

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Parish Support - *If you need help with anything, please phone one of our members:*

Gail Hall: 0412 311 586 Bernadette Franc: 0427 678 830

SUNDAY – February 18th FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT- B

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

ANNIVERSARIES Lionel Buncle, Olive Allen, Graeme Tucker, Michael George, Andrew Pretty, Frank Duke, Laurel Stewart, Warren Giri, Sr Anne Forbes RSM, Paddy Duke, Bill George, Sylvia Stewart, Alan(Tige) Baulch & Merle Smith.

PRAY FOR THE SICK Pat Byrne, Blake Dridan, Shelagh Mulcahy, Fr Adrian McInerney, Graeme Trethowan, Tony Collins, and Jim Mahony and all those in need of prayer.

ROSTER

Introduction & Reading

Today: Bernadette Franc

Feb 25th: Sue Mahony

Prayers of the Faithful

Today: John Jess

Feb 25th: Bernadette Franc

Assembly Leaders

March 3rd: Angela Gerrard & Carita Clancy

Special Minister

March 3rd: Therese Jess

Music: Sue Mahony

Church Cleaning, Linen, Flowers

Feb 18th & 25th: Judy Franc & Carmel Milenkovic

Church Grounds

Feb 18th & 25th: Charlie Franc & Peter Milenkovic

Newsletter

February: Carmel Milenkovic 0407 320 759

MASS TIMES

Feb 25th: **MASS 8.30 am**

UPCOMING DATES for 2024

World Day of Prayer is on

March 1st for Beaufort Faith Communities

To be held in Uniting Church – more info to follow

Monday March 25th;

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

Pope's intention for February: – *For the terminally ill: Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.*

AN URGENT PRAYER FOR PEACE

by Michael McGirr

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts, as we consider the needs of your family. Israelis and

Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by You and called to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering.

We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.

Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find Your image in every face

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

LENT 🙏 **“Lent is a time for renewing faith, hope and love.” – Pope Francis**

“Dear Lord, in this Lenten season, guide me on a path of reflection and transformation. Help me surrender the unnecessary, embrace humility and rediscover the joy of simplicity. May my journey draw me closer to You, renewing my spirit with grace and love.

Amen.”

Project Compassion 2024



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world for all future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion>, by calling 1800 024 41

Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2024

Pope Francis' Lenten message is focussed on God's call to leave behind the bonds of slavery with the title, “Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom”, which is from the Book of Exodus (20:2). Read the message at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/len/documents/20231203-messaggio-quaresima2024.html> and/or watch the presentation at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXPPVVtpHBM&t=408s>

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

Mk 1: 12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

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

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / B

18 FEBRUARY 2024

LENT: SPRINGTIME FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION

In the southern hemisphere we miss the signs of nature linked in the northern hemisphere to Lent, namely the coming of spring. The word "Lent," is derived from the Old English "lenctern" meaning spring. This poses a challenge for us in Australia's autumn, as we seek to unfold the springtime in our soul. In our scriptural journey into Lent, we are greeted with the sign of God's covenant with Noah: a rainbow. This covenant is not just with Noah and all descendants but with every living creature, everything that lives on the earth. A rainbow may well grace our southern skies in autumn, enabling us to experience ourselves in the embrace of God's covenant with the whole ecological world in which we live.

In the Gospel, the Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness for forty days along with the wild beasts. Satan the tempter, and the angels who minister to Jesus. These ministering angels, like the rainbow, are a sign of God's ever-presence. As Jesus emerges from his forty days, we hear him begin his ministry in Galilee with "the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near." Evocatively we have entered our forty days of Lent in a wilderness of ecological crisis. Unseasonal extremes of temperature, floods, fires and all manner of tempests call for us to take heed of the earth in which we dwell. In this time, we can reflect, ecologically and spiritually, to change our hearts and believe the Good News, knowing well God's promise through the rainbow and through the gift of his son.

Dr Rosemary Canavan

FIRST READING

Gen 9: 8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

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

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 24: 4-9. R. cf. v. 10

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

1. Lord, make me know your ways. / Lord, teach me your paths. / Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: / for you are God my saviour. **R.**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, / and the love you have shown from of old. / In your love remember me, / because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**



3. The Lord is good and upright. / He shows the path to those who stray, / he guides the humble in the right path; / he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Pet 3: 18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

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

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

■ The word of the Lord.