



ST. MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP PARISH
UPPER BLUE MOUNTAINS



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR B

21 FEBRUARY 2021

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.

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right

hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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!

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:12:15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust.

COMMENTARY:

John Justus Landsberg (c.1489-1539)

Everything the Lord Jesus decided to do, everything he chose to endure, was ordained by him for our instruction, our correction, and our advantage; and since he knew that the teaching and consolation we should derive from it all was far from negligible, he was loath to let slip any opportunity that might profit us.

The Lord desires the newly baptized and recent converts to find comfort in his own example.

And so when he was led out into the wilderness there is no doubt that his guide was the Holy Spirit whose intention was to take him to a place where he would be exposed to temptation, a place where the devil would have the audacity to accost him and put him to the test.

The circumstances were so greatly in the devil's favour that he was prompted to capitalize on them: here was Jesus alone, at prayer, physically worn out by fasting and abstinence. A chance indeed to find out whether this man really was the Christ, whether or not he was the Son of God

From this episode therefore our first lesson is that human life on earth is a life of warfare, and the first thing Christians must expect is to be tempted by the devil. As Scripture tells us, we have to be prepared for temptation, for it is written: "When you enter God's service, prepare your soul for an ordeal."

For this reason, the Lord desires the newly baptized and recent converts to find comfort in his own example. Christ too was tempted by the devil immediately after he was baptized. They will not grow fainthearted and fearful if they experience keener temptations from the devil after their conversion or baptism than before—even if persecution should be their lot.

Christ desires to impress upon us a second lesson. We should not lightly expose ourselves to temptation, for we read that it was the Holy Spirit who led Jesus into the wilderness. Mindful of our frailty rather, we must be on the watch, praying not to be put to the test, and keeping ourselves clear of every occasion of temptation.

Complete Works, 1888, 1:120.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS by Fr John:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we commence our Lenten journey once again this year, let us strive to make these 40 days at time of conversion in our lives. Let us reflect on those things in our lives which block us from a closer relationship with Jesus; and let's aim to do something about turning ourselves around to face the right road that leads to Him. Let's utilise the great Christian traditions of Penance and Sacrifice to aid us in this journey towards the Lord. Let's recommit ourselves to seeking the healing touch of the Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; in making amends in practical and concrete ways for past hurts. And in this coming week, let's begin our Lenten season by reflecting on the depth of meaning in Jesus' initial Gospel proclamation: "Repent and Believe in the Good News!"

NOTES FROM FR JOHN:

***I am pleased to announce that the new Parish Secretary for both Sacred Heart Parish, Blackheath, and St Mary of the Cross Mackillop Parish, Upper Blue Mountains is Christine Burke. Christine, with her husband Dominic, are members of Sacred Heart Parish; and their children attended St Canice's school. I look forward to working with Christine in her new role of service for both parish communities.

***Although we no longer HAVE to wear masks at Mass, I still think it is a wise thing to do. I intend to continue to wear a mask while giving out Communion. After all, the 2 square metre rule allows more people into our churches, but sometimes this conflicts with the 1.5m social distancing rule. We need to do our best to remain safe. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL THIS LENT!

PARISH FUNDRAISING: "Easter hamper raffle". Anyone who wants to donate any items towards the raffle please ring Barbra on 47842473 or Matalena 0459656657

LENTEN GROUPS:

TUESDAYS in St Canice's Hall Commencing 16/2

Time: 9:30-11am

Group facilitator: Pam Le Breton

WEDNESDAYS commencing 17/2

Afternoon group 2pm

Evening group 7:30pm

Location: 3 Easter Street Leura

Groups facilitator: Barbara Davidson

Each participant will receive a Lenten Programme book. Suggested donation \$5 per book to help cover costs. Lenten group sign up sheets will appear beginning Saturday Vigil 13th February at the back of the church for people to join their preferred Lenten group. If you prefer to have the Lenten programme book for personal prayer and reflection during Lent you are welcome to request them from the parish office once groups have been finalised.

SUNDAY MASS: Due to an easing of covid-19 restrictions you no longer need to book to come to Sunday Mass. You will still, however, need to sign on when you arrive and observe social distancing requirements. Attendance is on a first come first served basis. Masks are recommended but no longer required.

ALTAR SERVERS: If you would like to serve contact Hugh Jones on 0402 904 681.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL: If you are a parishioner (or visitor) who would like a rostered holy hour each week or to be on the temporary fill in list, please contact Jacquie on 0405 600 155 to register your details, many thanks!

FINANCES: If you would like to contribute to the 2nd Collection for the parish: Bank Transfer: BSB 067 950 Account 000 00594 Name: Mary MacKillop Parish Reference: Surname and envelope number or Parish Donation (with or without surname if preferred).

If parishioners would like to contribute to the First Collection for the clergy of the diocese: BSB 067 950 Account No 00004265 Account Name Diocesan Clergy Reference either the Parish Name or the parish code 6038

ROSARY AND OTHER DEVOTIONS: Ad Jesum per Mariam.		
SAT and SUN: 4:10pm, Leura.		
MON: after 8:30am Mass, Katoomba.		
TUE: 4:30pm Divine Mercy, Rosary and Exposition, Leura.		
WED: after 8:30am Mass, Wentworth Falls.		
THU: after 8:30am Mass, Leura.		
FRI: 11:30am before Mass, Katoomba.		
FRI: 5pm Divine Mercy Hour, Leura.		
SAT: 8:30am before Mass and also after Benediction following Mass, Katoomba.		
ADORATION CHAPEL: 9am Monday - 9am Saturday, Katoomba.		
SUNDAY MASS TIMES	WEEKDAY MASS TIMES	CONFESSION TIMES
You need to book Sunday	MON: 8:30am* Katoomba	TUE 4:45-5:00pm Leura
Leura 5pm (Saturday)	TUE: 5:15pm Leura	SAT: 9:30am Katoomba
Wentworth Falls 8am	WED: 8:30am W-Falls	SAT: 4:30-4:45pm Leura
Katoomba 10am	THU: 8:30am Leura	Confessions are always
Leura 5pm	FRI: 12pm Katoomba	available on request.
*10am on public holidays	SAT: 9am Katoomba	



MASS OFFERING INTENTIONS: DECEASED and ANNIVERSARIES: NORA HAGAR, ALLAN LEATHWOOD, PHILOMENA GABRIEL, MAUREEN KELLY, RONALD JOHN DYCO, and all the faithful departed especially those for whom you requested prayers and masses AND THE FORGOTTEN SOULS IN PURGATORY. **SICK LIST:** Eleanor Hagor, Monique Haulber, Marie Thuez, Mary Sullivan, Kathleen Hayes-Gilson, Evelyn Maw, Wanda HOFFENAN, Mary Roberts, Jacquelin Singh, Kath Paine, June Way, Robert Sullivan, Natale Assanti, Susan Keegel, Eugenio Natonton, Emiliania Santiago, Pat Coyne, Inga Morphet, Amanda Peters, Alison Michaels, Aimee De la Motte, Lorraine Russelle, Margaret Murphy, Joan Nolan, Pat Wolthers, Tricia Hogan, Shiela Page, Sr Jeanie Heining-er, Michelle Scully, Julie Walss, Edwin Wulff

PARISH OFFICE: 158 Katoomba Street, Katoomba 2780
Postal Address: P.O. Box 526, Katoomba NSW 2780
Phone: (02) 4782 2804 Hours: 10am-3pm Tuesday-Friday.
Parish Email address: bluemountains@parracatholic.org
After Hours Emergency Number: 0428 878 810 Calls only; no

Weddings: Please call Parish Office for details. **Baptisms:** upon request.
Parish Website at: www.bluemountainscatholic.org.au
Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluemountainscatholic
Parish School: St Canice's Catholic Primary School, Katoomba.
Principal: Ms. Miriam Meaney

LENT: PRAY + FAST + GIVE.

LENTEN ABSTINENCE: Every Friday in Lent, those aged 14 or above are required to abstain from eating meat in honour of the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday. This abstinence from meat includes soups or gravies made from meat but not fish.

"In Latin the word used to describe what kind of meat is not permitted on Fridays is *carnis*, and specifically relates to "animal flesh" and never included fish as part of the definition. Also, fish in these cultures was not considered a "celebratory" meal and was more of a penance to eat (*aleteia.org*)."

FASTING: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, those aged 18-59 are required to fast. This means on these days one eats only one meal and two smaller meals. The two smaller meals should not exceed the main meal in quantity when combined. Water and medicine may be had as needed. Those who are sick, frail or pregnant are excused from the fast or abstinence.

FRIDAY PENANCE: Each Friday, those aged 14 or above are required to do some form of penance. Customarily this means refraining from eating meat. Outside of Lent, however, other penances can be substituted such as prayer, self-denial and helping others.

Prayer: e.g., Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary.

Self-denial: e.g., not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink.

Helping others: e.g., special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened. "The divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance (Canon Law 1249)."

SAINTS THIS WEEK: Ora pro nobis.

MON: St. Peter's Chai
TUE: St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr.
NEXT SUN: 2nd Sunday of Lent.