



St. Joseph's Grey Lynn

470 Great North Road
Tamaki Makaurau

1st March 2020

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FIRST WEEK OF LENT - YEAR A

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights. Mt 4:1-11

STAND FIRM THIS LENT

Today is the first Sunday of Lent Year A. The Church invites us to celebrate Jesus Christ the second Adam, who by the power of the Holy Spirit overcame temptation and sin. Through his obedience to the Father's will, Christ restored the world. Therefore, 'this season calls for great discipline, courage, vigilance, and a strong faith in God.

Today's first reading recounts the beginning of our salvific history. It is through the disobedience of our progenitors that we all became vulnerable to temptation and Original Sin. This consequently led to what St. Augustine refers to as "*Massa damnata*" (*mass damnation*). From this reading, it is evident that temptation in itself is not sin. Sin is a gross act of disobedience against our Creator, and a violation of the natural order of things.

It suffices to note the stages that Eve went through before she finally succumbed to Satan. "*The woman saw...that it was desirable for knowledge...She took some of the fruit and ate it.*" This is the nature of our daily struggle. It is the problem of the "Id" and "Ego" that we try to satisfy every day. Many of us are so engrossed in our quest for knowledge to the extent that we are ready to go against the will and commandments of God. So, we must guard ourselves against the temptations of the evil one.

In the second reading, Paul traces the origin of sin to *Adam*. He highlighted the consequence of sin: "*...Death spread through the human race because everyone has sinned.*" This means that sin disrupts life and leads to death. It brings fear, hopelessness and shame.

However, according to Paul, we are not hopeless because: "*The Divine Grace that flows from Christ*" saves and acquits us. If we abide in him, we will find the strength and grace to overcome temptation and sin. Therefore, this is a season of Grace.

The gospel reminds us of the ordeal we go through every day in life. That is, the temptation we face each day. The devil, being a "*spirit*" often knows what we need most. So, he tempts us with it as he did to Christ. If we are hungry, he tempts us with food. If we are thirsty, he tempts us with drinks. If we like power, he tempts us with it.

If you are in need of money, the devil tempts us to steal from others. If you are in need of a job, he tempts you to offer a bribe to get a job. If you are too greedy for marks, he tempts you to cheat in your exams. Once one falls to one temptation, he continues with the next until one finally perishes. He is very subtle, and an expert in, "*one step at a time!*"

How was Jesus able to overcome Satan and his temptations? He overcame because, beforehand he had already fortified himself. He tamed his appetite for ambition and vainglory. Most importantly, he was not alone in his struggle against Satan and his temptations. The Holy Spirit was with him. He overcame through prayer and fasting.

So, during this season of Lent and beyond, we too must get ourselves prepared for the great journey ahead. We must be firm in prayers, and be watchful so that we do not fall to the temptations of the evil one.

Fr. Joseph Thirumala

MASS TIMES

WEEKEND

Saturday: 8:15am, Vigil: 5:30pm

Sunday: 8:30am, 10:30am(*in Samoan*)

WEEKDAYS

Monday - Friday: 9:00am

Confessions: Saturday at 5pm

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Sunday at 8am

Adoration: 1st Sunday of the Month at 4pm

Novena Mother of Perpetual Help: Thursdays at 5:45pm

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Sunday 8:30am mass

A reading from the book of Genesis Gen 2:7-9; 3:1

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.

Kote kupu o te Ariki (This is the word of the Lord) *Whakamoemiti ki te Atua (Praise be to God)*

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

1. 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. (R.)
2. 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. (R.)
3. 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. (R.)
4. 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. (R.)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 5:12-19

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 refigured 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.

Kote kupu o te Ariki (This is the word of the Lord) *Whakamoemiti ki te Atua (Praise be to God)*

Gospel Acclamation Mt 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 Matthew Mt 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

Kia whakanuia rā koe, e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti. (Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ)

PARISH NOTICES



Create
— in me —
A Clean Heart
O GOD
- Ps.51

Have you created a personal desert deep within you? Or is it secretly hidden away?
Is it sacredly kept within the solitude of the heart?
— In The Solitude of the Divine Heart of God —



**PRAY FOR HELP
FROM MOTHER MARY
DURING LENT AND
SHE WILL ANSWER
IMMEDIATELY**



First Holy Communion & Confirmation. Thank you for all those who have registered. Class starts on Sunday, 15th March at 3pm
Email Joey: joeyakeli@gmail.com

Marriage Preparation Classes

For any Couples Planning to get married Classes begin Sunday, 8th March at 5:30pm Please fill in a Registration Form in the Foyer. Contact Fr. Iosefo

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday During Lent at 6:30pm. Praying the **stations** is to help us with our Christian faithful to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

MARCH ROSTER

Lectors	Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion
5:30pm	
29-Feb Jessica G/Lisa	Trish/Alex
07-Mar Norma/Jessica T	Taumaia/Nerisa
14-Mar Jessica G/Lisa	Trish/Alex
21-Mar Norma/Jessica T	Taumaia/Nerisa
8:30am	
01-Mar Lelava/Tutulu	Taumaie/Tutulu
08-Mar Teresa/Jaime	Elisa/Saraia
15-Mar Ana M/Viavia	Pelenatete/Silia
22-Mar Teresa/Jaime	Elisa/Saraia
10:30am	
01-Mar Silia/Selemena	Jaimee/Teresa F
08-Mar Ana S/ Taumaie	Matai/Silia
15-Mar Norma/Jessica	Sefulu/Bella
22-Mar Viavia/Vicjalina	Taupo/Akenese

PARISH AGM

Thank you to all who attended the AGM last week. It was a fruitful meeting towards building our Parish to becoming a Missionary Church with the Theme for 2020 Charity is the “Soul” of the Church’s Mission.

Reports available in the Foyer.

PARISH REGISTRATION FORMS

Welcome to St Joseph’s Church

Registration Forms available for individuals and families to complete. Please take a Form home to complete and return and place in the sealed box in the Foyer. If you have any questions, please see Fr. Iosefo, Tutuila or Lisa. Thank you

Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
28-Feb	YP Core Team Retreat
29-Feb	YP Core Team Retreat
01-Mar	YP Core Team Retreat
01-Mar	Adoration 4pm
05-Mar	Novena - Young People
06-Mar	Stations of the Cross
09-Mar	Young Peoples Meeting 4pm
12-Mar	Novena - Grey Lynn Community
13-Mar	Stations of the Cross
15-Mar	First Holy Communion Class
15-Mar	Confirmation Class
19-Mar	Novena - European
20-Mar	Stations of the Cross

LAST SUNDAY’S COLLECTION

Registration Forms are available in the Foyer if you wish to serve our parish as a Lector/Reader or Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Parish collection last week:	\$1,174.60
Total for February:	\$4,925.20
Parish Needs: (4 x \$1,500 per week)	\$6,000.00
Thank you for your generosity	

AUCKLAND DIOCESE'S NOTICES



Pope Francis has announced that Fr Michael Gielen will be ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Auckland Diocese

The venue for this ordination is the Vodafone Events Centre, South Auckland. With a seating capacity of almost 3000 our hope is that as many people as possible will take up the opportunity to join this celebration at 11am on Saturday 7 March. Bishop Pat invites all the people of the diocese to join him to fill the Vodafone Event Centre as we gather as one Diocesan family to support Michael Gielen in this celebration of faith.

CARITAS LENTEN APPEAL

Lenten Envelopes are available in the foyer Please take one and support these causes during this time of Lent.

One-day pastoral leadership conference for all Catholic faith community leaders. Theme: Seeking Holiness in a Secular World; **Saturday 14th March 2020, 9:30am – 2pm.** At Our Lady of Assumption Parish hall, 97 Galway St, Onehunga. Registration essential email us at pastoraloffice@ccda.org.nz. Morning Tea provided. Please bring own lunch. For topics and speakers, visit our website.

Evening Talk not to be missed, on Governance and Abuse in the Church. A canon law expert, an international speaker, Dr Myriam Wijlens speaking on “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord”, Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 7:00pm, St Columba Centre, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby.

Caring Foundation Annual Grants - The foundation is now receiving grant applications from social service agencies and charities throughout the Auckland diocese who work to support and strengthen families and communities. Applications close on 10th of April, 2020. For more information and to download the application form, please visit our website:

www.caringfoundation.org.nz. Find out how your gift to the Catholic Caring Foundation is supporting families and communities in need throughout our diocese, by reading our latest newsletter. Make a difference to our community by gifting to the foundation. Visit our website: www.caringfoundation.org.nz

Vacancy: Grounds-person for St Francis Retreat Centre. 20-30 hours per week position depending on the successful applicant's availability. For a full job description and application form: email: finance@stfrancisretreatcentre.org.nz Telephone: 09 625 651. Write: 50 Hillsborough Rd. Auckland 1042. Applications close 20th March 2020.

Interfaith Service. Sunday, March 15th 2pm - 3.30pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Parnell. The Auckland Inter-faith Council is bringing members of the Inter-faith network together to remember those whose lives were lost one year ago in the mosques of Christchurch. Let us be inspired to work together and pray for peace, looking forward with hope as we build a harmonious society. All are welcome at this service which will include prayer, live song, readings & time for quiet reflection.

Young Adults Evening. All young adults (18-30s) are invited to join us for an evening filled with conversations, fellowship and free food!! Special invitation to all those young adults who are new to Auckland. Happening on **Friday, 6 March, 5.30pm at Pompallier Diocesan Centre, St Mary's Bay.** Plenty of parking available. RSVP with Rochelle on 022 309 2022.

Training course for **Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants at Auckland Hospital.** If you are interested, please contact Robert Burley, Chaplaincy Assistant Training administrator email aucklandhospitalchaplaincy@gmail.com

ST PATRICK'S DAY HIGH TEA AT THE CATHEDRAL. Celebrating 179 Years of the Cathedral (1841 – 2020). Join Bishop Patrick at the St Patrick's Day to a High Tea in Liston Hall. 1 pm, Tuesday, 17th March. Tickets are \$35 and are available for sale at The Square Gift Store, St Patrick's Square, 43 Wyndham Street-cash preferred. Tickets are strictly limited so be in quick so you aren't disappointed.

NAU MAI, HAERE MAI Nga Whaea Atawhai O Aotearoa - Sisters of Mercy invite young women aged between 18 and 40 to a **Come and See Day** to discover more about our Mercy Life. Saturday 7th of March 2020, 10 am to 3.30 pm, Holy Cross Parish Hall, Papatoetoe. RSVP for catering and for more information contact: vocations@mercy.org.nz

Young adults, this one is for you! Join us and enjoy some good food, fellowship, music and hear how you can be a part of various young adult groups in Auckland. **Happening Friday, 6 March, 5.30pm at Pompallier Diocesan Centre, Ponsonby.** Special invite to those young adults who are new to Auckland. RSVP with Rochelle on 022 309 2022