

RESPONSE: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Response.

SECOND READING: Romans 5: 12-19
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ; king of endless glory!
No one live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4: 1-11
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says:

Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of
God.'

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says:

He will put you in his angels' charge,
and they will support you on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Gen 12: 1-4; 2 Tim 1: 8-10;
Mt 17: 1-9.

Safeguarding our community: If you or a person close to you has been abused by someone working or ministering within the Archdiocese of Sydney please call the appropriate authorities OR The Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office on 02 9390 5812 OR **speak with our Parish Safeguarding Support Officer Helen Vaz OR Parish Priest, both of whom will be able to provide support and guidance.**



PARISH OF ST. THERESE, DENISTONE

Presbytery and Office

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St Therese's School

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MASS TIMES:

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 pm.
SUNDAY: 8:00 am and 10.00 am.
MONDAY: 9.15am Communion Service.
TUESDAY through to SATURDAY: 9.00 am Mass.
FRIDAY: 9.00 am Mass.
Exposition & Benediction every Friday after Mass.
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 5pm – 5.45pm or by appointment.
Baptism: Every Sunday at 11.30am. Please contact Parish Office.
Marriage: By appointment.
Anointing of the sick: Please give names to Father Roberto Castillo.

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year A)
25th / 26th February 2023

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

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 2: 7-9. 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis
Creation of our first parents, and sin.

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being.

The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.

The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you

will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 50: 3-6. 12-14. 17

RESPONSE: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

Response.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Response.

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Response.

(continued on back page)

25 / 26 FEBRUARY 2023 – 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10.00AM
Acolyte	R MORFUNI	A STANTON	D ELLIS
Reader	J PERERA	Y LEUNG	VOLUNTEER
Offertory	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY
Projection	V PERERA		
Altar Servers	GRP 4: WONG FAMILY		GRP 8: ELIE & ALYSSIA BARAZ
Welcomers	S CHAMISA		FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEERS
Counters	GROUP 7: P TREACY S DIMICHIEL M PEARCE		
Altar Flowers	J KEYSER	FEBRUARY ALTAR LINEN: MIRA SAVIC	

4 / 5 MARCH 2023 – 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

	SATURDAY 6.00PM	SUNDAY 8.00AM	SUNDAY 10.00AM Family Mass
Acolyte	T DABBAH	M MORELLI	G MOODLEY
Reader	V PERERA	E WHEELER	R DEARING
Offertory	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	VOLUNTEER FAMILY	FAMILY MASS VOLUNTEER FAMILY
Projection	A SHEEKA		
Altar Servers	GRP 1: JAMES D'MELLO & AIDEN SHEEKA		GRP 5: DEARING FAMILY
Welcomers	S CHAMISA		VOLUNTEER WANTED
Counters	GROUP 8: F KURNIAWAN A NAGANATHAN D TAN		
Altar Flowers	KAYSHINEE PERERA / TINA CHAMISA	MARCH ALTAR LINEN: JOSEFINA DELAVEGA	

PARISH NEWS & NOTICES:

Request for Mass and Prayers.

We pray for those who have recently died. Also pray for those who celebrate anniversaries.



Days of Penance!

LENT LASTS FROM ASH WEDNESDAY (22nd FEBRUARY) TO THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (6th APRIL). ON GOOD FRIDAY AND, IF POSSIBLE, ALSO ON HOLY SATURDAY UNTIL THE EASTER VIGIL, THE EASTER FAST IS OBSERVED.

PASCHAL PRECEPT

Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday, 22nd February, and Trinity Sunday, 4th June, 2023 unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year. All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year.

1. Abstinence from meat and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
2. On all other Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by performing any one of the following:
 - (a) Prayer – for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making that Stations of the Cross; praying the rosary.
 - (b) Self-denial – for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country.
 - (c) Helping other – for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.



All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast. All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

Project Compassion.

Don't forget to pick up your **envelopes or money boxes** at the front of the Church to help to provide vital learning and renewed hope to those most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice and during Lent is the most appropriate time to show our compassion. All donations are 100% tax deductible.



Laxmi's story – Nepal - After losing her father at a young age, 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 girls in her village.



Laxmi lives with her mother and siblings in Jajarkot, one of the least developed districts in the remote Karnali province, with almost half of the population living below the poverty line.

"If I don't get to study, then I'll experience hardship. I'll have to struggle like mother. If I don't get to study, then I'll have no knowledge."

Lenten programmes.

There will be an opportunity to pray and study the Word of God responding to Pope Francis' invitation by joining our Lenten Reflection programme. There are TWO groups – afternoon and evening.

Beginning on Tuesday the 28th February at 7.30pm in the St Therese School Hall

OR

Beginning on Wednesday 1st March at 3pm in the presbytery.

Please add your name to the clipboards at the front of the church if you are interested in attending.

Stations of the Cross.

Stations continue this week on **Friday the 3rd March** and will run throughout Lent, every Friday evening at 7.30pm. Come, meditate and pray on the Passion of our Lord to prepare well for Easter.



Denistone Catholic Women's League.

The NEXT meeting will be held on Friday the 3rd March 2023 at 10am. Newcomers are always welcome.



Attention all Catechists.

Our Term 1 meeting will be held the following Tuesday on the **28th February** in the presbytery, beginning 10.45am. Please know the number of students in your class for that meeting and bring a small plate of food to share.



Altar Servers training.

Is your child in Years 4-6, who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion and interested to become an Altar Server? If so, read on. Fr Roberto and Thomas Dabbah will lead TWO training sessions for NEW Altar Servers on:

Saturday the 4th March at 4.30pm - 5.30pm AND Saturday the 18th March at 4pm - 5pm

in the church. Parents, please note that you must stay with your child for the whole session.



Parish Council Meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 2nd March** at 7pm in the presbytery. If you have any parish suggestions or concerns please speak with Father Roberto or any council member.



A Wonderful reflection for Lent contained in this beautiful hymn.

Creator of the earth and skies,
To whom the words of life belong.
Grant us thy truth to make us wise;
Grant us thy power to make us strong.

Like theirs of old, our life is death,
Our light is darkness, till we see
The eternal Word make flesh and breath,
The God who walked by Galilee.

We have not known thee: to the skies
Our monuments of folly soar,
And all our self-wrought miseries
Have made us trust ourselves the more.

We have not loved thee: far and wide
The wreckage of our hatred spreads,
And evils wrought by human pride
Recoil on unrepentant heads.

For this, our foolish confidence,
Our pride of knowledge and our sin,
We come to thee in penitence;
In us the work of grace begin.

From The Liturgy of the Hours, Divine Office of the Catholic Church