

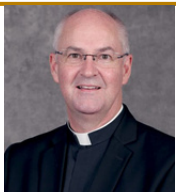
22 February 2026 St John Bosco Parish Niddrie

1st Sunday of Lent, Year A

Violet is the colour of repentance



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR..



Solemn Beginning of Lent

As announced last week, and as we did last year, at the 10.30am Mass this Sunday we will have the Solemn Beginning of Lent, commencing outside the church, and processing into the church with the Litany of the Saints, symbolising the start of our Lenten pilgrimage.

Lenten Prayer Campaign

As we did last year, we will have our Lenten Prayer Campaign for our own private intentions and people whom we wish to pray for especially during Lent. During the Season of Lent you are invited to spiritually ‘adopt’ a person you would like to pray for particularly for a partiucular purpose (maybe for their conversion, growth in faith, healing, etc...) and carry them in prayer to Mass each weekend, and pray for them particularly during Mass. Each week in the bulletin there will be a spiritual suggestion for you to undertake during Lent for this particular person. This is a way of spriitually reaching out to those in need. We do not often know the effects of our prayer, but we do know the God hears our prayers, and answers them according to His will. We might not see the effects of our prayers straight away, but our prayers are never wasted.

Pope Leo to visit Australia in 2028

It was announced last week that the Holy Father intends to visit Australia for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Sydney in 2028.

This event will be the centenary of the first Eucharistic Congress that was held in Melbourne in 1928. Melbourne also hosted the International Eucharistic Congress in 1973 welcoming two now saints- Mother Teresa and the future Pope John Paul II.

The three year preparation for the Congress is aimed to engage the whole nation in a Eucharistic revival to nourish and strengthen faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and to foster Catholic life in Australia.

The first stage, 2026 is entitled ‘Call to Prayer’ – A Mystery to be Encountered. To begin this Year of Prayer, there are prayer cards at the back of the church which you can take home. This could be a good prayer to perhaps use during this Lenten season.

The second stage, 2027, will be entitled ‘Call to Worship’- A Mystery to be Celebrated.

The third stage, 2028, will be entitled ‘Call to Mission’- A Mystery to be Lived.

More information can be accessed at www.eucharist28.org

Archbishop Fulton Sheen to be Beatified

Venerable Fulton Sheen, one of the most popular Catholic communicators of the 20th Century, will be beatified according to the Holy See, after informing the Diocese of Peoria, USA, his cause can proceed. On February 9, the Diocese of Peoria, where Sheen was ordained a priest in 1919, announced the Holy See had declared the beatification could now proceed, with a date expected to be set shortly. “Archbishop Fulton Sheen was one of the greatest voices of evangelization in the Church and the world in the 20th century. I have long admired his lifelong commitment to serve the Church as a priest, rooted in his deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and the Eucharist.” “As he journeyed through the different stages of his life, his ability to share the Gospel and truly relate to people drew countless souls into an encounter with Jesus — one that transformed not only his life, but more importantly, the lives of those he touched.” Born Peter John Sheen in El Paso, Illinois on 8 May 1895, he was called "Fulton" in honour of his mother's maiden name. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Peoria in 1919 and quickly became renowned as a theologian, teaching at the Catholic University of America. In 1930, as "Father Sheen" he began presenting a night-time radio program before moving to television in 1952, winning an Emmy Award and making the cover of Time Magazine. His television shows attracted a weekly viewership of as many as 30 million people. He passed away in 1979 at the age of 84. His cause for canonisation was opened in 2002 and in 2012 he was declared Venerable by Pope Benedict XVI. The Diocese of Peoria said the beautification is expected to be later this year.

www.bbcatholic.org.au

The Parish of St John Bosco and the Archdiocese of Melbourne are committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and the vulnerable in our community. Protection and the dignity of every person is our responsibility.

Contact Us

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29 Muriel Street Niddrie Vic 3042
Parish Office
Charles Meneze, Secretary
Mon, Wed, Fri 10am-4pm

Pray With Us

Mass Times

Wednesday - Friday: 9.30am Mass

Saturday: 5pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 4.30pm

First Friday 9am, or any time on request

Please call Fr David on 9337 9994

Rosary

Recited at 9am before weekday Mass

Benediction

First Friday after 9.30am Mass

Baptisms

1st Sunday of the month 11.45am, please contact the office. Or by arrangement.

House Blessings/ Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the presbytery

Support Us

Thank you for your generosity toward our parish: physically, spiritually and financially. If you are not a regular contributor, we invite your support- please contact the Parish Office.

Tap and Go machines are available at the weekend Mass in the narthex. Direct Credits can also be made:

Presbytery Account (1st collection, for clergy and presbytery support)

- BSB: 083 -347 Acc No.: 6616 52479

Parish Account (2nd collection, for parish expenses) BSB: 083 - 347 AccNo.: 6568 74974

The parish relies solely on your support. We receive no funding from external sources or the Archdiocese. We thank you for your ongoing support which enables us to continue the work of the Gospel.

“God loves a cheerful giver!”

Parish News

The Daily readings for Mass are now accessible on the parish website.

Don’t forget to ‘Like’ and Follow us on Facebook:

St John Bosco’s Catholic Church Niddrie and ***St John Bosco Young Adults***

New to the Faith? Want to Know More?

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic, seeking baptism & reception in the Church? Please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr David.

Lenten Timetable

Tuesdays of Lent: (24.2; 3.3; 10.3; 17.3; 24.3; 31.3)

- Adoration and Confessions 6.30-6.50pm, Mass 7pm

Fridays of Lent:

- Stations of the Cross 7pm in the church

Sundays of Lent:

- Confessions 10-10.20am

Project Compassion boxes will be available this week.

Do you have a moment, Father ?

I will be available in the church without appointment for anyone wishing to see me at the following times:

Thursday 26 February 5-6pm

Saturday 28 February 10-11 am

During this time, the church will be open for quiet prayer also. You may want to call in for a chat or ask a question, have some items blessed, documents witnessed or celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fr David

Welcome

Today we welcome Brooks, Edie, Ryan, Rafael and their families as they receive a Welcome and Blessing in preparation for their Baptism in our parish. You might like to accompany them in prayer by offering one 'Hail Mary' for each child and their family.

Easter Raffle

We will commence selling tickets for our Easter Raffle soon- we are in need of prizes. Any donations will be greatly appreciated Please see Geraldine or Fr David.

Lenten Prayer Campaign

This week you are invited to spiriutally adopt a person for the season of Lent to bring to Mass in your heart and prayer each weekend for a particular purpose. This week, offer a prayer to Jesus for them after receiving Holy Communion.

Bible Study Group

The parish Bible Study Group is a long-term group which meets regularly for prayer and discussion in the church. All are welcome to join. The next meeting will be Saturday 28 February at 2.30pm. Please join us. No prior knowledge is necessary. Beginners welcome!

Stewardship

The first collection is for the support of the Parish Priest, for retired and sick priests, parishes in need and the Archbishop.

The second collection is for parish expenses like wages, utilities, insurance etc.

Last week:

1st collection: \$738

2nd collection: \$1,534

You can also donate to our Presbytery & Parish accounts using this QR code:



We recall in Prayer

Those who are sick

We pray for all the sick in our parish community

Recently Deceased

All the recently deceased in our community

Anniversaries and Remembrances

Fred Borg; Callum Fox; Marguerita Barra;

Francesco Bond; Santo Corica; Peter

Byrne, Matia and Apolonia Lovrec

Mass Intentions this week

Wednesday: Intentions of Project Compassion

Thursday: wedding aniversaries this month

Friday: For a holy Lent for our parish

Saturday: Lenten prayer campaign

Sunday: *Pro populo* (for the people of the parish)

Our Liturgical Life

A Walk Through the Mass

Our daily lives have their rituals also: There are set ways of greeting people, eating, responding to a text. And when we are accustomed to a certain way of doing things, we seldom ask why we do it that way. In the Eucharist, too, we have many ritual actions which we perform without asking why.

Our Spiritual Life

What is prayer?

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy. (St Thérèse of Lisieux)

...a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God (CCC 2558)

...prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours (CCC 2560)

...prayer is the living relationship of the children of God with their Father who is good beyond measure, with his Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit...Thus, the life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with him. (CCC 2565)

These quotations describe an encounter or relationship with the Lord. This is what we seek in prayer. In other words, it is not about ‘saying our prayers’ but encountering God. This is the kind of prayer that takes us from knowing on an intellectual level that God exists and that he loves us to experiencing his love first-hand.

60th Anniversary of the Opening of our parish church.

This year, in October, marks the 60th anniversary of the opening of St John Bosco's current church. It will be an occasion for us to celebrate and give thanks to God. If anyone has any suggestions about how we should celebrate this as a parish, please see Fr David.

The Parish Mission Team (Pastoral Council) will meet on March 4 at 7pm to start some planning for the 60th anniversary of our church and to discuss other parish matters. If you would like to be part of this, please see Fr David or contact the Parish Office

Holy Hour Next Sunday

As part of the preparation phase for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Sydney in 2028, each parish in Australia has been asked to have an hour of Eucharistic Adoration next Sunday, March 1. **Next Sunday, we will have a time of silent Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 9.30am, leading up to the 10.30am Mass.** Confessions will also be available from 10-10.20am.

Wisdom of the Saints

Saint Peter Claver: “Man’s salvation and perfection consists in doing the will of God, which he must have in view in all things, and at every moment of his life.”



Thought for the Week

True prayer is a way of life, not just an emergency detour.

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.

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

HOMILY
I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:by the power of the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is adored and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
P. Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
After the Preface, we sing or say:
All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION
P. The mystery of faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE
P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:
All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .
R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace

LAMB OF GOD
All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 4:4
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
P. Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray, O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living Bread, and strive to live by every word which proceeds from your mouth. Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS
As is traditional on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus’ temptation, an appropriate theme as we begin our own journey in Lent and begin to explore our own seductive temptations. We are all prone to these, and Matthew presents us with a Jesus similarly tested: an egoism exclusive of others especially God, the attraction to power and the seduction of wealth. These temptations are crafted in Old Testament terminology and imagery, particularly present in the Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today’s story, Satan enters the scene, originally a member of the heavenly court (see Job) but, by the time of Matthew, God’s adversary who tests the intention and fidelity of those who belong to God. Jesus is his target in three temptations. The first is about food and the temptation to break covenantal fidelity to God due to hunger. The second seeks to question Jesus’ conviction of God’s care of him. From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is told to throw himself from it, and test God’s protection of him. In the third, with a vision of all the earth’s kingdoms and seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew’s point is quite clear writing to a Jewish audience most familiar with Israel’s desert failures: Jesus is an authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite people, knows and experiences their temptations, but resists the seduction of egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to God and his covenantal relationship. In this first week of Lent, today’s Gospel invites us to reflect on those self-centred seductions that may compromise our true relationship to God.

FR MICHAEL TRAINOR

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAULS
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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A 22 FEBRUARY 2026

A TIME OF PREPARATION. The forty days spent by Jesus in the wilderness can be likened to the season of Lent. Jesus’ time in the wilderness was a time of preparation for his ministry, a time in which he confronted the temptation to choose self and not the Father. For us Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter. It is a time in which we are invited to examine whether the will of God is central to our lives.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 90:15-16
When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

GREETING
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT
P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking the breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
V. Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT
P. Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.



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, 17-19.
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
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.

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.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Longer form 5:12-19

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
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.