

Welcome to

St Joan of Arc Parish Haberfield



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 18 February 2024

Parish Office:

97 Dalhousie St Haberfield NSW 2045

P: 02 9798 6657

E: admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

W: www.stjoanofarc.org.au

Office hours:

Tues, Wed, Thurs 9am - 3pm

Parish Priest: Fr Thomas Kurunthanam
Thomas.Kurunthanam@sydneycatholic.org

Parish Team:

Secretary:

Antonella Pesci

Pastoral Associate:

Maria Condello

Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO):

Tony Mediati

0413 481 039

PSSO@stjoanofarc.org.au

Eucharist:

Weekend:

Saturday evening: 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am & 6.00pm

*(Check for changes on special
Feast Days)*

Weekdays:

Wednesday & Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.15am

**Tuesday evening may be available
for memorial Masses.**

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 4:30pm - 4.50pm

Schools:

SJOA Primary:

Principal: Amanda Gahan

P: 9798 9780

Domremy College:

Principal: Antoinette McGahan

P: 9712 2133



From the Pastor

Lent is a time to turn away from sin so that our life is Godward. The worst sin is self-idolatry. The story of Adam and Eve shows how easily humans can be tempted to be God-like. Jesus was tempted like other men but came out of the wilderness with a new vigour to proclaim the Goodnews of the Kingdom of God (*Mark 1:12-15*). Status, power, and luxurious living can lead to making oneself a glorious idol. Let us help each other to fight any temptations to become little gods.

Ours is a safe parish. We take safeguarding of staff and the congregation very seriously. The external auditors who visited the parish last Monday had only positive comments about our compliance and procedures. Enormous work Tony Mediati put into safeguarding documentation and procedures is commendable. I thank Fr Phil Zadro for the pastoral leadership and Maria Condello for her assistance with the procedures.

Forty four percent of the residents of Haberfield are Catholics. Therefore, we as a parish can contribute a lot to the vision and culture of Haberfield. I have come across several people engaged in adult faith formation courses and programs. I would like to enhance the adult faith formation even more. Parish Bulletin is a good medium to work with. The Bulletin will include articles on spirituality, writings of the Fathers of the Church, and Bible Study material. Marriages, sacraments of initiation, and social action groups will highlight parishioners witnessing to their Christian Faith. We shall try to include such good news also in the Bulletin so that everyone can appreciate them as our collective witness to faith.

Sacraments 2024

Dates have been finalized for the Sacraments this year.

Reconciliation will occur Term 1; **Confirmation** will occur Term 2; **Holy Communion** will occur Term 4. More details will be available on the parish website from Tuesday 20th February.

Enrolments for Reconciliation will be open from **Tuesday 20th February** for a period of 2 weeks. Please complete the google form on the Parish Website under the Sacraments 2024 heading.

Our Vision as presented in our Strategic Plan

"...a welcoming and modern Catholic community grounded in faith and spirituality, we want to engage with and build a broader community, particularly among the young and with the families of our local Catholic school as well as providing pastoral outreach to those in need within our Haberfield community and also reach out to deliver broader social justice in our community, our nation and beyond."

A reading from the book of 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: nothing 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.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 24:4-9)

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

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St 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.

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

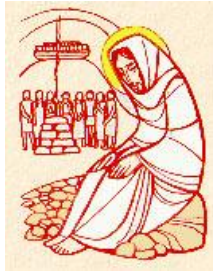
Gospel Acclamation (Matthew 4:4)

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!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Il Vangelo di Marco comincia con una semplice affermazione: "Inizio del VanGiovanni Battista, che aveva annunciato la sua venuta come imminente, battezzò Gesù nel Giordano e in quell'occasione lo Spirito diede testimonianza di Gesù. Marco accenna soltanto al periodo nel deserto e alla tentazione. E il preludio all'inizio del ministero pubblico di nostro Signore. Il suo primo richiamo, che ci viene ripetuto questa domenica, è: "Convertitevi e credete al vangelo". Egli comincia

proprio da quello che era stato il punto centrale dell'insegnamento di Giovanni Battista. La Quaresima è soprattutto un periodo di riflessione sui misteri della nostra redenzione, al cui centro sono l'insegnamento e la persona di Gesù Cristo. Il Salvatore ha assunto forma umana, cioè quella che è la nostra condizione, e non è nemmeno stato risparmiato dall'esperienza della tentazione. Nella sua natura umana, Gesù ha vissuto in prima persona cosa significhi respingere Satana e porre al primo posto le cose divine. Il nostro Signore e il nostro Dio è in tutto nostra guida e modello.

Cercare di conoscere Cristo significa anche prendere coscienza di quel nostro bisogno di cambiamento di vita che chiamiamo "pentimento". In particolare è mediante la liturgia della Chiesa che ci avviciniamo a Cristo e facciamo esperienza della sua presenza in mezzo a noi. Nella liturgia, diventiamo "uno" con Cristo nel mistero grazie al quale egli ha riscattato il mondo. gelo di Gesù Cristo, Figlio di Dio".

Dal libro della Genesi (9,8-15)

Dio disse a Noè e ai suoi figli con lui: «Quanto a me, ecco io stabilisco la mia alleanza con voi e con i vostri discendenti dopo di voi, con ogni essere vivente che è con voi, uccelli, bestiame e animali selvatici, con tutti gli animali che sono usciti dall'arca, con tutti gli animali della terra. Io stabilisco la mia alleanza con voi: non sarà più distrutta alcuna carne dalle acque del diluvio, né il diluvio devasterà più la terra».

Dio disse:

«Questo è il segno dell'alleanza, che io pongo tra me e voi e ogni essere vivente che è con voi, per tutte le generazioni future. Pongo il mio arco sulle nubi, perché sia il segno dell'alleanza tra me e la terra.

Quando ammasserò le nubi sulla terra e apparirà l'arco sulle nubi, ricorderò la mia alleanza che è tra me e voi e ogni essere che vive in ogni carne, e non ci saranno più le acque per il diluvio, per distruggere ogni carne».

Parola di Dio.

Rendiamo grazie al Signore.

Salmo Responsoriale (Sal 24)

R. Tutti i sentieri del Signore sono amore e fedeltà

Fammi conoscere, Signore, le tue vie, insegnami i tuoi sentieri. Guidami nella tua fedeltà e istruiscimi, perché sei tu il Dio della mia salvezza. **R.**

Ricordati, Signore, della tua misericordia e del tuo amore, che è da sempre. Ricordati di me nella tua misericordia, per la tua bontà, Signore. **R.**

Buono e retto è il Signore, indica ai peccatori la via giusta; guida i poveri secondo giustizia, insegna ai poveri la sua via. **R.**

Dalla prima lettera di san Pietro apostolo (3,18-22)

Carissimi, Cristo è morto una volta per sempre per i peccati, giusto per gli ingiusti, per ricondurvi a Dio; messo a morte nel corpo, ma reso vivo nello spirito. E nello spirito andò a portare l'annuncio anche alle anime prigioniere, che un tempo avevano rifiutato di credere, quando Dio, nella sua magnanimità, pazientava nei giorni di Noè, mentre si fabbricava l'arca, nella quale poche persone, otto in tutto, furono salvate per mezzo dell'acqua.

Quest'acqua, come immagine del battesimo, ora salva anche voi; non porta via la sporcizia del corpo, ma è invocazione di salvezza rivolta a Dio da parte di una buona coscienza, in virtù della risurrezione di Gesù Cristo. Egli è alla destra di Dio, dopo essere salito al cielo e aver ottenuto la sovranità sugli angeli, i Principati e le Potenze.

Parola di Dio.

Rendiamo grazie al Signore.

Canto al Vangelo (Mt 4,4)

Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!
Non di solo pane vivrà l'uomo,
ma di ogni parola che esce dalla bocca di Dio.
Lode a te, o Cristo, re di eterna gloria!

† Dal Vangelo secondo Marco (1,12-15)

In quel tempo, lo Spirito sospinse Gesù nel deserto e nel deserto rimase quaranta giorni, tentato da Satana. Stava con le bestie selvatiche e gli angeli lo servivano. Dopo che Giovanni fu arrestato, Gesù andò nella Galilea, proclamando il vangelo di Dio, e diceva: «Il tempo è compiuto e il regno di Dio è vicino; convertitevi e credete nel Vangelo».

Parola del Signore.

Lode a te, Signore Gesù Cristo



Writings by the Fathers of the Church

Purification of spirit through fasting and almsgiving

From a sermon of Saint Leo the Great, pope

Dear friends, at every moment *the earth is full of the mercy of God*, and nature itself is a lesson for all the faithful in the worship of God. The heavens, the sea and all that is in them bear witness to the goodness and omnipotence of their Creator, and the marvellous beauty of the elements as they obey him demands from the intelligent creation a fitting expression of its gratitude.

But with the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of our redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit.

The special note of the paschal feast is this: the whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins. It rejoices in the forgiveness not only of those who are then reborn in holy baptism but also of those who are already numbered among God's adopted children.

Initially, men are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there still is required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced. All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life.

Dear friends, what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food but above all by the renunciation of sin.

There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will*. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace.

The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts.

Safeguarding Audit



The Australian Catholic Standards Limited (ACSL) visited the Parish last Monday, 12 Feb, to complete the final stage of the child protection and vulnerable adults safeguarding audit.

Two members of ACSL reviewed the parish's safeguarding procedures, processes and records (such as risk assessments).

The general feedback was positive and very reassuring that the safeguarding implementation and the practices put in place are well developed.

Parishes will not receive an individual report however the results of the 33 parishes and 7 church agencies selected for the audit, will be aggregated to form a representation of a whole of Archdiocesan report.

It is reassuring to know that all the safeguarding processes and practices are followed by our volunteers helping make St Joan of Arc a safe parish.

Thank you to all our volunteers.

Tony Mediati

World Day for Grandparents and Elderly to highlight loneliness

By cherishing the charisms of grandparents and the elderly, and the contribution they make to life of the Church, the World Day of Grandparents helps the parish to forge bonds between the generations and combat loneliness. Along with families the parish wants to be at the forefront in promoting a culture of encounter to create a space for sharing, listening, to offer support and affection: thus the love Gospel becomes concrete.

Pope Francis established the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021. It is held on the fourth Sunday of July, which falls near to the feast of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. This year it is on 28 July.

For full story visit **Vatican News**

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2024-02/pope-francis-theme-fourth-world-grandparents-elderly-day.html>

REFLECTION

“Repent and believe the Gospel.”

“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

It was in December 1955 that Rosa Parks, an African American woman, was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. Her fight against racial injustice began early in her life. “Back then,” she said in an interview, “we didn’t have any civil rights. It was just a matter of survival, of existing from one day to the next.” As a child she had seen the Ku Klux Klan riding by, and she had been afraid that her house would be burnt down. She decided that it was important for her to get involved and to challenge the authorities that introduced racial segregation. Her actions resulted initially in the Montgomery bus boycott and eventually in a legal ruling that segregation on public transport was unconstitutional. Her determination not to be seen as a second-class citizen brought about massive change in society. It was not without personal cost, though, as she was arrested and lost her job. In an interview in 1992 she said, “I had not planned to get arrested. I had plenty to do without having to end up in jail. But when I had to face that decision, I didn’t hesitate to do so because I felt that we had endured that too long. The more we gave in, the more we complied with that kind of treatment, the more oppressive it became.”

Today we hear of the time that Jesus spent in the desert, after being baptised. We learn that he goes on to Galilee and calls on the people to repent and believe in the gospel.

There is a strong theme of repentance in today’s readings, as well as a sense of the opportunity of a fresh start. In the first reading, we hear that when the flood is over, God creates a covenant with Noah, his descendants and all living creatures. In the second reading, Peter reminds his listeners that they are changed through baptism. In both the first and second readings there is a turning around that brings comfort and encouragement – a turning towards God and away from the things that keep us from God.

Another theme here is relationship. We are creatures in relationship with our neighbours and with all living creatures, as well as with God. We hear today how Jesus tells the crowds that the kingdom of God is close at hand. The kingdom is good news for all, especially those who are poor or disadvantaged, oppressed or enslaved. It is freedom – not to hurt, but to heal, not to divide, but to bring together.

The crowds listening to Jesus are invited to change direction – to create better relationships with each other, with God and with their neighbour. The kingdom is one of justice and of peace. Injustice keeps us all apart from one another; it divides and polarises us.

Sometimes it feels as if Lent could be a rather gloomy season, but it is also a time of blessing. It gives us time to reflect and it is a great opportunity to commit to change, to take a new

direction in our lives, to make a fresh start. As Sr Laurentia Johns OSB writes, “From wherever we may have wandered through neglect, poor choices, stress, busyness, God never tires of calling us back.”

In order to commit to change and to seek a different direction, we first need to be aware of what needs to change. What is pulling us in the wrong direction, and how can we turn around?

It is not that we will never make mistakes or choose the wrong path. But as Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, “Holiness does not consist in never having erred or sinned. Holiness increases the capacity for conversion, for repentance, for willingness to start again...”

The Living Word

Saints Days/Coming Events

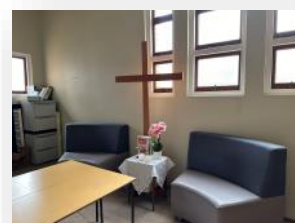
February 22 Thursday The Chair of St Peter, apostle

-SACRAMENTS-

For information on BAPTISM, FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF THE SICK - EUCHARIST TO THE HOUSEBOUND please visit the parish website for details.

Children’s Liturgy Room

Thank you to Amanda Gahan, Grace Mediati and some of the children from St Joan of Arc primary school who tidied and rearranged the Children’s Liturgy room to make it a more inviting and prayerful area to gather on a Sunday. Miss Gahan donated some unwanted furniture from the school for better organization and storage of items.



On Saturday 10 February we held our first Mass of Anointing for the year. Approximately 40 people attended despite the rainy weather.

Thank you to all who assisted during the liturgy and members of the Welcome & Events committee who organized morning tea.

Our next Mass of Anointing is scheduled for May. More details will be provided closer to the time.



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 or 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.

NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH SCHOOL



The beginning of the 2024 year has arrived and there is so much excitement around the school. With a new playground, 4 new classrooms and a new library we are looking forward to a fresh new year!

Father Thomas has been to visit the students from K-6 and they are all very keen to learn more about him. In the next few bulletins we will get Father Thomas to attempt to answer some of the questions from the students.

Our Open Days are fast approaching. If you know of anyone wishing to enrol their child for 2025 or 2026, please let them know the dates.



St Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL HABERFIELD
Forward with Courage



In Service we Encounter God

Radical servanthood does not make sense unless we introduce a new level of understanding and see it as the way to encounter God. To be humble and persecuted cannot be desired unless we can find God in humility and persecution. When we begin to see God, the source of all our comfort and consolation, in the center of servanthood, compassion becomes much more than doing good for unfortunate people. Radical servanthood, as the encounter with the compassionate God, takes us beyond the distinctions between wealth and poverty, success and failure, fortune and bad luck. Radical servanthood is not an enterprise in which we try to surround ourselves with as much misery as possible, but a joyful way of life in which our eyes are opened to the vision of the true God who chose to be revealed in servanthood. The poor are called blessed not because poverty is good, but because theirs is the kingdom of heaven; the mourners are called blessed not because mourning is good, but because they shall be comforted.



Here we are touching the profound spiritual truth that service is an expression of the search for God and not just of the desire to bring about individual or social change.

© Henri J.M. Nouwen/
Henri Nouwen Society



First Sunday of Lent
17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*.

Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion envelopes available from your parish, by using the QR code, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Recently Deceased:

Grace Walsh, Jack Coleman, Sheila McKeough, Fr Michael Kelly, Fr Kevin Bates SM, Giuseppe Ierardo, Franco Galasso, Pia Rozzi, Pietro Leto, Lorenzo Di Donato.

Please note: Names of **Recently Deceased** will remain for **1 month** period before being removed.

Anniversary:

Elisabetta Areana.

Rest in Peace:

Francesco Giannini, Luigi Criniti, Concetta Lo Surdo, Giustino Tauriello, Antonio Nesci, Beniamino Di Pasquantonio, Antonino Di Girolamo, Giuseppe Colantuono, Michael & Mary Kayrooz and Families, Marco Monaco, Nunzia Ferrara, Angelo Testa, Salvatore Giarratano, Joe Di Marti, Mary Attard, Luciano Frisone, Elisa Procopio, Salvatore Procopio, Grazia Scuderi, Saverio Mafodda, Valentina Mannino, Antonio Cardillo, Helen Bedirian, Luigino De Domeneghi, Rosa Delfino, Domenico Nicita, Iolanda Caruso, Ilario Furlan, Carmela Catania, Salvatore Catania, Pietro Banno, Jack McEnally, Domenico Banno, Sarina Torrisi, Lattari & Aversa families, John & Moya Phillips, Mons Dino Fragiaco, Anna Vella, Conte family, Rugari family, Anna Vella.

Please note: Names of **Anniversary and Rest in Peace** will remain for **2 weeks** period before being removed.

In your love and concern please pray for the following ill members of our community: Sam Tauf'a'o, Tamaso Tonga, Enrico Cuomo, Neville Hill, John Kcoursy, Mary Finios, Rose Uthappa, Asela Savieti, Glen Dixon, Venu Uthappa, Roberto Tramarin, Vittoria Lavecchia, Anna Attard, Rosa Santos, Elisha Lau, Aitken Family, Liz Smith, Pat Rankine, Jerry Andre, Donna Neeley, Adeline Ashing, Annelise Buda, Giovanni Luci, Stephan Ferenc,

In keeping with the Privacy Act names cannot be published in our Parish Bulletin without the permission of the persons themselves or their next of kin. Please specify on your Mass Envelope your intention to include the person's name in this Bulletin or contact the Parish Office on 9798 6657

Names for Recently Deceased, Anniversaries, Rest in Peace and Sick

Fr Thomas has requested change in the listing of names for recently deceased, anniversaries, rest in peace and those sick.

Names on the **Recently Deceased** will remain in the bulletin for a **period of 1 month**.

Names on the **Anniversaries** will remain for a **period of 2 weeks**.

Names on the **Rest in Peace** list will remain for a **period of 2 weeks**. From next week's bulletin names that have been there for a long period of time will be removed. If you would like to have the name remain, please contact Antonella - 9798 6657 or admin@stjoanofarc.org.au

Names for those who are sick. How long the names of the sick will remain in the bulletin depends on the advice we receive from the family. Please contact Maria Condello via email or phone - Pastoral.Associate@stjoanofarc.org.au

Thanks Maria

ARCHDIOCESAN HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

You are invited to pray with us as the Archdiocese of Sydney dedicates a Holy Hour of Adoration to pray for vocations. We need YOUR prayers to help young men and women answer God's call to a vocation to the Priesthood or Consecrated life.

**22 FEB
2024**



sydneyvocations.org



SEMINARY OPEN DAY

Discernment cannot be just prayer and talk, it needs action! Visiting a seminary, speaking with seminarians, and meeting other discerners will provide important clarity for any discerner.

FEB

18th

2024

TIME: 8:30AM - 3:00PM

The Seminary of the Good Shepherd
50-58 Abbotsford Road, Homebush NSW 2140



SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER ONLINE



sydneyvocations.org

Reflection on Mark 1:12-15

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.

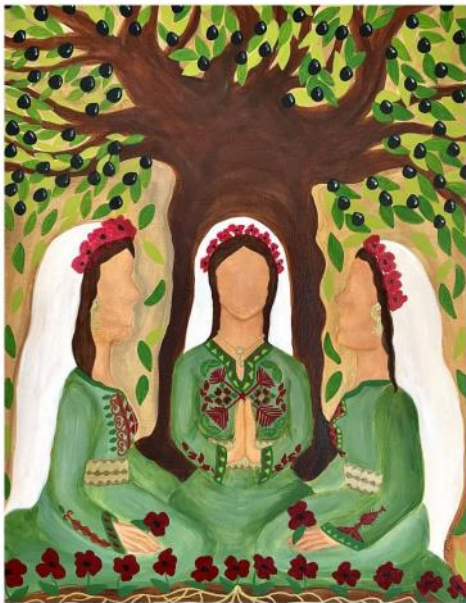
Historical Context – The Wilderness

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.



World Day of Prayer 2024

Pray for Palestine



You are invited to join us as we host this

Ecumenical Prayer Service

Friday 1st March 2024

Service 10am Morning Tea 11am

St David's Uniting Church

51 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield

For more information please call Rev Joy 0403789883

Welcome & Events Committee

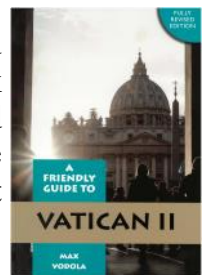
The Committee will host its first fundraiser for our scholarship student at John Berne School on the weekend of **9th & 10th March** following all Masses.

We are looking for some bakers or preserves & jam makers who might like to contribute.

If anyone can help, please contact **Rhonda on 0411 122 641 or 9798 8273.**

We are happy to hear from any Parishioners.

A reminder: If you borrowed this book and have finished reading it to please return it to the basket in the foyer.



Two of our parishioners in the last few months celebrated milestone birthdays.

We celebrated Sr Julie and Sr Ruth following the Mass of Anointing. Unfortunately Sr Ruth wasn't able to be there, however we ensure that some of the cake went home to her.