



ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



First Sunday of Lent, Year C - 9th March 2025

Administrator

Fr Alex Chow

Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

=====

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil: 5pm (SL) &

6.30pm (ST)

Sunday: 8:30am (SL),
10:30am (ST), 5pm (ST),
Vietnamese

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. 6:30pm(SL*)

Wed. 9:15am(ST)

*1st Wed Mass of Anointing
@10am*

Thurs. 9:15am(ST)

Fri. 9:15am(SL*)/6:30pm(ST)

Sat. 9:15am (SL*)

*Rosary after Mass at SL

RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30-6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS AT ST. LUKE'S

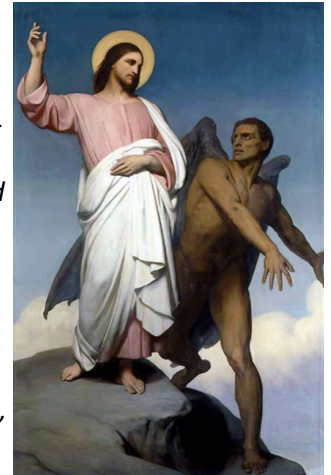
Second weekend of each
month - bring a plate to
share (optional)

Deut 26:4-10, Psalm 90(92):1-15, rom 10:8-13

Gospel Reflection on **Luke 4:1-13**

Meditation: *Why did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into such a lonely place - right after Jesus was anointed and confirmed by the Father for his mission as Messiah and Saviour? Jesus was following the pattern which God had set for Moses and for Elijah - both were led on a forty day journey of prayer and fasting to meet with God on his holy mountain (Exodus 24:18 and 1 Kings 19:8). God tested Moses and Elijah to prepare them for a prophetic mission - to speak God's word (Exodus 33:11; Deuteronomy 18:15; 34:10) and to lead God's people into the way of holiness and righteousness, a way marked by love of God and love of neighbour. While Moses and Elijah each prayed and fasted in the desert wilderness of Sinai, God fed them with his life-giving word. Their time of solitude with God enabled them to be renewed in faith, hope, and love for the call God had given them. Jesus likewise went into the wilderness to prepare himself for the mission entrusted to him by spending forty days and nights in solitude and prayer to his Father in heaven.*

Jesus tempted by the devil: Luke tells us that at the end of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness one visitor came out to tempt him. Luke describes this tempter as the devil (Luke 4:1), who is also called the father of lies (John 8:44), Satan (Luke 10:18), and the spiritual ruler and god of this world (John 12:31; 2 Corinthians 4:4). He is the same deceiver who tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Paradise (Genesis 3). Why did Satan tempt Jesus at the end of his lengthy period of fasting? Satan knew that Jesus was embarking on an important spiritual mission for the kingdom of God. Perhaps Satan saw an opportunity to strike while Jesus appeared more vulnerable in his physically and emotionally weakened condition due to his prolonged fasting on a dinner struggle over his particular call and mission. Satan undoubtedly thought he could persuade Jesus to choose his own path rather than the path his Father had chosen - a path that required self-renunciation, humility, and obedience to his Father's will. Jesus had to struggle with temptation, especially the temptation to choose his own way and to push aside the way his Father wanted him to go. This is the fundamental temptation which confronts each one of us as well. My way or God's way, my will or God's will. Satan's first temptation appealed to Jesus' physical desires and hunger. Jesus was very hungry and physically weak at the same time - he hadn't eaten anything for forty days. Did the Spirit lead him into the wilderness to die? When the people of Israel were led into the wilderness for forty years without any natural source of food, they complained to Moses that he was punishing them with starvation - a very painful way to suffer and die. Moses took the matter to God in prayer. And God intervened by sending them manna "bread from heaven" for their daily provision. Should not Jesus do the same to revive his weakened condition? Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread, both to prove his supernatural power over nature and to satisfy his own personal hunger. Jesus knew that he had been anointed with extraordinary power for performing great signs and wonders, just as Moses and Elijah had performed great signs and miracles in the name of God. But Jesus had chosen to fast from food and to pray for a lengthy period in order to prepare himself for the mission his Father was entrusting to him. Jesus wanted to do his Father's will, even though it might cost him great sacrifice, suffering, and even the loss of his own life. He hungered for his Father's word and made his life dependent on what the Father wanted him to do, rather than what he might have preferred for himself. Jesus chose to use his power and gifts to serve his Father rather than to serve himself. Jesus defeated Satan's snare with the words of Scripture from the Book of Deuteronomy in which Moses warned the people of Israel to never forget God nor his word: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4).(continued on pg 4) © 2024 Servants of the Word, author Don Schwager.



The Temptation of Christ, by Ary SCHEFFER(1854), © NGV, Melbourne, Australia

Office (for both Churches): 17 Stevens Road Forest Hill Vic 3133 (St Timothy's)

Parish Office tel: 03 9412 8499; Presbytery tel: 03 9877 2292

St Luke the Evangelist, 46 Orchard Grove, Blackburn South

Email: foresthill@cam.org.au | Web: sttimothys.org.au / Email: blackburnsouth@cam.org.au | Web: blackburnsouth.org.au

Next Week's Daily Readings 10 March - 16 March 2025

MONDAY, Mar 10 Lev 19:1-2,11-18, Ps 18: 8-10,15, Mt 25:31-46.

TUESDAY, Mar 11 Is 55: 10-11, Ps 33: 4-7,16-19, Mt 6:7-15.

WEDNESDAY, Mar 12 Jonah 3:1-10, Ps 50: 3-4,12-13,18-19, Luke 11: 29-32.

THURSDAY, Mar 13 Esther 4: 17, Ps 137: 1-3, 7-8, Mt 7:7-12.

FRIDAY, Mar 14 Ezek 18: 21-28, Ps 129, Mt 5: 20-26.

SATURDAY, Mar 15 Deut 26: 16-19, Ps 118: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, Mt 5: 43-48.

SUNDAY, Mar 16 Gen 15: 5-12, 17-18, Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14, Phil 3: 17, 4 : 1 Luke 9: 28-36
Second Sunday of Lent

(Taken from ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen.



THE PASSION OF CHRIST STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday:

St Luke's at 3pm followed by Divine Mercy.

St Timothy's at 5.30pm followed by 6:30pm Mass .



MINISTERS OF THE WORD

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

8 and 9 March

Mia Perang
Caren Garlick
Beryl Chelliah
Trevis Yee & Jane D'Souza
Mai Le & Tuyet Nguyen

15 and 16 March

Godfrey Thong
Patrick Kelly
Kana Chelliah
Stefanie Chin & Joelle Rousetty
Youth Group

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Godfrey Thong
Susan Chen
Kana Chelliah
Volunteer
Hoang Nguyen

Olive Hammill
Mary Italiano
Beryl Chelliah
Chin L Tay
Youth Group

SLIDE OPERATORS

Saturday 5pm SL
6.30pm ST
Sunday 8:30am SL
10:30am ST
5pm ST

Choir
Michelle Chen
Megan McLean
Manny Gonzalez
Toan Tran

Volunteer
Michelle Chen
Paul Tierney
Lee Min Yee
Youth Group

SL WELCOMERS 8/9 MAR

5:00pm Edna Lee
8.30am Janette Clark
10.30am Volunteer

SL CHURCH CLEANING

15th March - Bianca's team
Bianca Broccio, Shirley Prabha,
Libby Theodore, Franca Leo
& Ellen Donoghue

SL CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers for Lent

ST CHURCH FLOWERS

No flowers for Lent

SL WELCOMERS 15/16 MAR

5:00pm Libby Theodore
8.30am Marie Pekish
10.30am Volunteer

ST CHURCH CLEANING

22nd March @ 8am
Hoang Nguyen, Anico Yee,
Dzung Vu & Trong Nguyen

ST COUNTERS

This week Team 1:
Owen Grealy & Anthony Yeo
Next week Team 2:
Raj & Violet Fonn

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

All who are sick, especially Pope Francis, Margaret Anderson, Hazel Greal, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Jerry Donoghue, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

All who have died especially Ed Benetti who died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Cecilio Abadilla, Armando Colasanti, Eloide Leonardi, Charlie Curmi, Noreen Kelly, Gerald Oliver, Frank Boyle, Dymphna O'Reilly, Karen Day, Noel Tenorio, Hermina Brysha, Anne O'Connor, James Russouw, Mary Rose Hammett, John Burns, Rob Davey, Geordy Hanley, Mary Benson, Mary Maguire, Jim Parslow, Marie Mullane, Paul Griffin & Mary Greal. May they rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH:

For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts even in their differences.

ST LUKE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: You are warmly invited to check out the Tea Towel and Apron fundraiser organised by the Parents & Friends of St Luke's school via this link: <https://www.expressions.com.au/fundraising-schools/lcyZtI5bwuQJszWJLYp>

THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER SCREENING: All parishioners are invited to attend at Hoyts, Forest Hill Chase at 3.15pm on Sat 12th April in conjunction with St Benedict's parish in Burwood. Don't miss this unforgettable experience of faith, community, and powerful storytelling. Purchase your tickets on the Hoyts website then fill out the registration form to let us know you're coming! Register: www.stbenedicts.com.au/growth

PROJECT COMPASSION: This Lent, we're invited to Unite Against Poverty with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. This year is especially significant as we celebrate the Jubilee Year - a time of renewal and solidarity. Please collect your Project Compassion donation box from the foyer of both churches. Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty this Lent.

Resources

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC: [Venue for ACYF 2025 announced](#)

MAJELLAN MEDIA: [Ash Wednesday](#).

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

The First collection is for the priest and retired priests. The Second collection is for parish expenses

ST: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$139
Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$210
Vietnamese Donation: \$132

SL: Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$347
Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$380

Parish Groups & Contacts

Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith

Entrance Antiphon: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

Response to the Psalm: Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Gospel Acclamation: 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!

Eucharistic Acclamation: Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

Communion Antiphon: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

The Temptation of Christ (Gospel reflection - *continued*)

Jesus' second temptation: Satan tempted Jesus a second time by presenting him with the best the world could offer - great riches, privileges, glory and fame, and the power to rule over all the kingdoms of the world - Jesus could claim title and possession to everything he desired. Jesus quickly saw through the trap of placing the world's glory, wealth, and power above the honor, glory, and service that is due to God alone. Jesus saw how easily one's heart can be swayed and even overpowered by what it most treasures. The heart cannot serve two masters - only one will prevail. Allowing fame, glory, and wealth to master one's heart is a form of idolatry - the worship of false gods. Jesus chose to honour his Father and to serve his Father's kingdom above all else. He chose to make his Father's will alone as his personal treasure and delight. Jesus again defeated Satan with the words of Scripture which Moses wrote in the Book of Deuteronomy: "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve'" (Deuteronomy 6:13).

Jesus' third temptation: Satan's last temptation was to convince Jesus that he should position himself at the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem, the holiest place on earth where God dwelt in a special way with his people, and there perform a spectacular sign that would prove beyond a doubt that he was the Messiah, God's anointed Son. Why would this be a real temptation for Jesus? It might be helpful to note that the devil is a Bible expert! He accurately quotes from Psalm 91:11-12, "He will give his angels charge of you, to guard you," and "on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." This psalm is connected with the temple which was regarded as a place of refuge and protection for those who put their trust in God and his dwelling place. The devil wanted Jesus to perform a death-defying sign by throwing himself off the tallest point of the temple to prove that he was who he claimed to be, the divinely appointed Messiah and Son of God. The temple pinnacle which Satan was referring to was very likely the highest structural corner in the construction of Herod's great temple. This high corner of the temple served as the "king's porch" on the edge of a precipice which dropped some 700 feet into the valley below. Jesus refused to perform any sign that might put God to the test. When the people of Israel almost died of thirst in the wilderness, they rebelled against Moses and they put God to the test by saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7). Jesus refused Satan's test to prove his divine claim as the Messiah. Jesus quoted once again from the words of Scripture in the Book of Deuteronomy: "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test'" (Deuteronomy 6:16). Jesus knew that he would first have to cleanse the temple (John 2:13-22; Luke 19:45-46) and then offer his body as the atoning sacrifice for the sin of the world (John 1:29; Hebrews 10:5-14). Only after he would be lifted up on the cross and be raised from the tomb on the third day, would people recognize that the Father had sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save it (John 3:17).

Spiritual preparation in the forty days of lent: What lesson can we learn from Jesus' temptation in the wilderness? How can we hope to fight temptation and overcome in our own personal lives? When Jesus went out into the wilderness to fight temptation by the devil, he was led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not rely on his own human strength and will-power for overcoming temptation. He relied on the Holy Spirit to give him strength, wisdom, courage, and self-control. The Lord Jesus knows that we cannot fight temptation on our own. We need the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us. The Lord Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit to help us in our weakness (Romans 8:26) and to be our guide and strength in times of testing (1 Corinthians 10:13). The Lord gives grace to those who humbly acknowledge their dependence on him (James 4:6) and he helps us to stand firm against the attacks of Satan who seeks to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8-10; Ephesians 6:10-18). The Lord Jesus is ever ready to pour out his Spirit upon us that we may have the courage we need to repent of our sins and to turn away from them, and to reject the lies and deceits of Satan. God wants us to "fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12) with the strength and help which comes from the Holy Spirit. Do you seek God's wisdom and guidance for overcoming sin and avoiding the near occasions of sin? The forty days of Lent is the annual retreat of the people of God in imitation of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. We are called to journey with the Lord in a special season of prayer, fasting, almsgiving, repentance, and renewal as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Easter, the Christian Passover. The Lord gives us spiritual food and supernatural strength to seek his face and to prepare ourselves for spiritual combat and testing. We, too, must follow in the way of the cross in order to share in the victory of Christ's death and resurrection. As we begin this holy season of preparation and renewal, let's ask the Lord for a fresh outpouring of his Holy Spirit that we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and embrace his will more fully in our lives.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 9 MARCH 2025



COLLECT

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,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

On the first Sunday of Lent, we always hear about the experience of Jesus tempted in the desert, this year from the Gospel of Luke. Jesus' public ministry is inaugurated by his baptism when he was anointed by the Holy Spirit. Now the Holy Spirit takes him into the wilderness for forty days. In facing his temptations, Jesus is clarifying in his own mind what options for his ministry he should rule out. Lent is a time for us to reflect on how best we embrace the gospel and follow Christ. It is a time for us too to purify our aims and our motivation.

Before adults are initiated at the Easter Vigil, they make their baptismal promises. The rest of the Church will also be given the opportunity to renew their baptismal promises. The first part of the baptismal commitment is to renounce Satan, and all his works, and all his empty show. Then we profess our faith in God Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Today's readings help to prepare for the renunciation of sin.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 26:4–10

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 90:1–2, 10–15

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **R.**

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways. **R.**

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon. **R.**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory. **R.**

First Reading

The Passover is the key event of God's care in the history of Israel. This summary begins with the call of Abraham. God's people ended up in Egypt where they were enslaved. The Passover is a story of liberation when God frees them and leads them across the waters of the Red Sea to the promised land.

This story will be used at the Easter Vigil to articulate the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection, and we regularly speak of the Eucharist as our Passover feast: it is our point of entry into the liberation from sin Christ has gained for us.

As one of the Eucharistic Prayers says: *With a mighty hand and outstretched arm you led your people Israel through the desert. Now, as your Church makes her pilgrim journey in the world, you always accompany her by the power of the Holy Spirit and lead her along the paths of time to the eternal joy of your Kingdom (EP/various needs II).*

We celebrate God's saving work, recount his marvellous deeds and bow down in the sight of the Lord our God. The text should be read with a spirit of wonder and a sense of gratitude.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 90/91 is a psalm of rescue and deliverance. It resonates strongly with the Passover liberation we heard in the first reading. No plague will touch you!

Curiously, in the gospel, we will hear the devil quoting verses from this psalm as Jesus is tempted to reckless presumption – live dangerously, suggests the devil; God will miraculously look after you!

The psalm is an expression of confidence in God's abiding help. As we seek protection from harm and danger, we also pray it on behalf of those whose lives are threatened by violence and war. The psalm is not just personal; we lend our voice to the prayer of all humanity.

The reader/cantor proclaims the text with hope and confidence. When we call, God answers: I am with you!

**A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Romans 10:8–13**

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

**A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Luke 4:1–13**

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.'

But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him, 'throw yourself down from here, for Scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the
test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him to return at the appointed time.

Second Reading

Everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved!

Three times in these few lines, Paul assures the Romans: *you will be saved*. Thus, the Lectionary again embraces the theme of liberation and deliverance which we have already encountered in the first reading and in the psalm. As one would expect from Paul, this is an offer not just restricted to Christians with a Jewish background, it is available to everyone without distinction.

Paul is also insistent that this salvation comes from Christ. To access the liberation of Jesus' death and resurrection, we need to have a relationship with Christ. We call this relationship 'faith'. If your lips confess it and your heart believes in it, *you will be saved*.

This message of reassurance should be read with conviction, with a lively voice and a warm tone. It is good news.

Gospel

To tempt someone is to try to entice them to do something wrong or unwise; there is an aspect of offering something alluring or apparently attractive. Yielding to temptation can set one's life on a different tack.

Here in the wilderness, Jesus is preparing for his ministry of proclaiming the reign of God. He is tempted firstly to use divine power for his own comfort (to stop his hunger). Secondly, he is tempted to political power and influence. Finally, he is tempted to presume that miraculously God will rescue. He answers each of the temptations with a quotation from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Jesus had time in the desert to reflect on the ministry he was undertaking and he came to adopt a model of selfless and humble service. He would reach out to the sick and the marginalised; ultimately he would lay down his life. This was how he understood his God-given mission of proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom of God in word and deed.

The devil, defeated, would return at the appointed time. The final victory, the liberation from bondage to evil, would occur on the cross and in the resurrection. Today's readings prepare us for the great Easter triumph.

The reader has a great story-telling opportunity with this passage: three distinct voices drive the action forward – the narrator, the tempter and Jesus.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Prayer over the People (First Sunday of Lent)

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray,
come down upon us, your people,
that hope may grow in tribulation,
virtue be strengthened in temptation,
and eternal redemption be assured.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Prayer over the People for the First Sunday of Lent, Roman Missal p. 243)

An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING (NRSV)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy 26:4–10

Moses spoke to the people, saying:

“When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

“A wandering Aramean was my ancestor;
he went down into Egypt
and lived there as an alien, few in number,
and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous.
When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us,
by imposing hard labour on us,
we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors;
the Lord heard our voice
and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

“The Lord brought us out of Egypt
with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm,
with a terrifying display of power;
and with signs and wonders;
and he brought us into this place and gave us this land,
a land flowing with milk and honey.
So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground
that you, O Lord, have given me.”

And Moses continued,

“You shall set it down before the Lord your God
and bow down before the Lord your God.”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (NRSV)

Psalm 91.1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (R. See 15b)

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.” **R.**

No evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways. **R.**

On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. **R.**

Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honour them. **R.**

SECOND READING (NRSV)

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans 10:8–13

Brothers and sisters,
what does scripture say?

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);
because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord
and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

For one believes with the heart and so is justified,
and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

The scripture says,

“No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek;
the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all
who call on him.

For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

GOSPEL (NRSV)

A reading from the gospel according to Luke 4:1–13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.
He ate nothing at all during those days,
and when they were over, he was famished.

The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God,
command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

Jesus answered him,

“It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant
all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him,
“To you I will give their glory and all this authority;
for it has been given over to me,
and I give it to anyone I please.

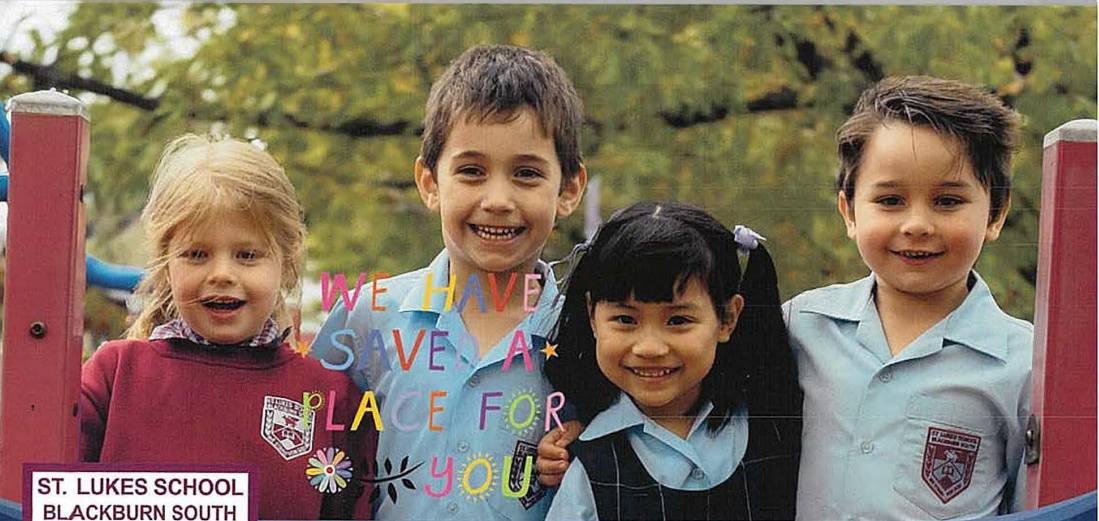
If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem,
and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,
saying to him, "If you are the Son of God,
throw yourself down from here, for it is written,
'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"
Jesus answered him, "It is said,
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

When the devil had finished every test,
he departed from him until an opportune time.



ST. LUKES SCHOOL
BLACKBURN SOUTH



St Luke the Evangelist Blackburn South

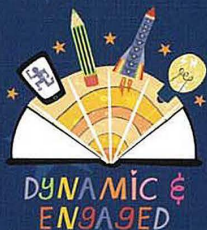
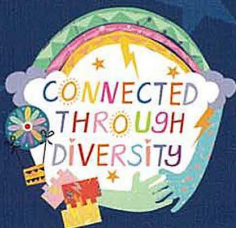
School Tour Dates 2025

Tours at 9:15 am
Monday 3rd March
Tuesday 4th March
Thursday 6th March
Friday 7th March

BOOK NOW



Book a school tour via our website, phone or QR code
Personal tours also available





Our Lady of Sion College

TALK AND TOUR MORNINGS

Please visit
our website
to book



APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7, 2027

close 15 August 2025

EMBRACE CREATIVITY

Talk and Tour Mornings

Term 1

THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY, 9.30 AM

Term 2

THURSDAY 01 MAY, 9.30 AM | MONDAY 23 JUNE, 9.30 AM

Our Lady of Sion College
Catholic Girls' College Years 7-12
1065 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128

P 9890 9097
E info@sion.catholic.edu.au
W sion.catholic.edu.au



Our Lady of Sion College

OPEN DAY



EMBRACE LIFE AT SION

TUESDAY 18 MARCH
2.30 - 6.30 PM

BOOK VIA OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN THE QR CODE



Our Lady of Sion College
Catholic Girls' College Years 7-12
1065 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill 3128

P 9890 9097
E info@sion.catholic.edu.au
W sion.catholic.edu.au

Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE

2025



Year
of
hope

By
Olivia
Dawson