



Our Lady of the Rosary

Catholic Church

26 Swanston Street, St Marys, NSW 2760
Tel: (02) 9623 1962

Parish Email: secretaryolrchurch@iinet.net.au
Parish Website: www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au



Entrusted to the Salesians of Don Bosco

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - Year A -

22 February 2026

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: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7

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

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) 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.)

Responsorial Psalm:

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

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.)

Second Reading: 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 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



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: 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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live on bread alone but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

IN OUR PARISH

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest: Fr. Jeff Miller SDB
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Petelo Vito Pau
 Parish Secretary: Fleur Mathias
 Asst. Secretary: Violetta B (Mondays)
 Parish Telephone: 9623 1962
 Parish Email: secretary@olrchurch@iinet.net.au
 Parish Website: www.olrchurchstmarys.org.au

Enquiries: Please phone the Parish Office between 9:30am - 12:00pm & 1:00pm - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

Salesian Community: Phone: 9623 1220

Rector: Fr. Petelo Vito Pau

Don Bosco Youth Centre: Phone: 9623 0450

Director: Fr Joseph Huong SDB

Salesian Sisters:

Superior: Sr Edna Mary McDonald

Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School

Principal: Ms Jackie Willard Phone: 8856 8301

Email: olorstmarys@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.olorstmarys.catholic.edu.au

Emmaus Catholic College

Principal: Mrs Gabriela Osterlund Phone: 9670 4588

Email: emmaus@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.emmauskempscreek.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION TIMES:

Wednesday: 11:15am - 11:45am. Mass at 12 noon

Saturdays: 9:00am - 10:00am, 5:00pm - 5:30pm



PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

24 hours, 7 days a week in the Adoration Chapel.
 (All are welcome)

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sat 21 Feb ST PETER DAMIAN
 6.00pm Holy Souls in Purgatory

Sun 22 Feb FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
 7:30am Susan Avila and Siblings
 9:00am Pro Populo
 10:30am Peter Latulipe
 5:30pm Sue & Joe Bradley

Mon 23 Feb ST POLYCARP
 6:30am Sundaram Balaji
 9:00am Grguric grandchildren

Tues 24 Feb
 6:30am Clare Briggs
 9:00am For the Unborn

Wed 25 Feb Ss. LOUIS VERSIGLIA, CALISTO CARAVARIO
 6:30am Special Intentions
 12:00pm Gabrielle Galgey

Thu 26 Feb
 6:30am Holy Souls of Priests
 9:00am Holy Souls in Purgatory

Fri 27 Feb Ss. GREGORY OF NAREK
 6.30am Holy Souls in Purgatory
 9:15am Lydia

Sat 28 Feb
 8.00am Phyllis Cross



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Jesus the Healer, we commend to your gentle hands

Cesar, Rosario Valverde, Marylin Villamor, Margaret Gallagher, Rose Cauci, Emmanuel & Josephine Vella, Maya Glinski, Ruth Magnaye, Jorge Oliveras, Josephine Evans, Tenesha Faulkner, Linda Weightman, Rudy Rupac, Elinda Lopez, Norma Sulvita, Michael McDermot, Reynaldo Handog, Wayne Reynolds, Maryanne Santos, Denise Blanche, Patrick Levelle, Fr Bob Bossini, Bertha Wetton, Cocksedge Family, Dexter Assey, Peyton Daley, Mario Cauchi, Robert Engelebrecht, Reynaldo Bendayral, Vanessa Trujillo, Renee Azzopardi, Sarafino Enadid, Juliet Lee, Margaret Lawrence, Ashton D'Costa, Rolando Aguda, Hugo Labra, Shiv Naiker, Andre Rodriguez, Ginnah Alia, David Freeman, Susie Lipstack, Charlise McMillan, Crystal Darcy, Zdravko & Marija Palovic, Evotia Letele, Karen Barret, Josephine Mitchell, Emelita Howlett, Richard Dauglath, Emma Tucker, Jackie Cullen, Vicky Xerri, Esperanza Mirafeuntes, Abraham Thomas, Rectahmma Abraham, Sophia Furey, Alicia Bulatao, Mhom Samson, Aurora Jimenez, Adam Burton, Annabelle Rego, Arou Akot, Colleen Assimus, Jozef Karkowski, Ronald Manzano, Anna Juresa, Jose Maria Pepingco, Ronnie D'costa.

PRAYERS FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Please remember in your prayers our deceased parishioners, family and friends especially

Adrian O'Brien, Tony Pearsall, Danica Cirjak, Betty Smith, Peter Borg, Patricia McGee, Marie Thompson, Gloria Rivas, Valerie Hennessy, Lucy Levelle, Lolita Allarey, Bishop Kevin Manning, Maria Anh Nguyen, Elvis Vaz, Roland Peters, Roberto Rayco, Sr Mary Griffiths, Sr Therese-Anne Curmi FMA, Sr Kathleen Hanna FMA., Cynthia Sulvita, Evelyn McVey, Patrick Nathaniel, Sybil Williams, Karl Kisel, Kevin Piesley, Foad Sakkour, Antonio Oliverio, Peter Dorakay, Janice McKelvie, Marc Norric, Cecilia Milo, Richard Scibberas, Edna Coles, John Joe Noonan, Ben Santiago, Rolando Aguda, Maria Crastic, David Reddin, Noelene Trower, Evelyn Bates, Peter Nicholson, Remon Goldstone, Maria Pace, Dominica Rositano, Vijaya N Perera, Pauline Harris, Pauline Carr, Phyllis Cross, Ellen Buss, Joseph Khanh Le, Bill Burke, Rainer Cruz, Henryk Kowalczyk, John Ross Birch, John Rodriguez, Argyna Santiago, Pope Francis, Nozha Mey, Denis McGee, Rodney Blundell, Jamie Dowsett, Ivan Canic, Josh Bulloch, Ruth Borg, Ostono Vaurasi, Len Dettling, Damian Bonser, Sr Joanna Healey, Clementina Canuto, Ross Graham, Paul Muscat, Lenin Nunes, Frank Stricek, Christine Walker, Paz Jacinto, Perry Peisley, Beryl Martin, Pauline Rogers, Carmel Jeffery, Greg Whitby, Charlie Kirk, Marie Rosario, Suzana Stojcevski, Fr John Briffa SDB, Fr Frank Moloney SDB, Mary Kumar, Serge Nalletamby, Peter Aquilina, Angela Barca, Victoria Borg, Deacon Petelo Savea, Andrew Vaessen, Milly Martin, Alicia Bulatao, Pasquale Bellino, Br Rey Pongo, Tony Martin, Patricia Armstrong, Stephen Neville, Raymond Clark.

Eternal rest grant unto their souls O Lord, let light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen

1st and 2nd Collections:

We Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.

If you prefer to donate via ONLINE BANKING,

Please refer to details below:

(1st Collection) - For the Clergy's sustentation & care

BSB NO: 067 950

ACCOUNT NO: 00004414

ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Pastoral Revenue

(2nd Collection) - Parish Ministry & Maintenance

BSB NO: 067 950

ACCOUNT NO: 10000329

ACCOUNT NAME: St Marys Catholic Church

First Collection (previous weekend) \$1836.85
Second Collection (previous weekend) \$2221.40
Tap & Go Donations \$2136.50

TAP & GO MACHINES

The two New Tap & Go machines in the church, donations go towards the Church Refurbishment.

Kindly Select your donation amount \$5, \$10, \$20 or other.

COMING EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

22 Feb: **Pilgram Mother Apostolate, 11:45am**
23 Feb: Holy Wounds, Church 7:30pm
25 Feb: Hope-Filled Mornings, Parish House, 9:30am
26 Feb: Garden of Gethsemane, Church, 9pm-10pm
28 Feb: Family Movie Night (*details below*)
7 March: Bingo, Parish Hall, 7:30pm
9 March: Catechist Meeting, Parish Centre, 10am



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Held every Friday in Lent at 7pm, in the Church. All are welcome.

OLR LENTEN PROGRAM 2026

Journey alongside Christ this Lenten Season by meditating on the Sunday Gospels.

Join us Monday evenings in Lent

23 February - 23 March, 7:30pm

small group sessions in the Parish Hall.

Sign up using the QR Code



BE THE WITNESS

A Musical that will turn your life around.

We would like to invite you to the chorus auditions. All those interested come to the audition for this amazing evangelical musical production at St Patrick's Church, Blacktown on Monday 23rd February : 6:30pm - 8:30pm
To register and book your time, please scan the QR code and fill in your details.
Come, Be The Witness



HOPE FILLED MORNINGS

Come and be inspired.



Wednesday 25 February

Time: 9:30am Venue: Parish House

DVD: St Maria Goretti. All Welcome

We will watch the DVD, have a cuppa, a little sharing and prayer.

Enquiries: Colleen: 0413 668 652 or (02) 9837 5069

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Screening on **Saturday 28 February**, after the 6pm Mass, in the Parish Hall.

Movie: SONG OF BERNADETTE

Come and enjoy this beautiful movie.

All are welcome.



IMMACULATE MARY STATUE

**Mr & Mrs Rodrigo Godoy
12 Lindwall Court, St Clair**

If you would like the Rosary Statue in your home for a week, kindly contact Mr & Mrs Johnson 0404 028 823.



WE WELCOME

Lucia Myra Bender, Dorothy Renee Tamayo, Caleb Allen Alderton, Kove-Lee Mary Violet Taylor
into our Parish Family through the Sacrament of Baptism.

BINGO BINGO BINGO



Saturday 7 March, 7:30pm

Parish Hall. All are Welcome

Sausage Sizzle from 6:30pm. *Cash Prizes.*

Supper provided - gold coin donation

Any donations to cover costs is greatly appreciated.

Denis Collins 0459 185 517

CARITAS - Project Compassion



In 2026, Project Compassion calls on us to

"Unite Against Poverty" this Lent

It is an invitation to stand in solidarity with people around the world who face immense challenges every day – challenges that most of us can scarcely imagine. Please pick up a Project Compassion box from the back table in the Church Foyer.

Project Compassion Boxes will be collected on Holy Thursday at the Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm.

DANCING-4-FUN

Dance classes: Wednesdays, 7:30pm to 9:30pm

On request we are having an earlier session Wednesdays: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

We learn all types of Dancing - Line dancing, Party & Ballroom. All Welcome.
\$6 per person / per session.



PARISH BUS TO MASS ON SUNDAYS

If you know someone in our parish who would like a lift to the 9:00am Mass on Sunday mornings, please let them know we have a parish bus available. For bookings, please call the Parish office on 96231962 during office hours.

Gambling / Alcoholics Anonymous Group

Having trouble with alcohol? Does your drinking worry you? Is it causing you to get into unpleasant or dangerous situations? Are family members complaining about your drinking / Gambling?

If you're looking for help to stop drinking we have 2 AA meetings held each week (*details below*) and GA meetings on Thursdays, 7:30pm

OLR Parish Centre Meeting Room

Saturdays 12:30pm and Wednesdays 6:30pm

Corner of Swanston and Collins St, St Marys
Membership is open to all who have a desire to recover from Alcoholism / Gambling.

There's no formal application to join the group.

From a sermon of Pope Saint Leo the Great, Purification of spirit through fasting and almsgiving

Dear friends,

At every moment the earth is full of the mercy of God, and nature itself is a lesson for all the faithful in the worship of God. The heavens, the sea and all that is in them bear witness to the goodness and omnipotence of their Creator, and the marvellous beauty of the elements as they obey him demands from the intelligent creation a fitting expression of its gratitude.

But with the return of that season marked out in a special way by the mystery of our redemption, and of the days that lead up to the paschal feast, we are summoned more urgently to prepare ourselves by a purification of spirit.

The special note of the paschal feast is this: the whole Church rejoices in the forgiveness of sins. It rejoices in the forgiveness not only of those who are then reborn in holy baptism but also of those who are already numbered among God's adopted children.

Initially, men are made new by the rebirth of baptism. Yet there still is required a daily renewal to repair the shortcomings of our mortal nature, and whatever degree of progress has been made there is no one who should not be more advanced. All must therefore strive to ensure that on the day of redemption no one may be found in the sins of his former life.

Dear friends, what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food but above all by the renunciation of sin.

There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace.

The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts.

