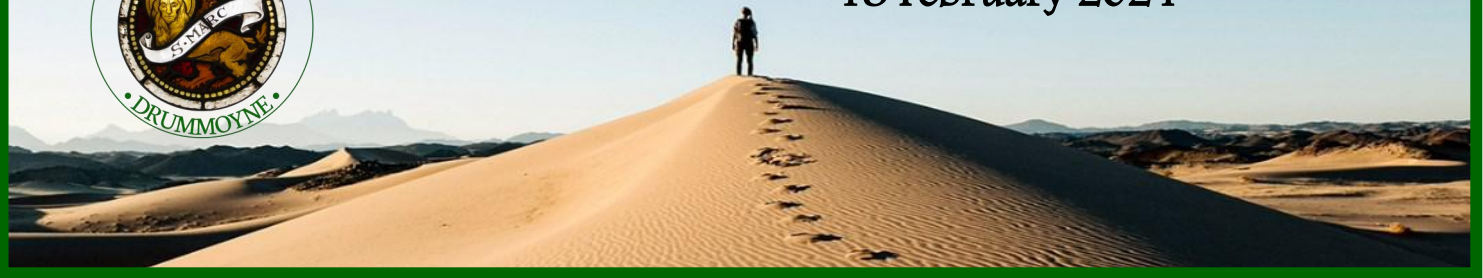


"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days."

Mark 1:12

# First Sunday of Lent - Quadragesima Sunday 18 February 2024



### MESSAGE FROM FR MICHAEL

Our first Sunday Lenten Gospel is a very direct and succinct text from our Patron St Mark. He certainly does not waste a word. He is direct, challenging, and blunt. He confronts evil directly and proclaims the reality and calls us all to repent and believe in the Gospel. The context is the time he spent in the desert and the arrest of John the Baptist.

Jesus takes up the preaching and teaching of John and preaches the 'time of fulfillment, the closeness and reality of the 'kingdom' and the actions needed of repentance and belief. What is it we need to repent of? What are we called to believe in? These are the questions we need to ask and reflect on during this Lent. They are challenging and searching questions for us as individuals and as a community.

Please take up the opportunities offered by the Parish this Lent for Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving that we might be truly ready to celebrate the life-giving Death and glorious Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Yours, in the Lord Jesus, Fr Michael



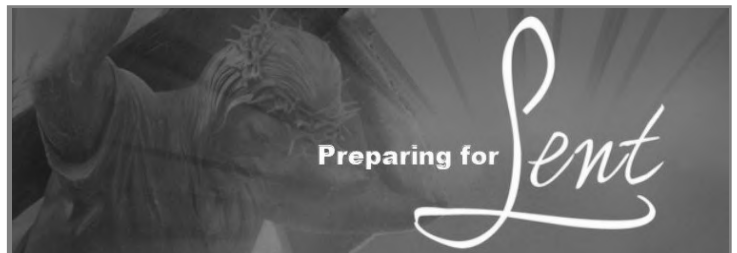
### YEAR 1 FAMILY MASS

Next week we welcome all our families to Year 1 Family Mass

**Sunday 9:00am**

**25 February 2024**

Followed by morning tea in the Parish gardens.



### SUNDAY - 18 FEBRUARY

Following our 9:00am Mass join Fr Michael for Lenten scripture looking in depth at the gospels of Lent.

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN GROUP:

*Repent & Believe Lenten Group*

**Hosted by Lyn** 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

*First session 21 February*

### THURSDAY LENTEN GROUP:

*Repent & Believe Lenten Group*

**Hosted by Matthew** 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

*First Session 22 February*



### FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Every Friday following 8:00am Mass at St Mark's Church.

### FRIDAY TWILIGHT CANDLELIGHT REFLECTION

Prayer and Silent Reflection with the opportunity for the Sacrament of Penance.

### TWILIGHT CANDLELIGHT LENT REFLECTION

Friday's during Lent - 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
St Mark's Church

Evening Prayer  
Adoration  
Silent Reflection  
The Sacrament of Penance  
is available  
Prayer of the Night



*Stillness and motion during the weeks of Lent offers us rich moments to strengthen our commitment and our faith.*

**ALL WELCOME**  
Friday 16 & 23 February  
Friday 1, 8, 15 & 22 March

**PARISH TENDER:** St Mark's Parish is looking for **General Handyman Services** and **Lawn Moving and Gardening Services** from any parishioner interested or if you know of a recommendation. Contact the Parish Office. Certificate of currency & SWMS required.

## First Sunday of Lent

### Entrance Antiphon

Cf Psalm 90:15-16

**(All)** 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

A reading from the book of Genesis.

*I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood.*

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh."

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25.4-5a, 6+7b, 8-9 (R.10)

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

1. Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation.
2. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. According to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord! **(R.)**
3. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

1 Peter 3.18-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

*The waters of the flood prefigured the baptism which now saves you.*

Christ suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison. In former times these did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4.4

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

# LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

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### Gospel

Mark 1.12-15

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

*Jesus was tempted by Satan; and the angels waited on him*

After Jesus was baptised, the Spirit drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."



### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
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:** As we begin these forty days of Lent let us offer our prayers to the God of mercy.

**Reader:** Let us pray for all the nations and peoples of the earth, that they may work together to protect the gifts of God's creation for the peaceful use of all. **(pause).**

**Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray, that we will generously support Caritas Australia through Project Compassion to enable them to assist vulnerable people around the world, now and for all future generations. **(pause).** **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray for those who gather here, that we will know the Lord more deeply in our Lenten prayer, fasting and works of charity. **(pause).** **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray for those that are sick, that they will be shown the care of this community. **(pause).** **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** Let us pray for the recently deceased and for those whose anniversary occurs at this time, that they will be seated with the risen Christ. **(pause).** **Lord hear us:**

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God our Father, you shower us with mercy and compassion. Hear our prayers and help us to resist temptation and enter into your forgiveness and peace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### Communion Antiphon

Matthew 4:4

**(All)** One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

# St Mark's Lenten Schedule

## † Wednesday 21, 28 February | 6, 13 & 20 March Repent & Believe Lenten Group

Hosted by Lyn Put aside some time to gather with family and reflect the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection. 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available. Come to 1 or all 5

## † Thursday 22, 29 February | 7, 14 & 21 March Repent & Believe Lenten Group

Hosted by Matthew Bring a friend and be filled with the love of God when you gather and reflect the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and Resurrection. Come to 1 or all 5 7:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

## † Friday 16, 23 February | 1, 8, 15 & 22 March Twilight Candlelight Reflection

Begin with Evening Prayer and Adoration, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Silent Reflection, with the Sacrament of Penance available, ending with Prayer of the Night. 7:00pm - 8:00pm St Mark's Church

## † Friday 16, 23 February | 1, 8, 15 & 22 March Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent following the 8:00am Mass.

## † Thursday 21 March - Italian Stations of the Cross

Via Crucis in Italiano Giovedì 21 Marzo 2024  
alle 14:00 Tutti benvenuti - St Mark's Church  
Thursday 21 March 2024 at 2:00pm All Welcome

## † Saturday 17, 24 February | 2, 9, 16 & 23 March The Sacrament of Penance

Confession | Reconciliation will be offered on Saturdays from 11:00am - 11:55am prior to 12 noon Mass.

## † Sunday 18 February & 17 March 2024 A Lenten Conversation

Looking in depth into the scriptures of Lent will help to renew your conversation with God.

Following 9:00am Mass upstairs in the Parish Centre, enter by the side door and a lift is available.

## † Friday 1 March - Autumn Ember Day

This is a special day of prayer and Penance. On this day Australian Bishops recommend penitential practices such as prayer, self-denial and helping others.

Mass at 8:00am Candlelight Reflection at 7:00pm

## † Friday 1 March - World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries. This year hosting the Inner West Community is **Five Dock Drummoyne Uniting Church, Garfield Street, Prayer service at 10:00am**, followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome to join parishioners from all Churches in the area.

## † Tuesday 26 March - 2nd Rite

The Sacrament of Penance "second rite" combines a common preparation with individual confession and absolution. 7:00pm St Mark's Church

## PROJECT COMPASSION PRAYER 2024

God of all hope,  
we pray for our world with all its beauty and need.  
We thank you for the love in our lives that is  
a mirror of your unending love.

May all creation know your compassion this Lent  
and may we take courage to share it, especially with  
those who don't have what they need.

In our time, we hear the same words you spoke to Moses:  
'I will be with you,' when you ask us to do courageous things.

Through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving,  
move us to act in the company of your Spirit,  
showing compassion and acting for justice  
to renew the face of the Earth,  
now and for all future generations.

We ask this in the name of Christ.  
Amen.

Mark's Gospel is bold and challenging. It doesn't beat around the bush. Throughout this year, there will be many Sundays when we really need to tune in because Mark's Gospel doesn't wait for the reader to be ready. It is right in your face, to use a modern expression. Sometimes Mark reminds us of the wise old person who doesn't use many words, but every one of those words counts. There can't be many books of so few pages that have had such a mighty impact on the world.

Today, a few lines tell us that Jesus went into the desert for 40 days and 'was tempted by Satan.' He was 'with the wild beasts', meaning he was vulnerable as he was immersed in the natural world. This was surely an experience of struggle and growth. Then suddenly Jesus discovers that John the Baptist has been arrested. In a few lines, Mark creates the impression of a challenging time.

How did Jesus respond? He seems to have been enlivened, to have decided to create change. He is full of energy and purpose. 'The time has come,' he says. In his vulnerability, he has discovered that 'the kingdom of God is close at hand.'

This year, through Project Compassion, Caritas Australia will ask us to consider several stories of vulnerability and hope in action. Over the coming weeks, we will meet a number of extraordinary women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. They remind us that in many situations around the world, women are the heart of the community and the drivers of change. In each case, a partnership involving Caritas Australia and local agencies has led to new opportunities not just for an individual but for families and communities. The kingdom of God is, indeed, closer than we think. Together with Ronita, Leaia and Memory, our decisions help to bring it to reality around the globe. Perhaps we might spend time with the words of today's Psalm: 'God guides me in the right path; God teaches the Lord's way to the poor.' © Project Compassion Reflection 2024



Ronita (Philippines)



Leaia (Samoa)



Memory (Malawi)

# St Mark's Parish Community



*St Mark's Pot Luck Dinner: Parishioners mentioned they see everyone at Mass each week and greet with a smile and nod but it was lovely to get to meet them. It was such an enjoyable evening that they now have in the diary a Potluck Dinner for each Season. Stay tuned for our Autumn Dinner and join us.*



*Our area Catechist Mass was celebrated by Bishop Danny Meagher held at St Michael's Meadowbank. Our catechist coordinator Nicolina represented St Mark's and enjoyed tea with the Bishop following Mass.*



*Sadly we said farewell to Brother Kelvin who has been a member of the Parish since 1968. Brother Kelvin greeted our 9:00am parishioners weekly and he will be missed. We wish him every blessing in his retirement.*



*Fr Michael gave Brother Kelvin a blessing for his retirement and thanks for his support of our Parish.*

*Brother Kelvin began teaching in 1960 and is Executive Director Emeritus Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Sydney and Honorary Professor Australian Catholic University University of Notre Dame, Australia*

*Thank you to our parishioners who provided their palms from last year to burn for our Ash Wednesday Ashes. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."*



## St Mark's Parish



*A Parish Pastoral Council promotes and supports the evangelising mission and ministry of a Parish, working in collaboration with the Parish Priest to foster the spiritual and pastoral life of all the Christian faithful.*

*The Parish Pastoral Council enables the members of the Parish community to fulfil their baptismal calling to share in Christ's mission and ministry to connect their needs and their strengths with the Parish's plans for the future.*

### **St Mark's Parish Pastoral Council 2024 Members of the Council are:**

#### **Danny Moiso**

*You may notice Danny as a Minister of the Word usually at our 6:00pm Sunday Mass. Danny and his wife Maria have been members of our Parish for many years and Danny has been a member of our Parish Finance Committee.*

#### **Marella Gouvernet**

*Marella is a Minister of the Word and a member of our Drummoyne Vinnies Conference. Marella recently hosted our Summer (first) Potluck Dinner and has now taken on a potluck dinner every season.*

*Stay tuned for our Autumn Dinner details.*

#### **Bernie Armistead**

*Bernie last year led our Rosary evenings and he arranged for our senior parishioners to attend in the Parish Centre our Be Connected digital skills training. Bernie connects and attends many of the Archdiocese of Sydney outreach events that encounters people to bring faith and good works to others.*

#### **Julian and Ashley D'Onofrio**

*Attending Mass with their daughters each week, they married at St Mark's and are members of the parish community.*

*Julian is always helping Fr Michael and Fr Denis with odd jobs especially moving furniture!*

#### **Celine Cheng**

*Celine our Parish Pastoral Chair has guided the Parish through COVID and supported Fr Michael and Fr Denis when needed with liturgical and pastoral events. Celine's term on the PPC as Chair is ending on 31 March and we thank her for her support and offer her every blessing. Celine will still remain a member of our Music Ministry at Mass.*

#### **Lynette Brown**

*Lynette is a long term parishioner of St Mark's who oversees the Parish Finance Committee and supports the PPC.*

*All Parish Mission and Ministry events will be advertised in the Parish Bulletin so look out and introduce yourself to our members as they welcome your support.*

*The next PPC meeting will be held on 29 February.*

### † **Friday 23 February - Catholic Women's League**

St Mark's Catholic Women's League will be holding its opening meeting for the year at 1:00pm upstairs in the Parish Centre after a casual lunch together commencing at 11:30am. BYO Lunch. Come along and meet our branch members who participate in the spiritual and practical aspects while also supporting the work of the Catholic Women's League Australia. The League is a work of faith, and our members are looking forward to welcoming new members. Come along to our meeting and say 'hello'.



### † **Sunday 25 February - Year 1 Family Mass**

St Mark's community invites all Year 1 families to celebrate 9:00am Mass followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome.

### † **Friday 1 March - Autumn Ember Day**

This is a special day of prayer and Penance the Australian Bishops recommends penitential practices such as prayer, self-denial and helping others.

### † **Friday 1 March - World Day of Prayer**

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. This year hosting the Inner West Community is **Five Dock Drummoyne Uniting Church, Garfield Street, Prayer service at 10:00am**, followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome to join parishioners from all Churches in the area.

### † **Sunday 10 March - Kindergarten Family Mass**

St Mark's community invites all our new Kindergarten families to celebrate 9:00am Mass followed by Morning Tea. All Welcome.

### † **Saturday 16 March - St Mark's Primary School Easter Fete**

St Mark's community are invited to come and enjoy rides stalls and food at our annual Easter fete. All Welcome.

### † **Monday 18 March - St Patrick**

O God, who choose the Bishop Saint Patrick to preach your glory to the peoples of Ireland, grant, through his merits and intercession, that those who glory in the name of Christian, may never cease to proclaim your wondrous deeds to all. Mass at 8:00am

### † **Tuesday 19 March - St Joseph**

The Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Grant, we pray, almighty God, that by Saint Joseph's intercession your Church may constantly watch over the unfolding of the mysteries of human salvation, whose beginnings you entrusted to his faithful care. Mass at 9:30am

## St Mark's Parish

*United in Baptism, Nourished by the Eucharist,  
Guided by the Holy Spirit,  
We Form a Vibrant and Caring Community,  
Living and Proclaiming the Gospel,  
Reaching Out to Those in Need,  
Journeying Together, Growing in Faith.*



*In your love and concern, please pray for all the sick and vulnerable members of our St Mark's community:*

Margaret Smith, Brian Gallagher, Dante Ferzoco, Egidio Ettorre, Looi Im Heok, Christiane Biady, Anne Johnson, Lucie Betteto, Isobel Boccalatte, Pat Crowe, Fay O'Halloran, Santa Iacono,

Bishop Peter Ingham, Pat Kenna, Wendy Madden, Lina Giannandrea, Patricia Ryan, Patricia Ficarra, Milly Di Blasio, Immaculata Di Palma, Giuseppina Pinto and Rocco Zoccali.

*God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. ~Amen~*



**Remembering those who have gone before us.**

Monica Fernon, Isidoro D'Urso, Guistina Russo, Giuseppe, Gennaro, Michele and Umberto Ferraro, Fr Terence Purcell, Giuseppe (Pino) Lorzio, Annie Nicholson, Cecilia Chye, Michele and Margherita Maldarella and Agnes Fernandez.

**Recently Deceased.** Ken Short and Peter Tunchon. *May all the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

**Pray Pope Francis Intention for the month February**

*Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this monthly intention.*

**For the terminally ill**

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment. Amen.



Would you like to serve the Lord and keep his house clean and tidy?

**We require volunteers for Altar Society.**

Spend some quiet reflective time in the Church while serving the Lord.

Times flexible, we ask you to team up with a friend (it takes 2) and sign up with the parish office or speak with Fr Michael.



*The Stations of the Cross*

**FRIDAYS DURING LENT  
Following 8:00am Mass**

This Lenten devotion offers witness to Jesus' Passion and Death, at each station we use our senses and our imagination to reflect prayerfully upon Jesus' suffering, Death, and Resurrection, and to experience the visual images to reflect on Christ's love for us.

**St Mark's Drummoyne Masses**

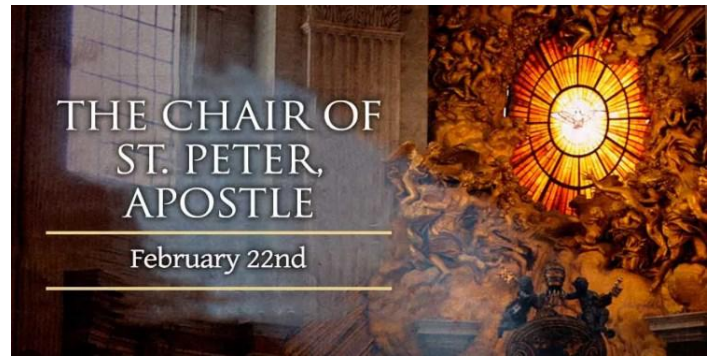
Monday & Friday 8:00am  
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30am  
Wednesday 7:30am



Saturday 12 noon  
Saturday Reconciliation 11:30am - 11:55am

Saturday Vigil 5:30pm  
Sunday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Scan the QR code to donate to support the Ministry and Mission of our Parish.



**THE CHAIR OF  
ST. PETER,  
APOSTLE**

February 22nd



**RCIA**  
*A Journey of Faith*

**AN INVITATION  
THAT NEVER ENDS**

\* Have you been worshipping with us, but never officially taken the step to become Catholic?

\* Have you been away from the Church, and have now returned, but want to know more?

\* Have you been a Catholic all your life, but never celebrated all the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist)?

\* Have you been baptised; but have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Holy Communion?

\* Have you joined us from a different background and would like to find out more about the Catholic Church?

If you ("or someone you know") answers YES to any of these questions, you are invited to find out more through process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

It is a journey that begins with your questions. The invitation is open.

On behalf of the Catholic community of St. Marks, we look forward to welcoming you. For more details email [pa@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](mailto:pa@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)

**St Mark's Catholic Parish**

33 Tranmere Street, Drummoyne NSW 2047  
Tel: (02) 9181 1795

Email: [admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](mailto:admin@stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)

Parish Website: [www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au](http://www.stmarksdrummoyne.org.au)



**St Mark's Church Hearing Loop installed**

Parish Bulletin: we ask that you take home your bulletin, do not put it back for others or leave it on the pew for others to pick up.

**Parish Priest:** Fr Michael McLean PP  
**Priest in Residence:** Fr Denis Minns OP  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr Antonia Nedu ISR  
**Chair Parish Pastoral Council:** Ms Celine Cheng  
**School Principal:** Mrs Melissa Lentini

Masks are recommended, thank you for social distancing, please respect the sacredness of our church and remember to turn off your phone during the Mass.

St Mark's Parish, Drummoyne acknowledges the Wangal people, one of 29 tribes of the Eora nation and the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them and for their care of the land. May we walk gently and respectfully upon the land.



# The Living Word

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

18 February 2024

**Gospel Reflection:** The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start, a clean slate, for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding. In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

**Have you thought? Temptation?** When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph's carpentry business and not respond to God's call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

**Living the Gospel – Change of heart** Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural, to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

**Historical Context – The Wilderness** The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

#### Questions?

- Q. What does the image of the wilderness mean to you?
- Q. When have you felt that you were in a desert period of your life?
- Q. How do you prepare yourself for something that you know is going to be challenging?

**Learning moments:** Lent is a season of preparation looking towards the celebration of Easter. Traditionally, people 'prepared themselves' by making sacrifices or giving up certain activities or foods for the period of Lent. Prepare a personal list of ways in which you can use this season effectively to prepare for the Easter celebration.

© Greg Sunter



## First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges, but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow *for all future generations*. Meet Ronita from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezon City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet Leaia from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions. Meet Memory from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.



THE Catholic Weekly



- \* Jesus takes the wheel for Croatian car pilgrimage.
- \* Bob's Back! Return of the National Civic Council.
- \* Simcha Fisher on celebrity conversions.

# \$2

Available in the Church foyer

# Forty days in the desert



1st Sunday of Lent, Year B

## My Lenten Promises

Prayer
Fasting
Charity



Join up the fruit to complete the text maze:  
"Lead us not into temptation."



Sydney Catholic Schools Week

## OPEN DAYS

**Tuesday 5 March**  
8.30am-11.00am

**Wednesday 6 March**  
2.00pm-5.00pm

**Thursday 7 March**  
2.00pm-3.00pm

**Friday 8 March**  
8.30am-11.00am

**ST MARK'S PRIMARY**



## Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| angels  | desert  | John    |
| animals | forty   | kingdom |
| believe | Galilee | news    |
| day     | good    | wild    |

E J P F N K Q G A L I L E E F  
 C Q N D E S E R T K G T G P O  
 B L P Q X Q L H D A Y S N J R  
 E X L P F D X B U L R I P U T  
 L L X S L N D T G F K K H R Y  
 I U D M Q W I L D O G O O D X  
 E P Z T S H M R X G N E W S M  
 V Q G E I J K I N G D O M F B  
 E S O A N G E L S L P C K W P  
 T Z I L M R S P J H O Z U U M  
 W Q L B I U F Y O I E P A W P  
 G L O N K Z U T H C J B S I Z  
 M Z F Q N K O T N X M B S T C  
 X Z N X O X A N I M A L S W W

**ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024 & 2025**



**St Mark's**  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
DRUMMOYNE

Apply online: [stmdrummoynesyd.catholic.edu.au](http://stmdrummoynesyd.catholic.edu.au)  
 Email: [info@stmdrummoynesyd.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stmdrummoynesyd.catholic.edu.au)  
 Phone: 9181 3042

## ST MARK'S PLAYGROUP

JOIN IN THE FUN!  
 EVERY FRIDAY 9.00-10.30am

Children from 0-5 years and parents please meet us in the school hall

**ALL WELCOME!**

For further information call the school office: (02) 9181 3042



**A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:** Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police. **Website:** [Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection](http://Archdiocese of Sydney Safeguarding and Child Protection)