded by an angelic bubble, preventing any harm or trouble. But that would not be life! Now I see that we cannot truly exist in any kind of Paradise. We fall, we hurt, we sin and we beg forgiveness. Our human condition challenges us and gives us opportunities to grow, just as Jesus did. He was asked to turn stones into bread. Sometimes we are tempted to keep pain-free and satisfied, while others around us go in need. As societies we choose quick solutions involving money rather than lasting solutions involving people. Jesus was asked to throw himself from the Temple. We can be tempted to do whatever it takes to be popular and our nations can put their own citizens at risk through uncaring populist policies. Jesus was asked to bow down to Satan. We can get corrupted by power and our elected officials obsessed by winning the arms race. Yet in facing this vulnerable human condition, we become 'even more certain' of the 'abundant free gift' of grace through Jesus Christ.

God's Word Sr Elizabeth Young RSM

It is Lent Again

How do you feel when you hear those words, “It is Lent again”? Does your heart sink, or are you energised for a sacred pilgrimage? Within that short sentence, “It is Lent again,” lies a challenge, an invitation and an opportunity to be open and willing to accept the grace of this holy time.

The challenge presents itself because it can be too easy to see these forty days as simply “another Lent,” or “that time of the year again”. We are being called to a special time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It can be simply repeating practices developed over the years, of what has always been done, of slipping into a regular routine of what went before. The same practices: chocolate or alcohol to be given up, perhaps an extra Mass if we have time, a little extra money for a good cause... these are good in their own way but can be quickly forgotten after Easter.

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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

It is Lent Again (*continued*)

The challenge offered to us this year is perhaps to deepen our relationship with God and others in time given to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Let all of us this Lent respond with a generosity of heart, mind and spirit. Instead of the usual routine of what is given up for Lent, consider the following. Perhaps what we are called to fast from is gossip, judgement about others, anger, impatience or lack of charity and social media. Guided by the Holy Spirit into the desert, what are the daily temptation(s) that need to be addressed? The challenge is not to make this Lent into “just another” forty days of denying ourselves, a minor inconvenience. A change of heart and mind can make this Lent a sacred time of renewal, of coming closer to God through time given over to prayer and adoration; following the call of Christ to love our neighbour in almsgiving; responding to the Holy Spirit by fasting from everything that keeps us from being a child of God. We can allow ourselves to be challenged by reflecting upon the gift of time given to each one of us. We might find time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving; being with someone who may need a listening ear, volunteering, repairing a broken relationship or reaching out to a friend.

The invitation this year is to see Lent as a pilgrimage, a journey into the desert or wilderness with Christ as our guide. Pope Leo XIV spoke of the need to be reminded that, “Our relationship with God comes first... We must make room for silence, for listening to the Father who speaks and ‘sees in secret’.” This Lent has “a vital part to play in our life of faith, for it removes us from our homes and our daily routines, giving us the time and space to encounter God more deeply. Such moments always help us to grow, for through them, the Holy Spirit gently fashions us to be ever more closely conformed to the mind and the heart of Jesus Christ.” We are being invited to be led by the Holy Spirit, like Jesus in the Gospel we have just heard. It is an invitation to reassess our life and priorities in the light of faith, hope and charity.

Sunday Living Word Majellan Family Media

St Francis of Assisi & Lent

This year is the eight-hundredth anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi. St Bonaventure wrote, “St Francis was an intimate friend of the Lord because of the serenity of his contemplative soul.” St Francis would undertake several Lents during the year in the form of forty days of prayer and contemplation. He would physically withdraw to the hills and caves around Assisi, away from the busyness of life, to encounter God. During these times, Francis often lived in extreme poverty and solitude, famously surviving on very little food, such as eating only half a loaf of bread during his 40-day stay on an island in Lake Perugia to avoid the sin of pride. His Lenten practices were designed for deep spiritual renewal, focusing on prayer, repentance, and turning away from sin to be faithful to the Gospel. He encouraged his followers to find mental and physical space to focus on God, a tradition known as “going apart” to a hermitage or private space. For Francis, Lent was a foundational part of his life, not merely a yearly obligation.

It may not be practical to undertake such a Lenten pilgrimage, but as the saint said, “I have done what was mine to do; may Christ teach you what you are to do.” Spiritually, there is the opportunity to find quiet places and times to be with God. The world needs our prayers. This sacred season is a gift, allowing us to give thanks in prayer, fasting and almsgiving in preparation for Holy Week and the great celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Sunday Living Word Majellan Family Media

Masses: Saturday Vigil 5pm | Sunday 8am & 9:30am | Reynolds Court 11am | Maronite Mass 5pm
Weekday Masses: Monday Communion Service 9am | Tuesday - Thursday 9am | Friday 11:45am
Saturday 9am | Reynolds Court Wednesday 10am
Reconciliations: Saturdays 9:30am - 10am | 4pm - 4:30pm **Liturgy of the Hours:** Saturday 8:40am
Rosary: Monday-Thursday 8:35am | Friday 11:20am | Saturday 9:30am
Holy Souls Crusade Prayer Group: Tuesday 9:30am **Cenacle Prayer Group:** Wednesday 9:30am
Christian Meditation Group: Friday 10:30am - 11:30am Reynolds Room



A Beacon of Faith, Hope & Love

Walking into the Wilderness Lenten Reflection Mornings

Walking in the Wilderness Lenten resource calls us to a deeper experience of communion, participation and mission, growing in reverence for the sacred mystery of our faith and the Eucharist. Take time to pause and ponder on our earthly and spiritual lives before God. Thursdays after 9am Mass in the Reynolds Room. All invited! For more information call 4332 2216.

Adoration for Eucharistic Congress

In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, a global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. All are invited to be renewed, be transformed, be sent - come on the journey. In preparation for this great event there will be a nationwide Holy Hour on the weekend of 28 February/1 March. Every parish in the country is encouraged to hold an hour of Eucharistic Adoration following Mass on the Second Sunday in Lent. Our parish will dedicate a Holy Hour on Saturday 28 February after the 9am Mass, as we begin this pilgrimage towards the Eucharistic Congress, praying for its success and the conversion of the world to holiness.

Adoration

Our adoration of the Eucharist changes us and prepares us for Heaven. The Catechism also explains that adoration turns the gaze of our mind and heart to God and his works and blessings in our lives. When we see how God has created us to receive his blessings, be healed and elevated by grace, and permitted an active participation in preparing for Heaven, I think an appropriate response is adoration. Adoration, “exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Saviour who sets us free from evil. Adoration is homage of the spirit to the ‘King of Glory,’ respectful silence in the presence of the ‘ever greater’ God.”

Sr Mary Joanna Ruhland RSM

Catechist Commissioning & Morning Tea

Next Sunday 22 February at the 9:30am Mass the Catechists and Helpers will be commissioned to go into the state schools for the new school year. We invite the entire Church community to think about the responsibility to share our faith with others, and to congratulate our Catechists and Helpers for the wonderful work they do. Following the Mass the Catechists will host morning tea in the Parish Centre for all parishioners.

Faith in Action – Called to Serve

A friendly reminder to fill out the *Faith in Action* flyers if you're ready to share your gifts and talents. Your involvement is a fantastic opportunity to engage with our parish community and contribute to the ministry that unites us all. There's no rush, these forms are evergreen, so take your time to complete and return them. You can drop them off at the parish office or place them in one of our collection baskets. Thank you for seizing this opportunity to join us in our collective mission. For more information don't hesitate to reach out to Fr Brian, Fr Rosan or Colleen Smith.

1st Sunday of Lent

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

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Responsorial Psalm: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Acclamation: 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!

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.



Our Lady of the Rosary Parish

Please Note

Welcome!

This weekend we have the Reception of the Laing, Fletcher, Harvey and Rosenberg Families whose children are soon to be Baptised.

Feast Days this Week

St Polycarp 23 February.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays of Lent after the 11:45am Mass.

Lenten Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Saturdays of Lent after 9am Mass, for one hour.

Nursing Home Mass

Mass will be held for residents at Nareen Gardens on Tuesday at 9:30am and Bupa at 10am.

Men's Social Group

Postponed due to Ash Wednesday now on 25 February 12noon at Diggers Club Long Jetty. Apologies for any inconvenience. All welcome!

Bake Sale Fundraiser Supporting Our Lady of the Rosary School

Our school community is holding a Bake Sale Fundraiser on Tuesday 10 March and warmly invites our parish community to support us through donations. While the sale will be held at the school, parishioners are invited to contribute by donating baked goods to help raise funds for our students. Drop off donations on Monday 9 March. Please provide an ingredient list with all items.

Project Compassion

Please remember Project Compassion this Lent - boxes are on the information tables.

Franciscan Food Drive

The Secular Franciscans of our parish are collecting donations of non-perishable items for distribution to the needy via The Entrance Community Centre. Donations such as UHT milk, noodles, tinned foods, tea, coffee, sugar, etc may be left in the baskets at the Church doors. Thank you for your support!

Keep Us in Your Prayers

Recently Deceased: Mary Bracewell, Fr Kevin Lynch, Mark Bugden, Mato Posavac.

Anniversaries: Isabelle Woodlands, Jim Rosewarne, Christopher Bryan, Steve Gribbin.

Remembrances: Jill O'Sullivan, Arthur Vella, Margaret Pizzuto, Sam & Carmen Ghirxi, Martin Ghirxi, John Giutronich, Mario Cauchi, Delma Clarke, Richard Falzon, Nona Redman, Fr Michael Kelly, Simon Butcher, Michael Langley, Graham Henneberry, Sr Jeannete Bubb, Gilly Nyhof and all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Sick: Harry McCarthy, Josephine McMahan, Lynette Falken, Steve Bond, Fr David Taylor, Lynne White, Fr Geoff Bugden, Fr Brogan, Julie Fletcher, Walter Knoke, Pat McCudden, Linda Read, Rod Slater, Pam Elliott, Janine Harpley, Patrick Yeo, Stjepan Tuka, Pauline Fowler, Anne Knoke, John McClement, Emma Horton, Kelly Will.

Welcome Newly Baptised: Isabel De La Cruz, Bonnie & Billie Byrom, Alexander Egan.

Our Lady of the Rosary



Sacred Gifts

Welcome!

We open on Saturdays before and after the 5pm Vigil Mass and Sundays before and after the 9:30am Mass.

Also weekdays by appointment.

You'll find us in the foyer of the Church.

4332 2216