

The Bulletin

First Sunday of Lent

**Sunday,
22nd February 2025**

Sin and temptation are the dominant themes of the readings for this first week of Lent. Indeed, they are regular themes in the season of Lent. However, the scripture passages throughout this season allow us the opportunity to think again about these themes and perhaps reconsider some traditional understandings of them.

Today's first reading and gospel give us two different takes on the notion of temptation. In the passage from Genesis, humanity is tempted to ignore the will of God and, when they succumb, they lose their innocence and become embarrassed by their nakedness. The temptation they are offered is to believe themselves above and beyond the will of God; to believe that they can judge as well as God; and to rise to an equal level of power and authority with God. Their action breaks the trusting, loving relationship between themselves and God. In the Gospel, Jesus too is confronted with similar temptations. Ultimately, the temptation that faces Jesus relates to his purpose and ministry - will he trust to God's vision of the suffering servant who will bring about a change of heart in the people, or will he be the sort of Messiah that the people hoped for: a triumphant, glorious victor over all who stood in his way. He is tempted to break his self-imposed fasting, to test God's promise of nurture and security, and to seek glory and personal power. Whilst Adam and Eve surrender to temptation, Jesus holds fast to God's vision.

The second reading from Paul ties the Genesis and Gospel readings together



and injects the notion of sin into the equation. However, Paul makes it perfectly clear that the sin of Adam, though carrying great ramifications, pales in comparison to the extraordinary abundance of God's love that is expressed through Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

Our Mission:
Building a Loving Christ-Centred Community



Parish Administrator:

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD

Chief Executive Officer:

Michael Darragh

Administration Officer:

Jennifer Oliver

Pastoral Associate:

Margaret Ryan

Church

Corner of East Street & Fourth Avenue, Sawtell

Parish Office

1/44 Boronia Street, Sawtell
NSW 2452. Office Hours are
Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Church Mass Times

Tuesday 9:30am

Thursday 9:30am

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 7:30am & 9am

*Reconciliation every Saturday 5:30pm
no appointment necessary*

Chapel Mass Times

Our Lady of the Way at SCC
Marian Grove, Toormina

Wednesday 9:30am

Friday 9:30am

PARISH GIVING

First & Second
Collection + Donations



This Lent, our parish community is called to Unite Against Poverty with Caritas Australia's Project Compassion. Each year, Project Compassion invites us to encounter stories of courage and hope from people around the world who are striving for a brighter future. In 2026, Project Compassion shares four stories of resilience and strength. We'll meet Sisilia, a young student from Tanzania, whose education was being disrupted by long daily walks to collect water for her family. With the support of Caritas Australia and people like you, Sisilia now has access to clean water from taps installed in her school and village.

We'll get to know Monoranjon from Bangladesh, where

communities are heavily impacted by natural

disasters and climate change. Caritas Australia, together with supporters across Australia, has helped Monoranjon to learn climate-resilient farming skills.

We'll be introduced to Manaini from Fiji, who struggled with poverty and food insecurity. With support, she gained training in food processing and gardening, improving nutrition and creating income to support her children's education.

And we'll hear the story of Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem worker from Gaza who was displaced many times due to ongoing conflict. Despite this hardship, he continues to serve families in need through Caritas' emergency response.



UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

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.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3 (R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading Romans 5:12, 17-19

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. 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.

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!

PARISH CENSUS:

FOR THREE WEEKENDS IN FEBRUARY, MASS COORDINATORS ARE ASKED TO RECORD ATTENDANCE AT THEIR ROSTERED MASS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SIGN-IN SHEET. ONE WEEKEND DOWN, TWO TO GO!

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

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.

MASS MINISTRIES IMPORTANT UPDATE

Thank you to those volunteers who were able to check their contact details and let us know if they would like to be on a regular roster or just be available to cover if someone is away or unwell.

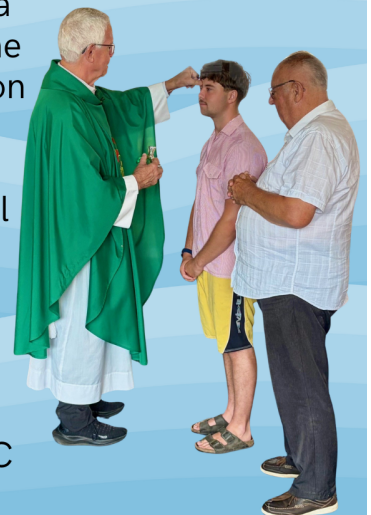
If you didn't get a chance to have a look at the lists last weekend, we will be in touch in the next couple of weeks to check your preference.

Welcome Billy!

Last weekend, Billy Rawling was presented to the 9am Mass congregation as a candidate to receive the Sacraments on Initiation as part of the RCIA program.

This weekend, Billy will be Baptised and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

Welcome to the MHOC Parish family, Billy!



Mass Roster for Second Sunday of Lent 1st March 2026

Second Sunday of Lent - Sunday, 1st March 2026

MASSES	Com/tator	Co-Ordinator	Welcomer	Ex. Minister	Offertory	Reader	P/point Op	Music	Altar Servers & Sacristan
Saturday 6pm		Greg Ryan	P. Winter					Kathy	L Michalik
Sunday 7:30am		Mash + Latham		Gwen Nyhan	Graham family	B. Moroney		John & Johan	J Hendriks
Sunday 9am	Les T.	Wal Samut				Les T.	Brigid	Michelle	J Baiada

PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME ON THE SHEET AT THE FRONT DOORS IF YOU CAN HELP

**EVERY TUESDAY
CENACLE ROSARY
3PM IN THE CHURCH
ALL WELCOME**



World Day of Prayer

Join our local prayer service focused on **Nigeria**

Friday, 6th March 2pm
Uniting Church
24 Elizabeth St, Sawtell
Bring a plate to share for afterwards
All welcome

RECENTLY DECEASED

Brian Beynon
Kevin Bamber
Brendan O'Sullivan
Anne Maginnity

THE SICK

Tracey de Wan
Peter Rose
Pat Verity
Nadia Bridge
Roger Bridge
Leo Rawlings
Fr John Goulding
Helen Dayster
Mike Maxwell

HOLY HOUR

Preparations for the International Eucharistic Congress 2028 to be held in Sydney are in full swing. Eucharist28 is not simply an event, but a defining moment in the life of the Church in Australia. 2026 is the Year of Prayer, inviting the Church to experience the Eucharist as a mystery to be encountered. On 1st March, every parish in the country is invited to celebrate a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration following Mass on that Second Sunday in Lent. Hearing the Gospel of the Transfiguration proclaimed on that Sunday, it is hoped that we may all be united in prayer across the country, seeking a eucharistic transfiguration of our own lives and within our communities. Here in Sawtell, Eucharistic Adoration, followed by Benediction, will be offered directly after the 9am Mass.



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office
the Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully; offer support and discuss options you have available to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



DIF Diocesan Investment Fund
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

CHRISM MASS
Monday, 23rd March
11am
St Carthage's Cathedral,
8 Leicester Street,
Lismore.
All welcome.