

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
26 FEBRUARY 2023 YEAR A/1

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. [Matthew 4:1-2](#)

“Forty” is a significant number. In Scripture, it is used more than 145 different times. For example, the rain during the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights. Each time Moses went up Mount Sinai, he remained there for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven. And there are many other uses of “forty” throughout the Bible. Interestingly, forty is even significant within human nature, in that we develop within our mother’s womb for forty weeks before being born.

The “forty” that we commemorate today is the forty days and forty nights that our Lord spent in the desert being tempted by the devil while He fasted and prayed. Forty is used to symbolize a time of testing, purification, trial or probation. For that reason, it should also be seen as a symbol of your entire life here on earth. In Saint Matthew’s version of Jesus’ temptation in the desert, He specifically uses the wording “forty days *and* forty nights.” Saint Bede, in commenting upon this, points out that this period of time not only symbolizes our entire lives, but the “days” represent the many graces and blessings we receive, while the “nights” represent the crosses we endure.

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is important to once again apply the lessons of Jesus’ time in the desert to our entire lives. Let’s consider two lessons we can take from the passage quoted above. First, we see that Jesus was “led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” This teaches us that Jesus not only endured temptation, He confronted it. He was not afraid of the devil and did not fear his attacks. Instead, He willingly faced those temptations, being led by the Spirit, so as to not only overcome them in His life but also to enable us to confront, in our lives, every temptation by the power and initiative of the Holy Spirit. We must never be afraid to confront temptations directly and confidently when the Holy Spirit is in the lead.

A second important lesson is that Jesus voluntarily fasted during this time in the desert. This illustrates the importance of the virtue of temperance in life. If we see this period of forty as a symbol of our whole lives, then we will understand that temperance must always be part of our lives. When we experience the joys and blessings of life (the forty days), we must certainly celebrate them. But we must always do so with a certain self-denial, in that we must never allow the passing things of this world to become the primary satisfaction we seek. Saint John of the Cross teaches that we can even become overly attached to spiritual consolations. Conversely, when we experience the crosses of life (the forty nights), we must also practice a certain self-denial, in that we must not allow the difficulties we endure to discourage us or to distract us from seeking out and fulfilling the will of God. Fasting, meaning our acquisition of the virtue of temperance, must lead us always through the ups and downs of life, helping us to keep our eyes on the truths God has revealed to us and rejecting the lies of the devil.

Reflect, today, upon the importance of embracing the virtue of temperance with courage throughout life. Throughout life’s many ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, confronting every circumstance with courage and self-control. Reflect upon any ways that you struggle with the crosses you endure or excessively cling to the consolations of life. Seek to embrace the road of virtue this Lent in imitation of Jesus’ forty days and nights in the desert.

My temperate and courageous Lord, You confronted all temptation with courage and strength. You fasted throughout the forty days and forty nights so as to teach us how to navigate the ups and downs of life. Please give me the virtues of temperance and courage, and bestow the Holy Spirit upon me so that I may follow You into the desert of my own life. Jesus, I trust in You.

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Readings Second Sunday of Lent 5 March 2023
Genesis 12:1-4; Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Timothy 1:8-10;
Matthew 17:1-9

Lenten Program

Come and join us for an opportunity to reflect on ourselves, our community and our Church as we prepare this Lent for Easter

Every Tuesday for 6 weeks starting 28 February
9.30 am Mary Immaculate Church meeting room
tea & coffee available

It will be conducted by
Yuri Koszarycz

a long serving parishioner and
a teacher of Theology at ACU for 30 years

LENTEN SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

During Lent this year the following devotional activities are available to enrich your Lenten preparation for Easter.

EVERY TUESDAY to WEDNESDAY : GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

1.00pm Tuesday-1.00pm Wednesday: 24 Hour Vigil Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer
12.20pm Wednesday: Rosary & Confession
12.50pm Wednesday: Benediction

EVERY THURSDAY: MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH

7.45am – 8.45am: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer & Benediction
9.00am: Holy Mass
6.00pm: Stations of the Cross

EVERY FRIDAY: GUARDIAN ANGELS CHURCH

11.30am -12.30pm: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, silent prayer, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross with scriptural meditations.
12.30pm: Holy Mass

2023 Reconciliation Program



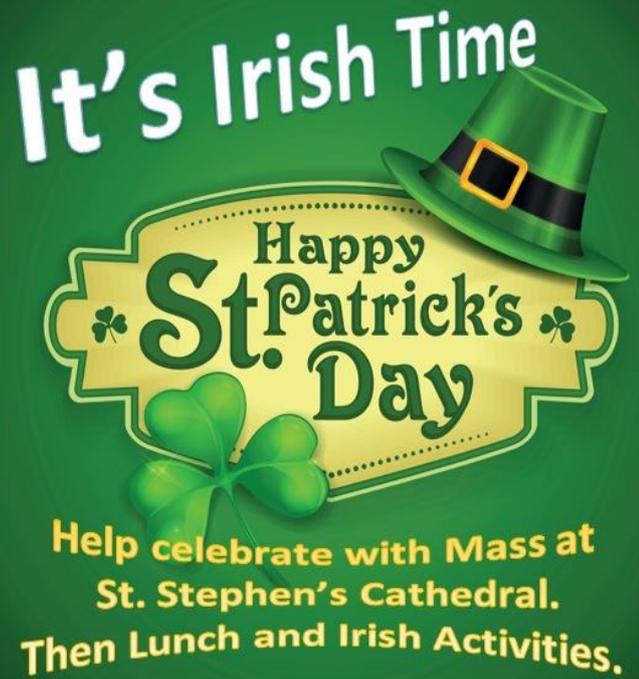
Children's 2nd Workshop

Wednesday 1 March @ 4.00pm to 5.30pm
at Mary Immaculate

Reconciliation (1st Rite)

Wednesday 15 March @ 4.30pm to 5.30pm
Thursday 16 March @ 4.00pm to 5.00pm

If you have any queries please contact
Lisa Perkins on 5510 2222 ext 3 or
sacramental@scp.org.au



SCL

Social - Bus Trip

Let's all be Irish on the 17 March.

SCL invites everyone to join us on this wonderful green day with a bus trip to Brisbane. There you will participate in Mass at St. Stephen's Cathedral at 10am where Father Gerard will be the celebrant. Then we head off to Western Rugby Football Club Toowong for 12noon lunch followed by Irish dancing and entertainment.

As we all know, there are no other peoples who can make merriment and have so much marvellous fun as the Irish.

Please invite your family and friends as all are welcome.

Date: Friday 17 March (**RSVP: Tuesday 7 March**)

Location: The bus will depart and return to Lumen Christi Centre, Labrador (44 Imperial Parade)

Times: 8.30am to 4.30pm

Cost: \$25.00 for bus hire (dependent on numbers). Lunch and drinks are at your expense.

As with all SCL events, bookings are essential.

To register, email Christine Wintour at **winlock2@hotmail.com**

or to get further details, please contact her by mobile on **0431 630 446**.

Lent is a time of grace, a
time to convert and live
out our baptism fully.

Pope Francis

STOPLINE receives information about suspected abuse,
(information can be provided anonymously)
misconduct & serious policy breaches by Archdiocesan clergy, employees or volunteers.

PHONE: 1300 304 550 EMAIL: aob@stopline.com.au

ONLINE: www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR)

Kerri Kleidon

Our Parish has implemented the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults policy. We are committed to high standards of recruitment, screening and selection of all our employees and volunteers and undertake intentional strategies to maintain a safe and healthy ministry environment for all.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Elaine Lucas, Barry Gaudry

By request, the names of our sick and deceased family and friends will be recorded in these books in each church

Please pray for all whose names are recorded in the Books of Remembrance



Please come and join us at the Marian Valley Church for the feast of Our Lady of Fatima on the 13.03.2023. The bus will be picking up at 8.15 am at the Sacred Heart Church Clear Island Waters. The Cost for the bus fare \$25.00 return. You can secure your seat with contact name and contact phone number with Xavier Solomon 0404 843 260, Madeleine on 0405 252 367 or 5529 1573,.

All are welcome.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Xavier on 0404 843 260.



World Day of Prayer 2023

The World Day of Prayer service will be held at Mary Immaculate Church on Friday 3 March at 10.00am

The theme for this year is ***I have heard about your faith***
It will be prepared by the women of Taiwan

There will be morning tea available after the service
We would appreciate it if you could also bring a plate to share
For more information please contact Carmel Donaghy on 5594 0719



Anointing of the Sick

On the 1st Thursday of each month at Mary Immaculate 9.00am Mass we will be celebrating the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick



First Sunday of Lent 25 & 26 February



After losing her father when she was just 10-years-old, Laxmi was at risk of falling further into extreme poverty. But with the support of our partner Caritas Nepal, Laxmi joined a child's club, became a leader in her school and is now a mentor to other children in her village.



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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

St Joseph the Worker Church

44 Imperial Parade, Labrador

Sunday Mass

8.00am

Weekday Masses

Monday & Wednesday 7.00am

1st Wednesday 7.00pm

1st Saturday 9.00am

Rosary

Monday & Wednesday 6.00am

1st Wednesday 6.00pm

1st Saturday 8.30am

Novena

Wednesday 6.00pm

Guardian Angels Church

99 Scarborough Street, Southport

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Reconciliation Saturday 4.30pm

Saturday (Vigil) 5.30pm

Sunday 7.00am & 9.00am

Korean Mass

Sunday 3.30pm

한인미사 일요일 오후 3시 30분

Filipino Mass

1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration

Wednesday 12.00pm

Rosary & Mass

Friday 12.00pm



Mary Immaculate Church

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore

Saturday & Sunday Masses

Saturday (Vigil) 4.30pm

Sunday 9.30am & 5.30pm

Weekday Masses

Tuesday & Thursday 9.00am

Adoration & Rosary

Tuesday & Thursday 7.45am

Gold Coast University Hospital

Rosary & Mass

Friday 10.00am

PARISH CONTACTS

Ph 07 5510 2222

<https://scp.org.au>

Parish office Ashmore

9.00am-3.00pm

31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish office Southport & Gift Shop

9.00am-4.30pm

115 Scarborough Street, Southport, 4215

Office Support

Catherine Francis E: parish@scp.org.au

Finance Officer

Therese Rogers E: accounts@scp.org.au

Sacramental Coordinator

Lisa Perkins E: sacramental@scp.org.au

Associate Pastor

Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Parish Priest

Fr Gerard McMorrow PP

Personal Assistant

Fiona Mahoney