FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
22 FEBRUARY 2026 YEAR A

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.

Homily by Fr Richard Leonard SJ

DONATIONS TO PHILERMOS HOUSE, DAVENPORT STREET SOUTHPORT through the Order of Malta can be made several ways:

- Online through our secure payment facility

Direct Deposit to BSB: 083 453 Acct: 44888 1897

Please use 'Southport' as the description and email info@orderofmalta.org.au details to obtain a tax-deductible receipt

- **Phone** by calling 02 9331 8477 - please note the office is closed weekends.
- **Post** with cheques payable to '*Order of Malta*' and sent to Philermos House, Order of Malta, PO Box 79, Caringbah NSW 1495

Readings - Second Sunday Of Lent - 1 March 2026
Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 32: 4-5. 18-20. 22; 2 Timothy 1:8-10; Matthew 17:1-9

Social - Bus Trip

Let's all be Irish on the 17 March 2026.

Come and join us on St Patrick's Day starting with a bus journey to participate in Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral at 10.00am. Father Gerard will be the celebrant and the Mass includes Irish bagpipes. Morning tea next to the Cathedral is included after our spiritual celebration.

Then we head off to Western Districts Rugby Football Club Toowong for a 12 Noon lunch followed by Irish dancing and entertainment. On the way there and home, test your wits by joining in some Irish Trivia, receive prizes including the best Irish outfit and lucky seat. It will be a wonderful spiritual excursion with lots of Irish frivolity.

Please invite your family and friends as all are welcome.

Date:	Tuesday 17 March (RSVP: Monday 2 March)
Location:	The bus will depart and return to St Joseph the Worker Church, Labrador (44 Imperial Parade).
Times:	8.15am for prompt departure at 8.30am and returning at about 4.30pm
Cost:	$30 for bus hire (dependent on numbers). Lunch and drinks are at your expense.

As with all SCL events, bookings are essential. To register, email John Wintour at winlock1@optusnet.com.au or to get further details, please contact Christine by mobile on 0431 630 446.

FLOCKNOTE
NEW PARISH REGISTRATION
Stay connected

We kindly invite you to register at your earliest convenience via our parish website https://scp.org.au or by scanning the QR code.

RECONCILIATION PROGRAM 2026

Confirmation – Reconciliation – First Holy Communion

Families of children who received Confirmation in 2025 are invited to enrol in the 2026 Reconciliation Program. To register, parents are asked to contact the parish office on 5510 2222.

First Reconciliation Celebration

Wednesday, 18 March 2026 at 5.00pm Mary Immaculate

Parent Information Session will instead be held on:

- **Sunday, 22 February at 10.45am**, or
- **Wednesday, 25 February at 4.30pm**,

at Mary Immaculate Church. Parents are required to attend **one** of these sessions.

Mass Attendance for Children

Children participating in the program are expected to attend Mass on the following weekends:

- **21–22 February**
- **28 February–1 March**
- **7–8 March**
- **14–15 March**

Lent Pastoral Letter 2026

Archbishop Shane Mackinlay

"There have been significant changes for us in the Archdiocese of Brisbane over the last year. Shortly after Easter last year, Pope Leo XIV succeeded Pope Francis, and then in September I took up my new ministry as Archbishop of Brisbane. Last week, Pope Leo issued his first Message for Lent, in which he reflects on three themes: listening, fasting and our shared journey together……Let us pray for them and be inspired by them throughout this Season of Lent, as we all seek to be renewed in listening and responding to one another and to the Word of God".

A full copy of Archbishop's letter is available at the front of each church.

PLANNED GIVING PROGRAM SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH
New Program starts on the 1 April 2026

If you would like to be part of the Planned Giving Program **please contact the Parish Office 5510 2222 Wednesday-Friday 9.00am to midday. Email: accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**
In making a commitment to be part of our planned giving program you are directly supporting and enabling the maintenance and growth of our parish's mission. Thank you Fr Gerard

HELP SUPPORT SOUTHPORT CATHOLIC PARISH OFFICE If you're looking for a simple but meaningful way to help ease the parish's day-to-day needs, consider donating a ream of A3 paper. This small gesture can make a big difference in supporting the parish's administrative work. **Donations can be dropped off at any of our three churches or the Parish Office Monday to Friday, between 9.00am and midday, thank you.**

Cards & Gifts for SALE
All reduced

IN MARY IMMACULATE HALL
$1 - $2 - $5

Please select your items and place your money in the box provided or pay at the piety stall. Thank you.

Journey with us this Lent
A Lenten opportunity for Spiritual Renewal
Eucharistic Theology-Presenter: Fr John Madden

More detailed information can be found at the entrance of each church.

Wednesdays: 7.00pm
Dates: 25 February, 4 March, 11 March, 18 March
Venue: Lumen Christi Centre, Labrador

Saturdays: at 9.30am
Dates: 28 February, 7 March, 14 March, 21 March
Venue: Mary Immaculate Hall, Ashmore

All are warmly invited to participate in this enriching Lenten programme. A contribution of **$10 per session** is appreciated.

Thank you to the parishioners who have registered.
There is still time to register.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Guardian Angels Church, Southport

Each Thursday noon to Friday

ending with mass at 12.30pm

24 hour adoration

Mary Immaculate Church, Ashmore

Thursday 7.45am- 8.30am

Please help us by committing to a time either on Thursday or Friday. SMS our Timetable master on 0402812832 or email adorationgc@gmail.com

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

ANNIVERSARIES

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE BOOK OF THE SICK

Each Church has both these books on display.
If you would like to include a name in either of the books, please seek approval from the parish office on 5510 2222.

PIETY STALLS

Southport Catholic Parish has three Piety Stalls**.**
Your support would be greatly appreciated.
Guardian Angels Church - open after the 9.00am mass each Sunday.
Mary Immaculate Church - open after all masses. Also open first and third Saturday of each month at 10.30am pending baptisms.
St Joseph's the Worker Church - open after 8.00am mass each Sunday.

GREAT NEWS Eftpos now available at St Joseph's the Worker

Each piety stall offers baptism candles, rosary beads, statues, prayer cards and other items for sale.

World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**

Service date	FRIDAY 6th MARCH
Location	SOUTHPORT UNITING CHURCH
Address	23 SHORT SOUTHPORT
Time	10. AM.
Contact	LIZ 0409 664590

PARISH WALKING GROUP

meets every Saturday at 6.00am at St Joseph the Worker Church.
Contact Janeece on 0408 763 772

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

STOPLINE receives reports of suspected abuse, misconduct, or serious policy breaches involving Archdiocesan clergy, employees, or volunteers (reports may be anonymous). We uphold zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk. Our parish follows the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Framework, with strong recruitment, screening, and ongoing practices to ensure a safe ministry environment .Our Local Safeguarding Representative (LSR) is **Catherine - safeguarding.southport@bne.catholic.net.au**
07 5510 2222 / 1300 304 550
aob@stopline.com.au
www.bnecatholic.stoplinereport.com

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

Filipino Mass
1st Sunday 12.00pm

Prayer & Adoration
Thursday 12.00 noon (24 hours)

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

Korean Mass
Sunday 3.00pm
한인미사 일요일 오후 3시

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
Webpage: https://scp.org.au

safeguarding.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Parish Office Ashmore
Monday to Friday 9.00am-12.00pm
31 Edmund Rice Drive, Ashmore, 4214

Parish Reception/Secretary
parish.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Sacramental Programme
sacramental.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Finance Officer
accounts.southport@bne.catholic.net.au

Associate Pastor
Fr John Hong Xuan Nguyen (Hospital Chaplaincy)

Parish Priest
Fr Gerard McMorrow PP