



# KYABRAM CATHOLIC PARISH

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

St Augustine's - Kyabram, 69 Church Street, PO Box 341, Kyabram Vic, 3620

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Parish Priest – Fr Uday Marneni ALCP/OSS

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Second Sunday of Lent – Year A

1 March 2026



Readings for  
this week:

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



Readings for  
next Sunday:

Exodus 17:3-7  
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8  
John 4:5-42



## Liturgy Jottings

### Liturgical Calendar

The Catholic Sanctoral Calendar is the part of the Liturgical Calendar that honours saints, assigning specific feast days to different days of the year, complementing the main seasonal cycle (Proper of Time) with the feasts of Our Lord, Mary and saints (Proper of Saints). The Roman Martyrology 2025 lists over 7000 saints and blessed.

Special interest today are four saints on the 29 February: Pope St Hilary, died 29 February 468; St Oswald, Bishop of Worcester died 29 February 992; St Augustine Chapdelaine of Xilixian, China was martyred on 29 February 1856 and Blessed Antonia Florence of Abruzzo, Italy died 29 February 1472. Their feast days, where observed, are celebrated on the 28 February in non-leap years.

Another calendrical oddity: 30 February was observed only three times: 1712 in Sweden to adjust to the new Gregorian Calendar and 1930 & 1931 in Russia, trying out a revolutionary but failed calendar.

## Looking at the Readings

From the Ash Wednesday Mass we hear in the readings about fasting, prayer and almsgiving. From the second week of Lent, we enter the core teachings of Lent on sin and forgiveness; prayer and charity; baptism and penance; life, suffering death and resurrection. Yet from the earliest time of celebrating Lent we read the account of the transfiguration of the Lord. The event recorded in the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke describe how Jesus was "Transfigured". He appeared in heavenly glory on a very earthly landscape to three Apostles: Peter, James and John. Deeper than the event is the mystery. The mystery of Christ's humanity and divinity, his death and resurrection, the disappointments and hopes of his followers. These three apostles were going to experience the horror of his execution but hold in the secret of their hearts this vision of his future glorification. In our living out the Lenten disciplines, liturgy and practices we do so with the vision of Easter.

Jesus gave them the order: "Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead." We cannot experience Easter until we have experience Good Friday, The fourth account of the Transfiguration is given in the second letter of St Peter. He is able to share his experience with his people: "He received honour and glory from God the Father, when a voice came to him from the transcendent glory, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice from heaven, when we were with him on the holy mountain. 2Pet 1:17-18.

## Quote for the Week

"Fasting makes sense if it really chips away at our security and, as a consequence, benefits someone else, if it helps us cultivate the style of the good Samaritan, who bent down to his brother in need and took care of him."

Pope Francis

## Prayer for the Day

God of wisdom, through the law and the prophets and through the person of your Son, Jesus Christ, you show us a way to live.

Give us the strength to conform our will to yours that we may live in a way that serves you in Jesus' name. Amen.

## On the Lighter Side



The snake and scorpion pictured here are desert creatures. Our Lord was with the wild beasts in the wilderness (Mark 1:13). These two creatures represent evil (Luke 11:11-12) and sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:56) and have been "strong and ancient symbols of Lent."



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## PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

### **Recently Deceased:**

**Anniversaries:** Lee Chant

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

## **ROSTERS**

### **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

### **Sunday 15 March 8.30am**

Commentator – B Elliot

Lector – P Jenner

Special Minister – M DiPetta

## **PLATE AND ENVELOPE COLLECTION**

**Last weekend Collection: \$ 899.95**

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

Stations of the Cross will be prayed during lent before mass on Saturdays 7<sup>th</sup> March and 21<sup>st</sup> 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)

## **90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

Congratulation to Marie Andrews for her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday. 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.

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> March at 10am. Guest speaker Mary Connolly-Gale, CEO of Days for Girls Australia and Australasia. All welcome and encouraged to come along and support this prayerful event. For inquiries Mary 0427 190 282.

## **MASS TIME TABLE**

### **Weekly Masses**

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March - 8.30am Mass (Fr M Grace)

Sun 1<sup>st</sup> March - 11.30am Mass Tongala

### **Weekly Masses**

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

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

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> March - 6pm Mass

Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March - 8.30am Mass

### **Weekly Masses**

Tue 10<sup>th</sup> March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 12<sup>th</sup> March - No Mass

Sun 15<sup>th</sup> March - 8.30am Mass

### **Weekly Masses**

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> March - 4pm Rosary, 4.15pm Mass

Thu 19<sup>th</sup> March - 9.15am Mass Year 1/2 & Year 7/11

Thu 19<sup>th</sup> March - 2.15pm Mass St Patrick's Tongala

Sat 21<sup>st</sup> March - 6pm Mass



## MONTHLY WORKING BEE

The next working bee is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 9.30am.

## 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.

## LENT 2026 REFLECTION BOOKLET

To help us prepare for Easter during Lent, the Diocese has again prepared its Lenten resources for prayer and reflection, offered in a single booklet covering both Lent and Easter, replacing the weekly leaflets. The booklet can be [downloaded](#) from our website or the diocesan website. There are printed copies available in the gathering space.

## SANDPIPER E-NEWS

Catch up on news and events across the Diocese with the next edition out this Friday. You can find it on our website under "News".

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Caritas  
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT  
COMPASSION

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
28 February & 1 March 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.

*"Nothing is far from God." – St. Monica*



## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
Mt 17:1-9

*His face shone like the sun.*

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

## A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

## GOD'S BELOVED

On the Second Sunday of Lent the focus is on Jesus' transfiguration. This speaks into the experience in Matthew's audience of suffering and even death. With Jerusalem and Jesus' imminent suffering looming, he takes Peter, James and John on to a 'high' mountain, the place of divine encounter. The reference to 'high' celebrates the mountains' divine closeness. Here, alone, they are in the presence of God who comforts Jesus before what will shortly unfold in the Sacred City.

Two Old Testament figures appear, Moses (the traditional author of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible) and Elijah (the first recognised prophet of the Old Testament). Their appearance confirms that what is about to take place for Jesus will reveal God's protective presence. That presence is confirmed by the 'cloud [that] covered them with shadow' and the heavenly voice that attests that Jesus will always be God's Beloved and delightful One. The disciples' response to this experience is palpable. They are overcome with 'fear' – a deep sense of reverential awe in what they have just witnessed and experienced with Jesus, even though Peter earlier wanted to capture it by building three tents.

The scene is not a literal 'twitter-feed' of what actually or historically happened to Jesus. It is a story of theology and religious meaning for disciples aligned with Jesus who know the experience of suffering and death in their own day. At those times, we, too, must go up on to our 'high' mountain, accompanied by faithful friends, and allow God's presence and word to accompany us. We, too, need to hear that we are God's Beloved and delightful Ones.

Fr Michael Trainor

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

## FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Genesis

*The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.*

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.'

'I will bless those who bless you;

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth

shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

**R.** Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves justice and right / and fills the earth with his love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, / on those who hope in his love, / to rescue their souls from death, / to keep them alive in famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord is our help and our shield. / May your love be upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in you. **R.**

## SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

*God has saved us, and called us to be holy.*

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy – not

1 MARCH 2026

# THE SAVING WORD



because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



**SECOND SUNDAY of LENT – 1 March****SISILIA from TANZANIA**

Sisilia, aged 13, lives with her mother and siblings in a remote village in northern Tanzania. Life has been difficult since her father passed away when she was a baby.

"My mother does small farming and sometimes sells vegetables to get money. She supports the family on her own. We don't have a regular income because my father passed away many years ago. Life is hard, but we try our best," Sisilia said.

She had to walk up to 30 minutes, three times a day, to fetch water from a dirty canal. The water was unsafe, causing frequent illness, and the long walks left Sisilia exhausted, fearful of wild animals and struggling to focus on her studies.

"I get very tired. Carrying heavy water containers every day after walking long distances is not easy. I was also getting piercing back pains. Sometimes I get home late and tired, and it's hard to focus on my homework or revise for exams," she said.

Lack of clean water is a major issue in Tanzania, where nearly 40% of people don't have access to basic drinking water services and 75% don't have access to basic sanitation services. (World Bank 2022).

With support from the A+ Successor Project, her school and village now have clean water taps. This means it takes Sisilia just two minutes to collect water from her house, reducing the risks she faced and giving her more time for learning. Access to safe water has also improved health, hygiene and nutrition for her school community. Teachers and students can drink clean water, maintain hygiene, and grow food in the school garden.



Sisilia demonstrates how to wash her hands properly with soap. Photo: Caritas Australia.

Sisilia has also joined a SWASH Club, where she learned about hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and child rights. She now confidently shares this knowledge with peers, parents and community members, even performing songs and demonstrations to promote good practices. This leadership has empowered her to advocate for children's education and wellbeing in her community.

Despite many hardships, Sisilia remains determined to succeed. Her favourite subjects are Science, English and Maths, and she dreams of becoming a pilot.

With the support of Caritas Australia, local communities are finding ways to respond to challenges with resilience and courage. Your generosity makes it possible to stand with them on this journey.



Sisilia walked long distances to collect unclean water from a canal. Photo: Caritas Australia.

## REFLECTION for SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

Genesis 12:1-4 | Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22. R. v.22 | 2Timothy 1:8-10 | Matthew 17:1-9

We all need a vision. Long ago, the Book of Proverbs told us that 'where there is no vision, the people perish.' When we look at the world around us, with so many wars, so much violence, such widespread hardship and numerous groups of people putting up walls against each other, we might wonder where the real leaders are to be found. On the world stage, Pope Leo XIV often seems like a lone voice for peace, justice and sanity. He points a direction based on his deep encounter with God.

Perhaps we find vision in the less well-known stories of ordinary people, some of whom we may know. This week, Project Compassion shares with us the story of young Sisilia who lives in a remote part of northern Tanzania. Her father died when she was young, and her family has faced enormous difficulty. 'Life is hard,' she says as an understatement. Your help has enabled her village to gain access to a reliable supply of safe water. What has this got to do with education? The time that Sisilia spent walking three times a day for water was having a major impact on her schooling. She now has a vision for life, one she shares with her community.

In today's readings, we hear about vision. In the book of Genesis, Abram leaves his country, his family and his father's house. He may not know quite what will happen, but he puts his faith in a call that will lead to life and abundance. He does not have a map, but he does have a vision.

We hear in the Gospel that Jesus took his closest friends to the top of a high mountain. His face shone like the sun and became 'as white as the light.' A voice from heaven said, 'this is my beloved son; listen to him.' Peter said how wonderful it was to be there, and he wanted to build a tent so they could stay. But vision is always on the move and Jesus knew that he and his friends had a hard road ahead. The transfiguration may have only lasted a few minutes, but it was clear that Jesus' friends never forgot it. Every year, we hear this story near the start of Lent because we, too, need to be inspired.

During Lent, we are also called to transfigure the world, to make a difference by uniting against poverty.



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online fundraising at

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

and then download  
your unique QR code  
to replace this box.





# 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.



[sandhurst.catholic.org.au](http://sandhurst.catholic.org.au)



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## Saturday 28 March 2026

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

Bookings required: [www.sje.vic.edu.au/events](http://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](http://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!*