

Reflection

The main theme in this week's Gospel reading centres around Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, as recounted in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 1:12-15), or in other years, it may be from the Gospels of Matthew or Luke. However, for the purpose of this reflection, let's focus on Mark's account.

Mark's narrative of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness sets the stage for Jesus' public ministry, immediately following his baptism by John the Baptist. The wilderness, often symbolising a place of trial and testing, becomes the backdrop for Jesus' encounter with temptation.

The theme of temptation is universal and timeless. It speaks to the human experience of grappling with desires, struggles, and choices. In Jesus' temptation, we see not only a demonstration of his divinity but also an example for us to follow in resisting temptation and remaining faithful to God's will.

One key aspect of Jesus' response to temptation is his reliance on Scripture and his trust in God's provision. When tempted by the devil to satisfy his hunger by turning stones into bread, Jesus replies, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" This highlights the importance of spiritual nourishment and the primacy of God's word in sustaining us through life's challenges.



Photo by Ben White on Unsplash

Furthermore, Jesus' rejection of the devil's offers of power and glory underscores the importance of humility and fidelity to God's plan. He refuses to take shortcuts or compromise his mission, choosing instead the path of obedience and self-sacrifice.

As we enter the season of Lent, Jesus' temptation serves as a reminder of the spiritual battles we face and the need for vigilance and discernment. It invites us to reflect on our own temptations and weaknesses, to turn to God for strength and guidance, and to renew our commitment to following Christ faithfully.

Fr Jack

SRE 2024

Are you looking for a new challenge for the new year.

Now is the time to share your faith with the young people in our local Primary schools. We currently need a teacher for Thursday afternoon. If you are able to assist, or would like further information, please contact Patricia Shaw 9631 8135.

Help play an active role in keep our vulnerable safe

Every volunteer must complete their Safeguarding modules every 2 years. This is a mandatory requirement by the Government.

Visit <https://learning.safeguarding.org.au> to sign up and log into your modules.

Options:

1. **Are you yet to complete the modules? Please complete Modules 1,2 & 3.**
2. **Has it been 2 years since completion & need a refresher? Please complete modules 4 & 5**

After completion, please email your certificates to: christine.v@olqp.org.au. If you have any questions about the Safeguarding Training, please email **Maria Kervin**, Community Engagement and Education Officer at: maria.kervin@parracatholic.org or contact the parish office on 9631 8135 / christine.v@olqp.org.au.

Thank you for working together to keep our community safer.

Faith B4U...

This Lent at OLQP

Pope Francis has invited every Christian community this Lent 'to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, to examine their presence in society and the contribution they make to its betterment'. In this spirit, OLQP is offering:

- **Friday Night Stations, Rosary, Adoration, Benediction:** 7pm - Come for all or part (more details in this bulletin)
- **Lent around your Table:** A new Lent Card will be available for everyone every week – containing simple, relevant reflection questions and the next Sunday Gospel to share with a partner, family, friend or by yourself
- **Lenten Enrichment Group:** Come to all or a few - either DAY (10-11am Youth Room) OR NIGHT (7-8pm St George Preca Centre) Guide booklet available for \$5 at the group - All welcome

Please Note: No Lenten gathering 20 Feb, resume 27 Feb

- **Mini Retreat Evening (Save the Date):** Tues 19 March - St George Preca. 6:30pm pizza and eats – 7pm to 8.15pm – Four reflections to connect our lives to the key events of Holy Week
- **Reconciliation – Communal:** Mon 18 March 7pm - Celebrate the Church's 2nd Rite Sacrament of Reconciliation – God's grace ready for Easter

Here's to an enriching Lent for all - Replies or more info - Parish Office 96318135 or email anne.hines@olqp.org.au

Volunteers needed for 2024

Children's Liturgy- Once a month with a small team to share the Gospel with our young children during either the 8:30am or 10:30am Mass. School Terms only.

For details call Parish Office on:

P: **9631 8135** / E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Let us pray...

FOR OUR SICK, that they will be nourished with hope & recognise the loving presence of God in their lives.

Mary Anjoul, George Attard, Rita Attard, Amara Bewert, Ellen Boissett, Frank Borg, Haryono Budiono, Ann Bugaya, Karl Croning, Mario Curmi, Maria Golkowski, Margaret John, Margaret Jones, Rachel Karbic, Tulla Kavich, Tyler Kenedy, Peter Kennedy, Maxine Kroebel, Michelle Makin, Joyce Mifsud, Elsie Moran, Joseph Moses, Alex Noble, Brendon Onorato, Delma Ryan, Benjie Santiago, Carmel Thompson, Connie Tudman, Eddie Vella, Grace Widjaya, Jasper Wilhite, Maureen Zarb

FOR DEATH ANNIVERSARIES, they now know the fullness of life & delight in God - may they pray for our active purpose in God's Mission.

Doris Axiak, Saviour (Sam) Barbara, Giuseppe Commisso, William Cutajar, Emanuel Demanuele, Jack Smith

FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED, may our Lord embrace them with unimaginable joy & bless those who grieve with the power of hope. Funeral dates listed below when known. Funeral notices are displayed on the notice board in the church foyer. Every attempt is made to stay current, but it is best not to make that your only or final source of personal information.

John Attard - 20th Feb at 11am | Joseph Cini | Rev Angelo Bartolo



Open Day for 2025 New Kindergarten
Families will be held

Wednesday 6th March at 9.30am sharp

Parents will be taken on a tour to visit the kindergarten rooms, playgrounds and other facilities on the grounds.
Please arrive on time.



Youth Corner

This upcoming Thursday (the **22nd of February**) there is a social night for the OLQP Youth.

The evening will begin at **7pm** with prayer followed by sports games in the Camilleri Hall that will help forge new friendships - or strengthen current ones. Don't forget to wear running shoes and comfortable clothes!

World Day of Prayer

This will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Church at 10:30am on Friday 1st March. Following Mass, morning tea will be available in the St George Preca Centre. All welcome.

Our sponsors...

Please understand that whilst OLQP Parish allows advertising, it cannot take responsibility if the service provided does not meet expectations.



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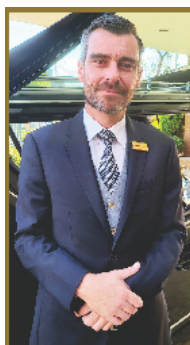
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A Ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth

Our Mission: To grow as a community in the likeness of Christ.

A chance to serve through music and singing

OLQP is blessed with a good number of people who serve us all through music at Mass.

If you have music and/or singing ability, would you be able to offer your generosity once a month to your parish community? There is an opportunity on the 4th Saturday night of the month at 5pm, following another generous musician's move to the coast.

OR you are very welcome and encouraged if there is another Mass time at which you'd like to contribute your abilities. Depending on your particular talents we can link you with others and/or look to the forming of new groups.

Kindly speak to Fr Paul, Fr Jack Fr Jobi - or let the parish office know (parishoffice@olqp.org.au) you'd like one of them to be in touch with you. They will happily support you to meet key people of the music ministry and to find a way to share in this great gift of service for God's glory in the Mass!

Details - OLQP Friday nights of Lent

We will be alternating two specially prepared versions of the Stations of the Cross. Each Friday needs three people to present from a script. They can be people of any age – from three different families each time (or singles or from different couples), who have experience of public reading/speaking. Anyone keen is very welcome to **contact** parishioner **Lucita** who will kindly coordinate – lqrtutoring@gmail.com – Those presenting each Friday will meet with their co-presenters at 6.30pm and become familiar with the script.

- **All parishioners and any people you invite are welcome to all or part of any of these evenings which start at 7pm.** So, come only to Stations - or only later - or to all - as you are able. Expected finish time each week is around 8.15pm.
- **Structure each time:** Stations at 7pm / Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament around 7.30pm / 10 minutes silence / Rosary / 10 mins silence / Benediction and reservation of the Blessed Sacrament

Aid to the Church in Need

Job Vacancies available.

Jobs are all based at our National Office in Penrith. Applications close 19 February.

The roles are:

- Campaigns Coordinator: <https://cathnews.com/job/campaigns-coordinator-aid-to-the-church-in-need/>
- Coordinator, Friends of the Suffering Souls: <https://cathnews.com/job/coordinator-friends-of-the-suffering-souls/>
- Executive Assistant: <https://cathnews.com/job/executive-assistant-to-the-national-director/>

FEAST DAYS



This week we celebrate

22nd Thursday **The Chair of St Peter**, apostle



Next weeks Readings

1st Reading
Genesis
22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

2nd Reading
Romans
8:31-34

Gospel
Mark
9:2-10

Mass Times

Monday - 9:15am

Tuesday - 9:15am

Wednesday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Thursday - 9:15am

Friday - 6:30am | 9:15am

Saturday - Vigil 5:00pm (live streamed)

Sunday - 7:00am | 8:30am | 10:30am | 6:00pm

Memorial Mass - Last Tuesday night of each month (except December) at 7:00pm

Mass for Peace with anointing of the sick - First Saturday of each month (except January) at 10:30am

Reconciliation:

Saturday - 4:00pm - 4.45pm

Please join us via Facebook or Website, olqp.org.au, every Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:00pm

Rosary in the church: Weekdays at 8:30am & Friday nights at 7:30pm

ZOOM option available Friday night for those who cannot travel to the church for rosary.

Meeting ID: 896 7944 2594 | Passcode: rosary

P: 9631 8135 | E: parishoffice@olqp.org.au

Emergency Contact Only 0447 509 207

Join us on...

Parish Office hours: 9am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm Monday to Friday

PO Box 5035 Greystanes 2145 | 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes