

First Sunday of Lent

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love.

Prayer Thought: As Jesus was ever faithful to his Father's will and to his vocation to bring the Good News, we too are promised the strength to resist temptation and be true to our faith.



First Reading:

I will recall the covenant between myself and you. The waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Responsorial Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading:

The water of the flood is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

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!**



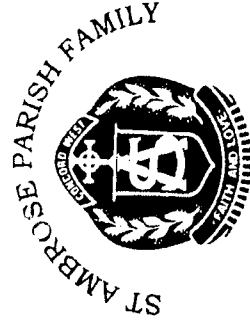
Gospel:

He was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

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1st Sunday of Lent

1 March 2014

REFLECTION

"The reign of God is at hand! Reform your lives and believe in the gospel!"
(Mark 1, 15)

There are many examples in literature of life being depicted through the metaphor of a journey. In *Huckleberry Finn*, Mark Twain presents the human adventure journey down the river of life. John Bunyan, in *A Pilgrim's Progress*, portrays Christian life as a journey in which one encounters all manner of temptations and enticements designed to lead the Christian astray. Similarly, the forty days of Lent can be looked upon as a pilgrimage of conversion from the ashes of Wednesday and all they represent to the cleansing waters of Easter. In the liturgy of the Easter Vigil we will be asked, before renewing our baptismal promises, whether we are serious about the change of heart we have worked towards over previous forty days.

Today's first reading from Genesis recalls the forty day journey made by Noah and his family aboard the Ark when they left behind the ashes of corruption, depravity and lawlessness. God recognised their probity by making an agreement with them and with every living creature, and he ratified that agreement with a rainbow that spanned the earth.

Just as Noah received an invitation to leave behind the contaminating ashes of greed and hypocrisy and double standards and self-interest, so, too, are we invited to do something similar. That invitation comes in the form of the Church's Lenten observance. And, if we are honest, we will probably detect within ourselves a reluctance to accept that invitation with enthusiasm.

From personal experience, we know that conversion of heart is gradual - a few steps forward are often offset by one backwards. However, Lent is a time when we traditionally give additional attention to Jesus' invitation to order our priorities for Gospel living. What we do to bring about this change of heart in ourselves must always be done with proper motivation. In this context, the words of the Richard Connolly hymn we used to sing in the 1960s are still apposite:

*"May this Lenten discipline which we undertake with love
turn our minds to things above."*

In today's gospel, Mark tells us that God's Spirit sent Jesus into the desert for forty days where he was surrounded by wild beasts. Interestingly, in the early part of his *Spiritual Exercises*, St. Ignatius, in a meditation on personal conversion, invites participants to imagine themselves surrounded by wild animals. He suggests that we may sometimes feel that the people we meet in our everyday lives are a bit like "brute beasts". He does this not to caricature others, but to help us to reflect on the feelings we sometimes have towards them. The aim is to bring us to realise just how unfair we can be in judging others and behaving towards them. Ignatius wants us to discover that it's not just others who have a monopoly on beastliness. In fact, in our dealings with others, we can all be as cold as fish or as cunning as sewer-rats or as vicious as wolves. Ignatius goes another step and asks us to reflect on how God is present in all of creation: *"in the elements...in plants and animals, in human beings."*

The point of all this is that, despite being baptised as Christians, we make little progress unless we take seriously responsibility for our own growth and development, unless we accept that conversion of heart is the journey of a lifetime. The baptism which admitted us to the community of faith is not a magic recipe. We are reminded of that in today's second reading from Peter: *"It is not the washing off of bodily dirt."* Baptism initiates us into the life-long process of dealing with ourselves and with our personal relationship with God in Jesus. And Lent is an opportunity to intensify that process.

NOTICE TO ALL CHOIR MEMBERS

Easter practice will begin on **Wednesday - 4 March @ 7:30 pm**. The choir will sing on Palm Sunday and Easter Vigil Mass this year which means we have a big music program and only 6 weeks to learn it all! Look forward to seeing you all soon. If you have any questions please call me on **9736.2373 - Amy**.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER is the largest annual ecumenical event in the world held in over 190 countries with nearly 400 services in NSW. This year it was prepared by women from all the churches in Papua New Guinea. A local service will be held on **Friday, 6 March at Strathfield Uniting Church, Carrington Avenue, Strathfield @ 11:00 am** followed by refreshments. Guest speaker is Mrs Joan McLeod. All welcome. If transport is required please ring **Trish Leckie - 8765.1295**.

ST AMBROSE CONCORD WEST SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

The Sydney Archdiocese deems that Catholic children in Years 2, 3 and 6 are eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation in those respective years or older.

The Parish of St Ambrose at Concord West is preparing to launch their Sacramental program for the 2009 year and extends an invitation to students whom have not received the sacraments mentioned above to contact the **Parish Office either Monday or Friday on 9743.1023** to register for the program.

If you have not received your Sacramental Program letter fill in the form on the church notice board and drop it in at the parish office.

Enrolment forms need to be returned no later than 6 March 2009.

There are still some copies of "CATHOLICS"
remaining at the Church doors.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

This weekend we welcome to our community
Stephen Giles, Kerrin Santos and Karen Scanlon
who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.
This weekend Stephen, Kerrin and Karen will be sent forth to join the
wider Catholic Community at St Mary's Cathedral for the Rite of Election
with the hundred or so others who will be received into our church at the
Easter Vigil. Welcome Stephen, Kerrin and Karen!

SUNDAY MORNING TEA

**Please join us for a "cuppa" after Mass on Sunday. Make
yourself known to just one more member of our community.
All welcome!**

Fr John Ford from Redfern is requesting parishioners
to bring in Long Life Milk over the next two weekends.

PIETY STORE

Daily Mass Books Lent 2009 - 2010 are now available in the
Piety Store for the special price of \$10.00
if anyone would like to purchase one.

**Please Note the times for
Masses on EASTER WEEKEND are:**

**Easter Vigil - 6:30 pm
Easter Sunday- 9:30 am
Easter Sunday - Italian - 11:15 am**

**Please remember in your prayers
the following for whom Masses will be offered:**

RECENTLY DECEASED

Leah Maas, John Owens, Fr Benedict O'Donoghue, Barry Lott,
Alfred Coorey, Irene Reynolds, Mary Whiteford.

ANNIVERSARIES

Delores Borg, Maria Therese McGrath, Loretta Steuwer aid,
John Neil, Endre Very, Clifford Simpson

OTHERS

Fr Kevin McGovern, Fr Terence Purcell, Kitty & Dick, Lorraine & Tom,
Margaret Egan, Damian D'Arbon, Norman & Dorothy Blackman, Winnie
Delima, Peter Sheehan, Mario Iannacito, Yousef Marin, Mehriz Sidi,
Houwash Saada, George & Labibi Dahdah, Joseph & Elizabeth David,
Constance Meek, Francesca Livolsi, Carmello Livo, Vincezo Betro, Maria
Concetta Betro, Nunzio & Anna Ckocie Di Giantommaso, Giustino
Ricciuti, Francis & Sidney Constable, Giuseppe Libro, Salvador Cavallo
Ayoub Family, Kennedy & McGovern families, Bourke, Merrell, Gielis &
Shields families, Premasetio families, Merlino, Chalhoub and El-Sissi
Families, Ryan and Plunkett families, Finnigan, Constable families,
Hanna Lichaa, Helen Timpanaro, Joseph & Helen Hardman, Filippo &
Pina Timpanaro, Vincenzo & Agata Rodi, Cahill & Morris families and
deceased members of St Vincent de Paul Society.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Coleman, Trevor Micallet, Carmel Cullinan, Elizabeth Leacy, Eva
Lossino, Helen Gorrell, Natalino Coxupoli, Dianne Druitt, Annie
Bornstein, Cecily Culligan, Sr Patricia Mary Ryan RSC, Barry Whitton,
Don Ping Kee, Vince Lester, Sr Lucia LCM, Sybille Duane, Dawn Pereira,
Myra Healy, Mario Bianco, Olga Meucci, Leonie Raposardi, Ronali de
Silva, Tahireh Fonseka, Helen Orpwood, Rosemary Vanzella, Auntie
Marie, Jorge Marquez, Luz de Marquez, Diana Raxlog, Luka Razlog,
Angela Camulgia, Bella Neems, Angelo Iannacito, Nell Constable, Joe
Delima, Stan & Sophie Dorcha, Harrison Powell, Maryanne Wickens,
Jhon Zingali, Anthony Barresi, Robin White, Eleanor Williams, Vivian
Parkinson, Bill Williams, Sophie & Gerry Druart.

St Mark's Catholic Church Drummoyne is hosting a reflection evening in Lent.

DATE: Tuesday - 17 March 2009 at 7:30pm

VENUE: St Mark's Catholic Church
33 Tranmere Street
Drummoyne

PARKING: Available in the school grounds in the rear of the Church

PROGRAM: Peter Kearney presents a musical- narrative on the life of St Francis of Assisi entitled, "*Good Morning Good People*".

This eighty minute sequence of story, music and songs has been described as "*a musical and prayerful journey*".

ALL WELCOME

Enquiries to: Mary Cook - St Mark's Church: 9181 1795

CAN YOU HELP US !!!!

Could you help with minding pre-schoolers on either **Wednesday or Friday morning from about 10:00am till 12:30pm**? Maybe you are studying childcare and would like the chance to spend some time with small children.

Sister Maria provides classes for Sudanese women at the Bakhita Sudanese Centre, just near Flemington Station. So many mothers are struggling with language and are keen to improve their English. Can you spare some time to help by looking after the children while their mothers concentrate on their classes?

Other helpers from St Ambrose Parish may be able to help with transport if needed. Please contact **Sr Maria on 0408.615.671** or **Akon on 0427.209.122**.

ALTAR SERVERS

Fr Brian extends a warm welcome for children who have received their First Eucharist or older to become an Altar server at our parish. This is a very special ministry that children can participate in the parish.

Fr Brian is keen to conduct a training session soon so all children whom complete the training can join the roster when it is next issued in April. Please contact the **Parish Office on either Monday or Friday on 9743.1023** to provide your child's name and contact details so we can advise the training dates/times.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

Thank you to all who contribute to our planned giving either by envelopes or direct debit. For audit and tax receipting purposes it is very important that you clearly write the amount of your contribution on the envelope so we can receipt it correctly. If you have missed a few weeks' contributions, please use the latest dated envelope in the set and combine your contributions for the missed dates. This will assist the counters in their task as well as the receipting process.

VASA INVITATION

Every fortnight for the past 19 years a small group of parishioners have provided a shopping service for some of our more senior residents so they can do their regular shopping and be independent in their own homes. Several shoppers are now over 90 years of age! We use the Council Community Bus as well as volunteers' cars.

We would like parishioners to experience how our service operates and invite anyone who may be interested to join us on one of our Thursday morning trips. They are a very positive and happy group of shoppers and there is always much chatter and laughter on board the bus. If you would like to come along **please ring Kerry - 9736.3686 or Trish - 8765.1295**.

TIMETABLE - 2 March - 8 March 2009

Monday 9:30 am 6:00 - 9:00 pm	2 March Italian Cenacle Adoration
Tuesday 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	3 March Adoration Mass
Wednesday 9:00 am	4 March Mass & Cenacle after Mass
Thursday 9:00 am 9:00 am 2:00 pm	5 March Mass VASA Shopping VASA Meeting in Parish House
Friday 9:00 am 11:00 am 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm	6 March Mass & Cenacle after Mass World Day of Prayer - Strathfield Adoration Sacramental program enrolment forms due today
Saturday 4:30 - 5:30 pm 6:00 pm	7 March Reconciliation Vigil Mass
Sunday 9:30 am 6:00 pm	8 March Mass Italian Mass

CATECHIST NEWS:

An Ash Wednesday/Lenten Season Lesson presented to Year 1 Catholic children in the State School. Guided by our curriculum, Christ our Light and Life, Lesson 4: From Ashes to New Life—

Learning outcomes:

Identify Ash Wednesday as the first day of Lent; Discuss the symbolism of ashes.; Understand and appreciate that Lent is a special time when we try to live more like Jesus

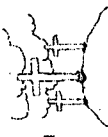
Doctrinal Focus:

The Church has liturgical signs and seasons; Jesus wants our love of God and others to grow.

THE CHURCH SEASON OF LENT

LENT IS

- A special time for **GIVING** - Jesus died and gave his life for us.
- A special time for **PREPARATION** for **EASTER** - Jesus rose from death to new life.
- A special time to make an extra effort to grow to be the loving person Jesus wants me to be.



THE FIRST DAY OF LENT IS CALLED

ASH WEDNESDAY

The ashes remind us that we do not always love Jesus as we should.



Children's attention is directed to sacred place on which is purple cloth, ashes, palm branch from last year, crucifix. Children are asked what they think these items mean/ why are we speaking about them at this time. Their responses summarised from sheet-

THE CHURCH SEASON OF LENT.

To help make meaningful the extra effort to be the loving person Jesus wants us to be, children choose one the ways suggested, or one of their own choosing and how they can carry out their promise. They are encouraged to make their promise in a prayer letter to Jesus and sign the prayer letter as a reminder and help to keep their promise. Take sheet home and place in a special place.

Come and share the privilege of faith sharing with our children. Become a Catechist. Contact Frances Gibson 9743 5201.

Dear Jesus,

I want to grow in your love
During LENT I will really try to be
a more loving person by being
more

Thank you Jesus for Your love.

- END
- SHARING
- PRAYERFUL
- HONEST
- HELPFUL
- CAREFUL
- SAVING SORRY

ROSTERS

Each year we have many parishioners whom participate in many ministries in our parish of St Ambrose. We are very grateful for their generosity of time and effort in all they do. This year we have a number of vacancies in a variety of ministries, some you would be rostered only 4 times a year.

If you would like to know more about any of the ministries in need of volunteers please **contact the parish office on 9743.1023 on either Monday or Friday.**

We need volunteers for **Brass** (1 hour every 6 weeks), **Church cleaning** (1 hour - 3 times a year), **Mowing** (1 hour - 4 times a year, **Altar servers** (1 hour every 6 weeks or so) and **Flowers** (1 hour every 6 weeks). Please consider being involved in our Parish community.

PROJECT COMPASSION

The theme for Project Compassion 2009 is "an environment to grow in" which focuses on the link between healthy environments and healthy people. The funds raised from this year's appeal will assist Caritas Australia to work in partnership with communities to improve education, health, water and sustainable agriculture, priorities which are set out in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The global financial crisis will exacerbate the already dire situation for many in developing nations. This will make it all the more important that we continue to work to overcome hunger, disease, inequality and poverty.

Please don't forget to pick up your Project Compassion box and or set of envelopes now available in the baskets at the church doors. As donations to Caritas Australia's Project Compassion of \$2 and over are tax deductible please tick if you require a tax receipt.

LITURGY CORNER

Further to last week's reminders about the Ministry of LECTOR, here are a few other reminders to those giving voice to THE WORD during weekly worship time.

TO BEGIN: Wait for the assembly to settle, then, making eye contact confidently announce the reading with 'A READING FROM...'

CONCLUSION OF READING: PAUSE at the end of the reading, BEF looking up to say 'THE WORD OF THE LORD'

PSALM: Do not say 'Responsorial Psalm or the Response to the Psalm'. Read the RESPONSE TO THE PSALM slowly and confidently, as that Assembly's opportunity to participate in the prayer of the Psalm. Establish definite eye contact with the assembly at the end of each verse, their response will flow from your reading.

The SECOND READING is proclaimed by a different reader. A different intonation and tone will better enable the listener to be caught into the message of the reading.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

This traditional commemoration of the Death and Resurrection of Christ is an appropriate way of entering into the spirit of prayer for this season of repentance. Our 7.30pm Friday re-enactment of this journey of Jesus is usually led by members of the Parish Community.

The Church's directives state that it is inappropriate for the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed during this time of prayer.

We have a leader for Friday 27th, would anyone be willing to lead on other Fridays - contact Sr. Judith please?

MONETARY APPEAL FOR THE VICTORIAN DISASTER

St Vincent de Paul Conference members will be at the Church on this weekend to take any donations for the Bushfire Appeal. If you wish to give a larger donation, receipts are available at the Piety Stall.