



KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

St Augustine's - Kyabram ~ St Patrick's - Tongala

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Parish Priest – Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS

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First Sunday of Lent – Year A

22 February 2026



Readings for
this week:

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



Readings for
next Sunday:

Genesis 12:1-4
2 Timothy 1:8-10
Matthew 17:1-9



Liturgy Jottings

Pastoral Notes II, LENT

In Lent, the Alleluia is omitted at Mass and at the Liturgy of the Hours, even in celebrations of feasts and solemnities.

A homily is recommended on weekdays, especially during the seasons of Advent, Lent and Easter.

From Ash Wednesday, Ordinary Time is interrupted until after Easter Time.

The Reconciliation I-II Eucharistic Prayers are appropriate for use during Lent when there is a theme of reconciliation. They may be used with Prefaces which refer to conversion and penance, such as the Prefaces of Lent.

In Lent, memorials are optional and only the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the memorial is used at Mass. All other texts are of the Lenten day.

(from the Aust-NZ Ordo 2026 p 40)
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Looking at the Readings

The readings leading up to the Gospel speak on how sin and death entered into the world and had plunged humankind into a gloomy state that seemed inescapable. Between the two readings, however, is the classic penitential Psalm: “Be merciful, O Lord for we have sinned” (Ps 50). For with sin comes mercy.

The first Sunday of Lent each year presents the gospel of the Temptation of Jesus in the wilderness according to Matthew (this year), Mark or Luke. Each Evangelist gives their own take of Jesus encounter with temptation. One of the common elements to all three is that “Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,” (Matt 4:1, Mark 1:12, and Luke 4:1). Yet “being led” has overtones of free choice and invitational gesture. Yet again being led into the wilderness to be tempted is evocative of the sentence in the Lord’s Prayer where we entreat God “Lead us not into temptation.” (Matt 6:13). Jesus overcame the wiles of the evil one. Our forty days of Lent in following Christ are days of fasting, prayer and almsgiving.

What is Almsgiving?

Simply put, almsgiving is the act of giving money, food, or assistance to those in need, motivated by compassion and spiritual belief and is common in many faith traditions.

Christianity: The concept of almsgiving forms a cornerstone of Christian ethics, with Jesus setting a profound example of selfless care for the poor.

Islam: Sadaqah: This is a voluntary charity given out of compassion and faith. It can be given at any time, in any amount, and encompasses financial gifts, food, time, and even a simple kind word or smile.

Buddhism and Hinduism: The traditions, originating in India, share a foundational concept known as Dana, meaning “generosity” or “giving.” In both faiths, Dana is considered one of the highest virtues and a prerequisite for spiritual advancement.

For more faiths and explanations visit <https://aro.org.au/category/general>

Pope Leo XIV

Christians must not abandon almsgiving... It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts... for our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor.

On the Lighter Side

It’s Lent already! If you made a New Year’s resolution, and failed to keep it, Lent is a great opportunity to try again. It will be easier. A year is 365 days; Lent is only 40 days.



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick: Kadyne Mitchell-Treacy, Noreen Gallardo, Shane Boyd, Olive McElroy, Philip Bowman, Millie Perry, Frances Corso.

Recently Deceased: Lucia Marsicovetere

Anniversaries:

(Please email or contact the Parish Office to add names to our prayer list)

ROSTERS

Sunday 1 March 8.30am

Commentator – R Chapman

Lector – L Sorbello

Special Minister – M O'Shea

Saturday 7 March at 6pm

Commentator – J Harris

Lector – W Mulcahy

Special Minister – L Cosgriff

Sunday 8 March 8.30am

Commentator – M Carver

Lector – N Watt

Special Minister – A Ryan

PLATE AND ENVELOPE COLLECTION

Last weekend Collection: \$ 1011.20

Thank you for your generosity and support for our Parish. May God bless you, always.

PARISH DETAILS

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Uday Kumar Marneni ALCP/OSS

PARISH SECRETARY

Vicki Arnel – 0417 147 695

PARISH PASTORAL ASSISTANT

Mary Zobec – 0427 190 282

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am-4pm

PRINCIPALS

St Augustine's College - Tim Campbell – Phone 5851 3000

St Patrick's Primary - Jackie Stockdale – Phone 5859 0371

MASS TIMES

KYABRAM

Week Day: Tuesday Rosary 4pm, Mass 4.15pm & Thursday 9.15am

Saturday: 2nd and 4th weekend of month: 6pm EDT (5pm EST)

Sunday: 8.30am

TONGALA: First Sunday of month 11.30am

RECONCILIATION: Second Saturday (Weekend) of month 30 mins before Mass in St Augustine's Church.

ANOINTING MASS: First Thursday of the month at 10am in St Augustine's Church.

90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Congratulation to Marie Andrews for her 90th Birthday next week. Thank you Marie for all the years of faithful service to our parish community especially in your dedicated role as sacristan at St Patrick's Church. Your commitment and generosity have been a true blessing to us all. May God bless you always.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed during lent before mass on Saturdays 7th March and 21st March at 5.30pm and Good Friday at 2.30pm.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation is highly recommended in our Catholic tradition throughout the liturgical year especially during Advent and Lent. For individual Reconciliation, Fr Uday will available before Saturday night Masses at 5pm.

"Penance requires... the sinner to endure all things willingly, be contrite of heart, confess with the lips, and practice complete humility and fruitful satisfaction." (CCC 1450)

RITE OF ELECTION

This weekend, our catechumens **Keira** and **Nicholas**, together with our candidate **Karen**, will travel to Sacred Heart in Bendigo for the Rite of Election. Over the past several months, Keira, Nicholas and Karen have been journeying with our parish community as they prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. The Rite of Election marks the final step in their preparation before they are welcomed fully into the Church.

Please keep them in your prayers as they celebrate this important milestone in their faith journey.

ANOINTING MASS

There will be no Anointing Mass in March.

MASS TIME TABLE

Weekly Masses

Sat 21st February - No Mass

Sun 22nd February - 8.30am Mass (Fr M Grace)

Weekly Masses

Tue 24th February - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Liturgy

Thu 26th February - 9.15am Liturgy Year 5/6 & 9

Sun 1st March - 8.30am Mass (Fr M Grace)

Weekly Masses

Tue 3rd March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Liturgy followed by Holy Hour in the church

Thu 5th March - 9.15am Liturgy Year 3/4, 8 & 10

Sat 7th March - 6pm Mass

Sun 8th March - 8.30am Mass

Weekly Masses

Tue 10th March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 12th March - 9.15am Mass Year 1/2 & Year 7/11

Sun 15th March - 8.30am Mass

LENTEN PROGRAM

Sandhurst Diocese has produced a series of reflections for Lent. You are warmly invited to attend weekly sessions on **Wednesdays at 4pm** in the **Parish Meeting Room**, commencing **25th February**. All are welcome to join us for prayer and reflection during this Lenten season.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2026

The theme for this year is "I will Give You Rest: Come." Matt 11:28-30 is prepared by WDP Nigeria. This year the Prayer Service will be held at St Augustine's on Friday 6th March at 10am. Guest speaker Mary Connolly-Gale, CEO of Days for Girls Australia and Australiasia. All welcome and encouraged to come along and support this prayerful event. For inquiries Mary 0427 190 282.

STATEMENT OF REFLECTION

Each year since 1940, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued a statement for reflection and discussion on Social Justice Sunday in August on a key issue in society. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements, the first in February, titled *The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*. Read the Statement at <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2026/01/29/the-cost-of-our-living-economic-and-social-justice-for-the-common-good/>

PETERS PENCE 2025

I have received notification from the Vatican of the Sandhurst Diocese contribution to Peter's Pence 2025. The sum raised was some €5800 - around Australian \$9600. Pope Leo expressed his heartfelt gratitude for this gift from our diocese. Kind regards, Fr Brian Boyle

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028

Australia is preparing to host the International Eucharistic Congress in 2028, a significant moment of prayer and renewal for the Church. As part of this journey, parishes across the country are invited to take part in a nationwide Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration on **Tuesday 3rd March, following Liturgy**. Parishioners are warmly encouraged to come and spend time with the Lord in prayer, as we begin building anticipation and spiritual momentum towards Eucharist28. More information and resources are coming soon.

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First Sunday of Lent
21-22 February 2026



Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza. Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code **Or online at:** <https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/fundraisers/kyabramcatholicparish> **or by calling:** 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

CHILD SAFE PARISH

We are a Child Safe Parish, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse and aim to provide a safe, supportive and welcoming environment to all visiting children, young persons and vulnerable adults. If you are concerned for any form of abuse that is immediate you should call 000; a significant risk or harm, whether or not you have formed this belief on reasonable grounds, you should immediately raise your concerns with one of our Parish Child safety officers Mary Zobec 0427 190 282 or Annete Ryan 0408 502 858.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As we come to worship, we remember the Yorta Yorta & Bangerang People the original custodians of this land. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with deep respect. May the Elders, past and present, be blessed and honored. May we join and build a future based on compassion, justice, faith and reconciliation.

Sanctify yourself and you will sanctify society. - Saint Francis of Assisi

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

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.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT / A

FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death."' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. / In your compassion blot out my offence. / O wash me more and more from my guilt / and cleanse me from my sin. R.

2. My offences truly I know them; / my sin is always before me. / Against you, you alone

THE SAVING WORD

22 FEBRUARY 2026



have I sinned; / what is evil in your sight I have done. R.

3. A pure heart create for me, O God, / put a steadfast spirit within me. / Do not cast me away from your presence, / nor deprive me of your holy spirit. R.

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.

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.

Longer form 5:12-19



FIRST SUNDAY of LENT – 22 February

This Lent, our parish community is called to *Unite Against Poverty* with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Each year, Project Compassion invites us to encounter stories of courage and hope from people around the world who are striving for a brighter future.

In 2026, Project Compassion shares four stories of resilience and strength. We'll meet Sisilia, a young student from Tanzania, whose education was being disrupted by long daily walks to collect water for her family. With the support of Caritas Australia and people like you, Sisilia now has access to clean water from taps installed in her school and village.

We'll get to know Monoranjon from Bangladesh, where communities are heavily impacted by natural disasters and climate change. Caritas Australia, together with supporters across Australia, has helped Monoranjon to learn climate-resilient farming skills.

We'll be introduced to Manaini from Fiji, who struggled with poverty and food insecurity. With support, she gained training in food processing and gardening, improving nutrition and creating income to support her children's education.

And we'll hear the story of Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem worker from Gaza who was displaced many times due to ongoing conflict. Despite this hardship, he continues to serve families in need through Caritas' emergency response.



Sisilia (13) smiles as she stands in the middle of her classroom. Photo: Caritas Australia; Monoranjon lives in a region in southwest Bangladesh that is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Photo: Caritas Australia; Manaini sells fresh fruits and vegetables that she and her community have grown and packaged on their farms, by the roadside in a small village in Fiji. Photo: Caritas Australia; Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem staff member in Gaza, sits in the ruins of a building. Photo: Caritas Jerusalem.

REFLECTION for FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 | Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17. R. v.3 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11

Nelson Mandela said that education was the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. There are plenty of people who would agree with him. One of them is Oprah Winfrey who said that education was the way to move mountains, build bridges and, yes, to change the world.

Today's readings certainly suggest the value of learning. The story from the Book of Genesis comes from pre-history. It has often been misunderstood to suggest that sin entered the world through one woman. This is not true. On the contrary, the readings tell us that the world is good. When humans try to overstretch their boundaries, trouble follows, and the experience of beauty and harmony is threatened. We need to choose our teachers. Are we going to listen to God or the serpent? In our modern world, the serpent takes many forms. There are countless threats to the harmony of the human race and the beauty of our natural environment.

Likewise, today's story of the temptations in the wilderness from Matthew's Gospel shows us that some lessons are difficult. Jesus teaches the devil. He tells the evil one that God is in charge. Jesus must decide which voices he will follow. He must learn that some ideas may not be as good as they sound. All the kingdoms of the world, Jesus learns, are no substitute for an honest and life-giving relationship with God.

Each week during Lent, Caritas Australia asks us to think about the world and learn more about our role in building God's kingdom. Today we start with an introduction to Project Compassion, which allows us to appreciate how much the Catholic community, has been able to achieve across the decades for the most marginalised people of the world. We are all still learning. Pope Leo XIV has reminded us that the vulnerable are great teachers.

In ~~Dilexi Te~~ he writes:

Christians must not abandon almsgiving... It is always better at least to do something rather than nothing. Whatever form it may take, almsgiving will touch and soften our hardened hearts... for our part, we need to give alms as a way of reaching out and touching the suffering flesh of the poor.

The evil spirit will always focus on the negative and convince us that change is too difficult. The spirit of grace and truth will show us what is truly possible and help us sort our priorities.

Our generous support this Lenten season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, or by scanning your parish's QR code.

UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Register your parish for
online fundraising at

<https://projectcompassion.org.au/parish>

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your unique QR code
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projectcompassion.org.au



LENT 2026

BOOKLET AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD FROM OUR WEBSITE

You are invited into the Gospel stories of Lent (Year A) and the words of fellow travellers to reflect on Jesus and those who encountered Him during desert experiences in their lives.



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Saturday 28 March 2026

Campus Tours (10am, 11.30am & 1pm)

Bookings required: www.sje.vic.edu.au/events

Gala Dinner \$60 (6pm - 11pm)

Brigidine Campus Oak Centre - 21 Dickson St, Echuca

RSVP: Friday 27 February 2026

www.sje.vic.edu.au/events

Sunday 29 March 2026

Mass at St Mary's Parish (11am)

All community members welcome

*Three events across
two big days!*