

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

10th February 2008

THEME: Matthew 4: 1-11

Jesus entered the desert before beginning his mission. Together with Christians everywhere, let us resolve to dwell in the desert of Lent, fasting from distraction, sharing with the poor and supporting each other by our prayers.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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!

TEMPTATIONS

Voices of temptation came to Jesus when he was vulnerable, just as they come to us at church. The voices nagged when he was hungry, alone and searching for the strength to do what he was realising God was calling him to do. Voices of seduction goaded him to use his power to satisfy himself ("Command these stones to become loaves of bread"); put God to the test ("Throw yourself down"); and divide his loyalties between God and Satan so as to amass more power ("All these kingdoms of the world shall I give you if...you worship me").

Quoting three times from the Bible, Deuteronomy, Jesus refuted the voices of temptation and seduction with the word of God. With each quotation (about bread, testing God and single-hearted worship of God alone), it became clear that Jesus was not alone in the desert as his tempter supposed. Nor is the church alone in what often seems like a desert of immorality, greed, unbridled lust for power and rife injustice. In quoting from the sacred texts, Jesus testified to the fact that his relationship with God the Father and the Holy Spirit strengthened him in all adversity. Through its nearness to God and because of God's promised nearness, we the church too can remain strong in adversity.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Grant spiritual comfort and healing to the sick, especially:

Mollie Higgins, Fr Wilf Plunkett, May Smith, Kristi Cassandra, Kathy Hendry, Cameron Thompson, Betty Hunter, Allanah Barnes, Anthony Gilchrist, Rosel Free, Joe Mullavey, Luke Heffernan, Reece Valta, Sharon

Witteveen, Yela Jankovic, Karl Grlica, Alvin Horn, Fr John Fitzwalter, Kate Cox, Patricia Hamill, Maureen Pidutti, Zoltan Tar, Catherine Mead, Helen Saffrey, Charles Francis, Will Carland, Maureen Fields, Patricia Barber, Patsy Hanley, Ian Walters, Des O'Meara, John Williams, Gregory Cummins, Ben Harper, Joseph Doran, Nicholas Hetherington, Bess Harris, Sandra Varrasso, Effie Ray, Brenden Aldridge, Patricia Bourke, Bob Woods, Marie Cook, Luke Westaway, Bishop Brennan, Lloyd Bell-Chambers and Len Egan.

Grant eternal life to:

Steve Arnold, Marie Hanrahan, Toni Zajc, Cedric Billett, Sr Carmel Curtin, George Trotter, John O'Donoghue, Robert Cox, and all our dear ones deceased.

Anniversaries:

Christopher Hill, Anne-Maree Percy and all those whose anniversaries occur now.

And Also:

Phillip, Frank & Mary Percy, Deceased Members of the Sandral & Smith Families, Lorraine Hill, Ethel Kirwan and all our dear ones deceased.

LORD HEAR US

BAPTISMS

Last weekend we welcomed into God's church the following newly baptised:

DOMINIC DUNSTAN
AINSLIE O'REILLY
JOEL MCLEAN
KEITH MCLEAN

FOR YOUR DIARY

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of envelopes and give generously to the appeal this Lent. Your donations will allow Caritas Australia to reduce poverty and hunger in more than 30 countries around the world.

Project Compassion is all about hope. This week's Project Compassion story takes us to the Philippines where Caritas Australia has helped establish savings groups to support income generating activities such as card and bag making in Manila. Your donation to Project Compassion will provide communities with practical skills so they can become self-reliant and look forward to a more productive and peaceful future.

'THE FAITH & WITNESS OF ST PAUL'

(We are called to be like him)

A day of scripture reflections with Bishop Joe will be held on Monday 25th February at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, 283 Beechworth Road, Wodonga from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Please bring your bible and lunch to share. Tea and coffee provided. Enquiries: Brigita (02) 6059 2596 or Fran (02) 6059 5126.

REGISTER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

The time to register for WYD is NOW!

Please pick up a **'Step by Step Guide to Registering'** or an **'Expression of Interest'** form from the back of the Church. Registrations with the Diocese close 31st March. Don't let your chance to be part of this great event pass you by.

JOURNEY OF THE CROSS & ICON (JCI)

The WYD Cross & Icon will be at St Patrick's on Thursday 6th March. There will be a meeting in the hall this Sunday following the 5.30pm Mass.

BILLETING FOR WYD DAYS IN THE DIOCESE

If you are able to provide accommodation for young people coming from Europe in July 2008 for the days in the diocese, please fill in a billeting form from the back of the church.

For more information on WYD, Registering, Journey of the Cross & Icon and Billeting, please see the WYD Notice Board at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email mizmim@gmail.com

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be held on Monday 11th February 2008 at 7.30pm in the presbytery. Memberships are now due for renewal.

ST PATRICK'S PRAYER GROUP

St Patrick's Prayer Group will resume on Tuesday 12th February at 8.00pm at the home of Eileen Gill, Unit 1, 435 Olive Street, Albury. Contacts - Kath: 6021 3821 or Maree: 6021 4533. All welcome.

ST PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP

First Sunday of every month after 5.30pm Mass in St Patrick's Hall. For ages 12+. Dinner provided. For more information please see the poster at the back of the church or contact Miriam Kirley on 0400 419 981 after 5.30pm or email: mizmim@gmail.com

ST PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT

The St Patrick's Day Concert will be held on Saturday 1st March at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Hall. A plate for supper would be appreciated. The cost is \$8.00 per adult, children free. Proceeds to aid an African student to come to World Youth Day.

PALMS

Palms Australia is interested in meeting Teachers, Doctors, Nurses and other professional, technical and trades people willing to share their skills for 1-3 years in Asia, Africa or the Pacific. Come to a Palms Information Session at The Fair Trade Coffee Company, 33 Glebe Point Road, Glebe on Tuesday 12th February at 6.00pm or Sunday 17th February at 6.00pm. For more information contact Jennifer Murphy on (02) 9518 9551 or jenni@palms.org.au

INVITATION

Since 1981, in a small village in the former Yugoslavia, the Mother of God has reportedly been appearing and giving messages to six people. Ivan Dragicevic, one of the six visionaries who reportedly has daily apparitions, is visiting Australia in 2008. Come and listen to the message that Ivan has for us on Wednesday 20th February 2008 at St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wade Avenue, Leeton. Be touched by Mary's words of hope, love and peace for the world.

Itinerary for the evening:

5.00pm - Confession,	6.00pm - Rosary,
6.40pm - Apparition,	7.00pm - Holy Mass
8.00pm - Ivan's Talk.	

We are in the process of organising a bus to transport those interested to Leeton. If you require transport, could you please put your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

SNIPPET

Like the Holy Family, every family is a suffering family at some stage or other. Good families try and hang together, support one another. The deepest sacrifices and the deepest kindnesses happen in your own home. (Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor, Westminster, UK)