



St John's Catholic Parish

Brunswick Valley

"I am here among you as one who serves." Luke 22:27



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

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.

Reflection

'Our Christian faith, founded upon Christ's Paschal mystery,' Pope Leo says, 'helps us to experience ... hope for the future.' We are called to be a people who are open to 'looking forward towards the goal of our journey, towards the safe harbour that God has promised us, towards the unending feast that awaits us.'

'This final destination, this banquet around which the Lord will gather us,' the Pope reflects 'will be an encounter of love.'

With this in mind, we might do well to start our Lenten journey by reflecting that our purpose is love, our goal is love, indeed our innermost calling – is love.

'For it was out of love that God created us,' the Pope continues, 'through the love of his Son that he saves us from death, and in the joy of that same love, he desires that we live forever with him.'

(Continued on page three)

22 February 2026

1st Sunday of Lent, Year A

1st Reading:
Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm:
(R.) *Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

2nd Reading:
Romans 5:12-19

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!

Gospel:
Matthew 4:1-11


Next weeks readings

2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A

1st Reading:
Genesis 12:1-4

Psalm:
Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R v22

2nd Reading:
2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel:
Matthew 17:1-9

(Continued from front page)

Reflection

‘For this reason,’ the Pope reflects, ‘whenever we dwell in love and show charity to others, especially the weakest and most needy, then we can journey towards our goal.’ In doing so, we are manifesting God’s love in the world.

‘Love conquers death’, the Pope reminds us, adding that ‘if we journey together in charity, our very lives become a prayer rising up to God.’

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

The 2026 World Day of Prayer service was prepared by group of Christian women from Nigeria, with a focus on the invitation of Jesus found in Matthew 11:28 – 30.

At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

**This year World Day of Prayer will be held at the
Uniting Church, Dalley St, Mullumbimby
10am Friday 6th March.
Everyone is welcome.**



“I Will Give You Rest: Come”

Matthew 11:28-30
March 6, 2026

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

How can you help?

As the new year starts the Parish needs more volunteers to help make everything run smoothly and spread the load! If you can help with any of the areas of need

please write your name and contact number on the worksheet

at the back of the Church.



Some areas of need are: **Welcomers, readers, sacristy help, ministers of Communion, morning teas.**
Many thanks to all who already help out.

JOIN OUR TEAM



JOIN OUR TEAM

Our Lady of Lourdes Conference, Brunswick Heads is looking for more members. Do you have 3-4 hours each week or fortnight to help the disadvantaged in your local community? If you would like to find out more please phone Suzanne on 0409 972 469.



Interest Rate – 3.40%

For further information and our current interest rate, please visit our website www.dif.org.au or contact us on 1800 802 516



Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office is available:
to listen to your concerns respectfully, offer support, and provide guidance in embedding Safeguarding Standards.

Phone (02) 6621 9444

email:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au

Save the Date

WEEKLY Confession

Thursdays 5-5.20pm
Our Lady of Lourdes,
Brunswick Heads

MONTHLY

Sunday Morning Tea

1st Sunday
St John's Church,
Mullumbimby, after Mass

Coffee Gathering

2nd Wednesday 10.30am,
Mullumbimby Ex Services Club

Rosary Team Meeting

2nd Saturday
Day and time to be advised
monthly in Bulletin

SAVE THE DATE

Mass of Anointing

11 March
Wednesday 10am
St John's Church,
Mullumbimby

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH WEEKLY MASSES

St Finbarr's, BYRON BAY

Friday 9.30am
Saturday 6pm

St Kevin's, BANGALOW

Sunday 9.30am



ST JOHN'S SCHOOL

A Season of Preparation: Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday in Our Parish School

It has been a week of deep tradition and joyful community as our students and staff began their Lenten journey. We are heartened to share how our school has been honouring the beautiful customs of our Catholic faith.



Shrove Tuesday: The Final Feast

In keeping with the ancient practice of "shriving" (confessing) and clearing the larder of rich fats before the Great Fast, our school grounds were filled with the aroma of frying pancakes!

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of our families, we were able to sell pancakes for \$1 each at both recess and lunch, raising money for Caritas. A special thank you to our parent volunteers who arrived at 10:15am to help at the griddle, it was a marvellous way to celebrate our final day before the penitential season begins.



Ash Wednesday: A Solemn Beginning

The atmosphere shifted to one of quiet reflection as our students and staff gathered for Mass to mark Ash Wednesday.

As we received the ashes on our foreheads, a humble reminder of our mortality and our call to "Repent and believe in the Gospel" - we officially entered the forty days of Lent. It was moving to see our youth embrace this time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as they prepare their hearts for the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord at Easter.

We invite all members of the Parish to keep our students in your prayers during this holy season.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

*God bless. Dave Birmingham
Principal of St John's Primary School*



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