

## 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.



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent (18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024)**  
**St Joseph's Catholic Church, 30 Fitzgerald Street**  
**St Thomas Aquinas' Church, 43 Bromby Street**

**In the Pastoral Care of the AUGUSTINIANS**

- ▶ Fr Luca Park OSA Parish Priest
- ▶ Fr Marydas Arackal OSA Assistant Priest
- ▶ Fr Matteo Cho OSA (Korean Chaplain)
- ▶ Fr Brian Buckley OSA Prior

**ADMINISTRATION**

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE  
 Tel: Church & Office 9826 9677  
[secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au](mailto:secretary@parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
[www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au](http://www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
**Postal:** Box 21 South Yarra 3141



**OUR PARISH AND THE AUGUSTINIANS**

Commit to creating an environment where the safety of children and vulnerable persons is paramount. All volunteers are required to have a Working With Children Check.

**Pastoral and Administrative Support**

- ▶ Stephy Coosnapa (Parish Pastoral Assistant)
- ▶ Safeguarding: Stephy Coosnapa & I-Lynn Lee
- ▶ Toni Stuart (Parish Secretary, Weddings & SJOS Volunteer Co-ordinator: Tues/Thurs/Fri)
- ▶ Juliet Oei (Business & Facilities Manager: Tues - Fri)
- ▶ Bernadette Dennis (St Joseph's Outreach Services)

**Liturgical Calendar** for the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024

DAY	ST JOSEPH'S	ST THOMAS AQUINAS'
	TIME	TIME
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	6.00pm Vigil Mass	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent	10.30am Mass	9.00am Mass
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Lent		
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Lent	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February Chair of St Peter	10.00am Mass	12.45am Mass
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 1 <sup>st</sup> Week in Lent	10.00am Mass Stations of the Cross	12.45am Mass
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February Arrival of James Goold in Aust.	9.00am Mass 6.00pm Mass	



You can help better the lives of people in some of the most vulnerable communities on earth by making a donation through Project Compassion boxes and envelopes available at the church doors, visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by phoning 1800 024 413

**EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

- ▶ Stations of the Cross: Fridays 10.30am
- ▶ RCIA Meeting Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 7pm.
- ▶ Lenten Reflections – Tues 20 Feb 7pm
- ▶ Parish AGM – Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday)

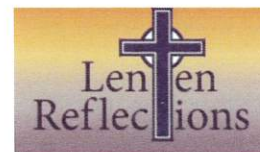
**AUGUSTINE 'FASTING FOR GOD'**



"Fast for God, when he ordains it, lest your doctors be forced to put you on a diet. Fasting has a calming effect on our blood and our entire system.

By constraining the body, we strengthen the spirit. For us, fasting helps to perfect the soul. It atones for the faults burdening our conscience, it suppresses sin. If, then, doctors and philosophers consider fasting to be a well-spring of health and wisdom, what must I say of you who pamper your stomach, feasting while the rest of the congregation fasts?" (*Serm 66*)

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in St Joseph's church 10.30am on Fridays during Lent.



Starting this Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and each Tuesday during Lent 7pm in the Parish Centre. The reflections will focus

on the Lenten Sunday Gospel readings. All welcome.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

The Parish Council convened last Wednesday evening for the first meeting of 2024. Preparation for the forthcoming Parish AGM (March 24<sup>th</sup>), the Parish Calendar, arrangements for Lent and Easter, and activities of the young adult group "Ignite the Light" were presented as well as a report on the ongoing work of the Pastoral Plan. The need to consolidate the social committee was acknowledged. Disability access to St. Joseph's Church was also considered.



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**Recently Deceased**

- \* Gillian Madden
- \* Ciro Rangel



**Anniversaries**

- \* Colum Brennan
- \* Florence Greene
- \* Pauline Poh Ah Ley
- \* Bill Furneaux
- \* Antonina Pellicano
- \* Patricia Monaghan
- \* Guillermo Cabrera
- \* Gabrielle England
- \* Frank Dennis
- \* Frank Pellicano



**LENTEN MOVIE NIGHT:**

**RISEN (Joseph Fiennes)**

Sat 24 Feb 7pm (After Mass) in The Gables, upstairs in St Joseph's Parish Centre. Dinner provided.

**PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM**

Parents who would like to enrol their children to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) please contact the parish office. 9826 9677.

**PARISH BAPTISMS**

We welcome the family and friends of Rachel Walker who will be baptised this weekend



**MELBOURNE CATHOLIC MAGAZINE** is available in churches this weekend.

**MASS COLLECTIONS 11/02/2024**

**Clergy (Augustinian Community)**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Collection, CDF & bank deposits. \$ 742.10
- Church (Parish Ministries)**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection ..... \$ 439.30
- Envelopes..... \$ 139.70
- Direct Debit/EFT/ CDF Pay/ Cr Cards \$ 620.00
- Tap Point Terminals..... \$ 515.00

*Thank you for your generosity*

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

Brian Young, Margaret Wallin, Mark Ho, June Cochrane, Margaret Lochtenberg, Ronald Seaman, Mitos Gloudemans, Anne Rigg, Ced John Netto, Julie Mahony, Inge Halim, Paul Chong, Larissa Popowski, Mary Ireland, Caroline O'Neil, Isabella Chong, Tony Duarte, Thomas Bedier, Luke Dennis, Sonia Guzman, Damien Ryan, Judith Duncan, Stephen Soh,