



**St John
Vianney**
Parish Morisset



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR A 26TH FEBRUARY 2023

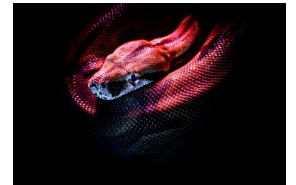
With the celebration of Ash Wednesday during the week, we began the season of Lent, which is meant to be a journey of renewal and transformation.

This First Sunday of Lent carries a multitude of potential issues that should claim our attention.

Lent of course reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. The lesson that Jesus taught us in the desert, is to put God's intention above personal comfort and satisfaction.

If we are ruled by prosperity and security, we tend to forget how to be annoyed with injustice, exploitation and violence.

That's the challenge all of us face. Our culture, our media, often our bosses, our politicians and our neighbors, all expect us to live by values, that are not those of the Gospel.



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal People who, long before us lived, loved, educated and raised their children on this Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and we recognise the young people who are our future. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in our communities. We respect their deep physical and spiritual connections to Country through their stories, traditions and living cultures.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Foundation	Leader	In Office
1. Identity and Community		
2. Worship and Prayer.	Uta France	Mon
3. Formation and Education		
4. Mission and Outreach.		
5. Leadership and Structure.	John France	Sat & Sun

If you have any concerns or questions you can also talk to any member of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) who are: Juliet Hutchins, Mal and Pam Melvey, Kerry Lendon, and Rod Hay.

PRIEST SUPERVISOR: Fr Joseph Figuaro
SACRAMENTAL PRIEST: Fr John Purnell
Parish Secretary: Mrs Rosanna Suckling

OFFICE: 60 Yambo Street, Morisset, PO Box 87, Ph: 02 4973.6859
Office Hours: 9.00 am to 2.00pm—Monday to Friday (except public holidays)
 (Due to COVID we ask that you make an appointment to come to the office)
Morisset Parish Office email: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au
Morisset Parish Web site: www.vianneymorisset.org
Morisset Parish Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/stjvparish>
Morisset Parish Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/stjvparish_morisset/
Morisset Parish Bulletin Items: morparish@mn.catholic.org.au

UPCOMING WORSHIP TIMES :

Saturday	25th February 5pm Mass— Cooranbong
Sunday	26th February 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	28th February 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset
Saturday	5th March 5pm Family Mass— Morisset
Sunday	6th March 9.30am Mass— Morisset
Tuesday	8th March 9.30am Liturgy— Morisset

We are back to walk in at all services.

We are still recording our Sunday Services and placing them on our Website and Facebook page for you to view if you are sick and unable to attend services.

TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE WE ENCOURAGE :
MASK WEARING ,
PHYSICAL DISTANCING,
HAND SANITISING,
And STAYING HOME IF SICK

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REFLECTION FOR FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT YEAR A – 25/02/2023

Hearing the story of Adam and Eve in today's first reading reminds me of the little boy who opened the large family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed in between the pages. 'Mummy, look what I found', the little boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'

The Genesis story about the origins of sin in the world rewards very careful reading. The serpent promises Eve two things: that her eyes will be opened to know good from evil and that this will make her like God. Such a temptation was irresistible and nothing has changed.

Knowledge is a gift given us by God. I am always grateful for being a Catholic because, along with other long-standing Christian denominations, we highly value scholarship, rational thought and inquiry. As anxious as the Church has sometimes been about scientific investigations, our best traditions are to see God revealed in human thoughts and scientific achievements that ennoble our human family. It is the application of knowledge, or the way it is abused, that can be harmful.

On the domestic front, many families have a 'know-it-all', the relative who has an extraordinary ability to retain facts and figures and who seems to gain a sense of self-worth by correcting us mid-sentence when we get a number, place or fact wrong. He or she can be very irritating. On the world stage we have seen how scientific knowledge can try and seduce us into believing that all scientific achievements are good no matter how unknown the consequences of these choices might be for future generations. Every new piece of knowledge brings with it wonderful potentialities and serious responsibilities.

As this story demonstrates, the temptation to know as much as God has never been more real than it is right now.

One day a group of scientists got together and decided that man had come a long way and no longer needed God. The scientists walk up to God and say, 'God we've decided that we no longer need you. We're to the point that we can clone people and do many miraculous things, so why don't you just go on and get lost.'

God listened patiently and after the scientists were finished, said, 'Very well! How about this? Let's have a woman-and-man-making contest.' To which they agreed. However God added, 'How about we do this just like I did back in the old days with Adam?' The scientists said, 'Sure, no problem', and bent down and grabbed some dirt. God just looked at them and said, 'No, no, no. You go and get your own dirt!'

Today's Gospel is about knowledge too. Satan knows who Jesus is. His temptations are an attempt to get Jesus to betray his humanity and not endure the limitations of his daily life. Jesus knows that the only way to be true to his divinity is allow us to see it shine in and through his human life. The rejection of the temptation to compromise his frail human frame gives us the hope that we, too, can glimpse the power of God's greatness in every moment we reject the desire to be directors of our own destiny and to see good triumph over evil in the choices we make.

It's a relief to know we don't have to be God!

May this Lent see us do what we are created for: to use all our knowledge to praise, reverence and serve the Loving One who willed us into being. (Extracted From Richard Leonard) Dan Joyce

POINTS OF INTEREST RAISED AT THE PPC MEETING ON THURSDAY.

- Christine Hodyl (From the Diocesan Pastoral Placement Program) PPP has been appointed to the Morisset Parish, for 2023.
- The purpose of this program is to enable participants the opportunity to experience different workplaces and ministries across the diocese. These 'on the ground' ministry work placements help participants explore the opportunities that are available to them to serve God and the local community of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The Pastoral Placement Program provides participants a year-long discernment journey, involving the see, judge, act method, to make an informed choice about the possibility for future ministry.
- Bishop Michael Kennedy formally the Bishop of Armidale NSW, will be installed Bishop of Maitland Newcastle Friday evening 17th March 6pm Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton.

DIOCESAN NEWS- DID YOU KNOW?

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle is one of the region's largest employers. The diocese provides pastoral, health care, social welfare, educational and childcare services for the community in the Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Hunter, Upper Hunter and Manning areas. It represents the Catholic Church extending from Lake Macquarie to Taree and as far inland as Merriwa and Murrurundi. Bishop Michael Kennedy will be the pastoral leader of approximately 150,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, when he is installed.

The Diocese operates the Catholic Schools Office supporting 44 primary schools, 12 secondary schools, one K-12 school and one special school, educating more than 19,600 students in the region. Catholic Care provides support, assistance and education to all families and individuals, regardless of age, gender or religion through a range of child, youth and family services, foster care, counselling, homelessness, food security and refugee programs. St Nicholas' Early Education operates more than 10 early education centres across the region as well as the Out of School Hours care in Catholic schools. The St Nicholas' pathways program supports study and career options for early education. The parishes and agencies of the diocese are supported by the Chancery (Bishop's Office) and Shared Services team.

2023 PROJECT COMPASSION LAUNCH

Last Tuesday, our SJV Parish Leaders, together with SJV School Students and Staff, joined hundreds of people who gathered at the Sacred Heart Cathedral Hamilton with open hearts and minds for the launch of Caritas' Project Compassion.

Spanning across the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion brings thousands of Australian schools, parishes, and supporters together to raise funds for people living in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

Caritas Australia's Impact Director Leigh Matthews said it was great to see so many people there to support the cause.

"It was beautiful to have everybody here for the launch of Project Compassion," she said.

"There was a great energy in the room, and I think it really resonated with the people here."

CARITAS NEWSLETTER

The latest edition of the Caritas Newsletter is out. Read it here:

https://www.caritas.org.au/media/nqajalsp/caritasnews_summer-2023_digital_4th-revision.pdf



Laxmi, 16, lives in Jajarkot, a remote district in Nepal where almost half of the population live below the poverty line. Tragedy struck when Laxmi was 10 years old and her father passed away. Her father worked hard to pay for his children's education and after losing him Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty.

With the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club at her school where she was encouraged to resume her education. Through the child's club, Laxmi developed the skills and confidence to become a leader, advocating for clean water taps at her school.

Laxmi is now excelling in her studies and working towards her dream of becoming a civil engineer. She continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor and mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia

MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL

Caritas Turkey and other Caritas agencies are responding to a series of powerful earthquakes in southeast Turkey and Syria, where thousands of lives have been lost already and the death toll increases by the hour.

Caritas Turkey are on the ground coordinating with local authorities and other organisations to see how they can best assist. Your generous support can help provide emergency relief to help families recover and rebuild from disaster. Visit www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/turkey-and-syria-earthquake/ or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support to the Middle East. by donating to our Middle East Emergency Appeal.



ART AND SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

Creation of art provides an opportunity for a deepening awareness of oneself and the world, and can act as a catalyst for evoking the

Spirit. Art is a means to see-to-re-search and find the living meaning of what it means to open the heart. Everyone has the ability to create art, but in order for it to be theological, the artist needs to explore ways that it makes sense of faith. Opening the heart through art involves making meaning through the creation, then reflecting on the art itself and the unfolding the moment-to-moment direct experience of the process.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to awaken the Spirit through the beauty of God's creation, prayer, and reflection. Participants will engage in art making experiences which will nourish their faith.

Date: Thursday 23 March, 9am-3pm Venue: Kilaben Bay Community Centre Cost: \$25 per person To register go to:

www.eventbrite.com.au/e/art-and-spirituality-workshop-march-2023-tickets-532521174167



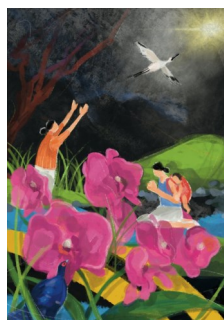
POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER

INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2023

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

VATICAN COUNCIL II 60TH ANNIVERSARY – EXPLORING ITS KEY DOCUMENTS IN 2023

The Second Vatican Council promulgated sixteen major documents. The reception of those documents, and all that flows from them, continues to be the work of the Church in every place and through every unfolding year and decade. What are these documents and what wisdom do they reveal to us today? An enjoyable way to read and reflect on these texts is in the tradition of a book club, or 'document club' in this instance. In 2023 you might consider forming a document club in your parish with a focus on the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*. The Diocesan Liturgy Council (DLC) has prepared a simple reading plan that anyone can use to guide their own 'document club' and can offer support in getting started. For full details read 7 Feb Liturgy Matters article at <https://tinyurl.com/mndocclub>.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.

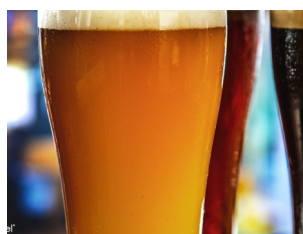
Is held on the first Friday in March each year, people in over 170 countries, join in a service prepared by of a different country, to celebrate both unity in Christ and our diversity in culture. This year Bonnells Bay Salvation Army 188 Station St Bonnells Bay are hosting the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday March 3rd, 2023 at 10am The host country for 2023 is Taiwan.

SISTERS IN FAITH DINNER

The Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council would like you to join us for our Sisters in Faith Dinner to mark International Women's Day. It's an opportunity for all women of faith to come together to form friendships.

Date: Wednesday 8 March Time: 6pm to 9pm Location: Victor Peters Suite, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle West

Cost: \$30 per person RSVP by: 1 March Registration is open now: www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sisters-of-faith-dinner-tickets-513511305137



FINDING OUR PURPOSE...WITH A PINT!

Calling all young people in the Diocese for 'Pint with a Purpose!' Come and join us at the Sydney Junction Hotel as we reimagine the journey together.

Date: Monday 6th March 2023

Time: 6pm **Location:** Sydney Junction Hotel

PRAYING THE GOSPELS

You are invited to connect and pray with each other across the Diocese from your own home. God speaks to us through the words of the Gospel and then through artist's images of the Gospel message.

Join us each Wednesday 5.00 - 5.45pm.

Zoom link: <https://mncatholic.zoom.us/j/68191395109>

Password: 316071 For more information contact: rose.mcallister@mn.catholic.org.au

SUPPORTING THE CLERGY / 1ST COLLECTION

If you would like to make contributions to support the Clergy / 1st Collection please do so at Mass in the BLUE bucket or electronically using the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page, the Diocese App, Bank Account Name: CCF BSB: 062815 No: 00328161 Ref: 5016 1st Collection or set up a direct debit arrangement (contact the parish office for this).

SUPPORTING OUR PARISH / 2ND COLLECTION

If you would like to make contributions to support our Parish please do so at Mass via the RED bucket or deposit directly into the Parish Account our details are: Account Name: CCF 96014 Morisset Parish BSB:062815 Account Number: 00328161 Ref: 5004 2nd Collection or 5004 PG and your Giver Number or Surname, or you can use the Online Payments button on the Parish Website Home page or the Diocese App. If you are considering taking up **planned giving** you may like to know that **a percentage of the contributions are tax deductible**. If you would like to know more on how planned giving works please contact the Parish Office.

WEEKEND ROSTERS

		<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>NEXT WEEK</u>
<u>Presiders</u>	5PM 9.30AM	Mass Mass	Mass Mass
<u>PROCLAIMERS:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Shamley K London	TBA
<u>PSALMIST:</u>	5PM 9.30AM	H White J Vipan	TBA
<u>GIFTS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	P Melvey M Melvey H White P Herbert	TBA
<u>SERVERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	J France V Paulo	TBA
<u>AV</u>	5PM 9.30AM	M Foo U France	TBA
<u>SOUND / VIDEO</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson J France	TBA
<u>WELCOMERS</u>	5PM 9.30AM	TBA TBA	TBA TBA
<u>COVID TEAM</u>	5PM 9.30AM	L Hutchinson P Robertson L McRae L McRae	TBA
<u>COVID CLEAN- ING</u>	5PM 9.30AM	All available Covid team members	All available Covid team members
<u>CHURCH CLEANING</u>	COOR MOR	K London A Walker G Walker	TBA

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns for a child or vulnerable adult please contact the Office of Safeguarding (ph: 4979 1390 or email: childprotection@mn.catholic.org.au), or visit their website for further information (www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au).

UPCOMING FEAST DAYS MEMORIALS AND SOLEMNITIES

RITE OF ELECTION— 26TH FEBRUARY
EMBER DAY— 3RD MARCH
SAINTS PERPETUA AND FELICITY— 7TH MARCH
SAINT PATRICK— 17TH MARCH
SAINT JOSEPH— 19TH MARCH
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD— 25TH MARCH
PALM SUNDAY— 2ND APRIL
THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER— 6TH APRIL
FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD— 7TH APRIL
PASCHAL VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT— 8TH APRIL

Please pray for those who are sick, in hospital or recovering at home:

Les Findley, Peter Martyn, Brian Grogan, Fiona McAlinden, Stephen McKay, June Purcell, Jeremy McMullen, Harry Goldman, Bernadette Martin, John Francisco, Joan Gillett, Bruce Gillett.

Please pray for those who have been called to eternal life may they always be in our prayers.

Recently Deceased: Ian Douglas



PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE BULLETIN

If you would like the parish to pray for a family member who is sick, recently deceased or you would like remembered please call or email the parish office or complete a prayer card for each person and place in the mail box near the parish office door. Cards are available at the back of the church and at the Parish Office.

All prayer requests require permission from a family member or the person. Due to Australian privacy laws.

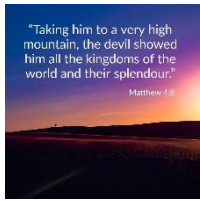
AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.



Live stream Mass every Sunday at 9.30am at
www.mn.catholic.org.au/places/live-stream





SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

First Sunday of Lent Year A

Sunday 26 Feb 2023

The Introductory Rites

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as Australia's First Peoples and the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work and live. Our Parish of St John Vianney Morisset is located on the traditional lands of the Awabakal and Darkinjung people. We honour and pay respect to, Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the spiritual culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia.

Gathering

The Lectionary/Roman Missal or a Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

Sign of the Cross

Leader:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:

Amen.

Greeting

Leader:

Blessed be God
who has reconciled us through Christ
and renews us by his grace.

All:

Blessed be God forever.

Introductory Remarks

Leader (in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together
God is always with us.
In union with the whole Church,
we call upon the mercy of the Lord
in this season of repentance and renewal.

Opening Rite

LITANY OF PRAISE

Leader:

The Lord is rich in mercy and kindness.
Let us prepare ourselves to hear God's Word
and praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you are our strength in times of trial: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to serve you alone: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader:

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

All:

All: Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

Almighty God,
your Son, Jesus, was led to the wilderness
and strengthened by your Spirit.

As we begin this season of Lent
may we remove all obstacles
so that we may become more holy
and do deeds of love.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

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.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8

(Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see 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, 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 5:12-19

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. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. 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.

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

The word of the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader:

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All:

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mt 4:1-11

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.

Reader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

All:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All are seated.

Reflection on the Word

Q. Why might this gospel reading have been chosen for the Lenten season?

Q. How do the actions of Jesus balance or counter the actions of Adam and Eve?

Q. What temptations do you face and how do you try to address them?

Q. When have you put trust in God to resolve a situation beyond your control?

Profession of Faith

Leader:

In union with the whole Church
let us profess our faith.

All:

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Brothers and sisters, in the presence of God's mercy, let us bring our prayers before the Lord.

Reader: That the Holy Church will support all people seeking repentance and forgiveness.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That leaders of nations will resist the temptation of greed and power.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all suffering long term hunger and famine will be rewarded with food and with justice.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our parish community will find courage to confess our sins and repent in the Lord.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That people affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in New Zealand will receive urgent assistance and long term support as they rebuild their lives.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the people of Turkey and Syria will continue to receive international assistance as they struggle with the devastating aftermath of the recent earthquake.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the people of Ukraine, having now suffered the conflict and violence of invasion for a year, will receive effective support from other nations.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the sick will be sustained by God's mercy and kindness, especially those who are members of our community and families..

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died will live forever in the grace of God, especially those who were members of our community and families.

(pause)

In your mercy:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, you shower us with mercy and compassion. Hear our prayers and help us to resist temptation and enter into your forgiveness and mercy during this Lenten season. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader:

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader:

May the Lord be with us, and protect us, now and for ever..

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All:

Amen.

Dismissal

Leader:

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All:

Thanks be to God.

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LITURGY MATTERS: Rite of Election

You're invited to come to the Rite of Election.

FIONA DUQUE PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 21, 2023

As we, the Church, journey together through the liturgical year we find ourselves in many liminal moments. Very soon we will start together on our Lenten journey towards our celebration of the Paschal Mystery at Easter. Interwoven in this Lenten journey is a liminal moment of great importance in the faith and life of the church. That is the **Rite of Election** of our Catechumens.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a journey begun by those seeking faith who come to the Catholic community to get to know Jesus and experience the

Catholic way of life. The introductory phase is known as the Precatechumenate. When ready, those who wish to continue the journey take the first formal step, celebrated in the **Rite of Acceptance**, where they are 'accepted' into the Order of Catechumens. This marks the beginning of the second period of initiation where the Catechumens undergo a process of prayer and learning about the Catholic way of life which is driven by the liturgical year. Typically, the Catechumenate takes twelve months but may be longer according to the needs of the individual.

The **Rite of Election** closes the Period of the Catechumenate. This rite normally coincides with the first Sunday of Lent. At this time the Catechumens declare their desire for baptism supported by their godparents, sponsors, priests and, indeed, the whole church community. In the presence of the bishop (or delegate) in the cathedral, they sign their name in the Book of the Elect. They are then known as "the elect".

The **Rite of Election** is normally celebrated on the First Sunday of Lent. This marks the beginning of the third stage of the Initiation journey, aptly named the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. This can be a very intense time for The Elect when, accompanied by the community, they deepen their reflection of the Paschal Mystery. This preparation ensures that The Elect are ready to receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. Once baptised they are known as Neophytes.

It is a surprise to some communities to know that this is not the end of the initiation journey. The Neophytes, still accompanied by the parish community, enter the **Period of Post Baptismal Mystagogy** for the duration of the Easter Season. This time is focused firstly on the readings of the Sundays of Easter and preaching that breaks open their meaning for discipleship now and secondly on reflection on the experience of Initiation. The Neophytes continue to hold an important place in the community for the first twelve months of their life as baptised members of the faithful.

This year we encourage our Church community to come together at 2.30 pm on Sunday 26 February 2023 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral to support and pray for our Catechumens as they become The Elect. For all details [click here](#).

For All Future Generations: Project Compassion launches in our Diocese

Hundreds of people gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral today with open hearts and minds for the launch of Caritas' Project Compassion.

ELIZABETH SYMINGTON PUBLISHED FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Hundreds of people gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral today with open hearts and minds for the launch of Caritas' Project Compassion.

Spanning across the six weeks of Lent each year, Project Compassion brings thousands of Australian schools, parishes and supporters together to raise funds for people living in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

Caritas Australia's Impact Director Leigh Matthews said it was great to see so many people there to support the cause.

"It was beautiful to have everybody here for the launch of Project Compassion," she said.

"There was a great energy in the room, and I think it really resonated with the people here.

"Project Compassion genuinely has a real impact on individuals – sometimes it's easy to forget that there are people on the other end of our donations. It's an opportunity to consider that there is a person with a real life who is able to change their future with your support."

Director of Pastoral Ministries Teresa Brierley says the event and this year's theme "For All Future Generations" is incredibly important to our Diocese.

She believes that Caritas' [stories](#) show how much of an impact a campaign like this can have.

"Project Compassion is important for our Diocese because Caritas are our international overseas organisation. On behalf of the Catholic Church, they help countries in which they mission and provide support when needed," Teresa said.

"It's significant because we often think of our own country in need, but this way, through Project Compassion's stories, you can see the good works they do. They can only achieve that because we support them financially."

One of this year's highlights is Laxmi's story.

After losing her father at a young age, Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other girls in her village.

She lives with her mother and siblings in Jajarkot, one of the least developed districts in Nepal's Karnali province.

Laxmi is just one of 5,000 children that Caritas Nepal has supported, and with our help, they can provide assistance to many more.

Leigh encourages anyone who can contribute, to donate funds to the campaign – she says every dollar will make a difference.

"This Lent, remember that the good you do today will impact the lives of all future generations to come," she said.

To donate to Project Compassion, visit www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/donate