



We are a community learning to be disciples of Jesus

Welcome to Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Catholic Parish 9th March 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Our Masses

Our Lady of Mercy Church

5 Mann Street, Mount Barker

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Sunday 9am

Tue	9.30am	11/03
Wed	12 noon	12/03
Thu	9.15am	13/03
Fri	9.30am	14/03

The Good Shepherd Church

2 Chapel Street, Strathalbyn

Sunday 11am

St James the Less Church

24 Luck Street, Macclesfield

Closed for repairs

St Francis de Sales College

8 Dutton Road, Mount Barker

No Mass this Week

Feast Days This Week

None this week

Exposition of the BI Sacrament:
Tuesday morning after Mass.

Reconciliation: Tuesday during and after Exposition, Saturday 15/03 5pm-5:30pm at Our Lady of Mercy, and by appointment.

Our Priests

Fr Philip Marshall

philipfxmarshall@gmail.com

Fr Ian Wilson

Assisting Priest

Our Personnel

Parish Secretary

Michelle Muller, Parish Secretary
7 Mann Street, Mt Barker SA 5251
M/W/F 9am-3pm Ph 83911053
mtbarkerparish@gmail.com
www.barkerstrathcatholic.com

Strath Ministry Coordinator

Sue Eckert Ph 0408 362 258

Safeguarding Contact Persons

Michelle Muller Ph 8391 1053

Teena Cobiac Ph 0499 172 740

Child Abuse Report Line 13 14 78



Pilgrims of Hope: A Lenten Journey in Light of the Synod and Jubilee Year

Archbishop Patrick O'Regan's Pastoral Letter for Lent 2025: Part 1

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, As we embark upon the sacred season of Lent in this Jubilee Year of 2025, our hearts are drawn to the call of the Lord to renew our faith, deepen our communion, and walk as pilgrims of hope. This holy season invites us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, guiding us towards a transformation that echoes the spirit of the Synod on Synodality (2023-2024). The synodal journey has been a time of listening, discernment, and unity in the Holy Spirit, preparing us to embrace the Jubilee theme: Pilgrims of Hope.

Lent, a season of conversion and grace, is the path upon which we are invited to journey more deeply into the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. As the Church continues its synodal process, we are reminded that we are a people walking together, discerning the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and responding to the call of mission in our time. We also renew our commitment to Christ, deepening our awareness of His love and mercy, and accompanying one another toward Easter's radiant joy.

Lent is always a time of conversion and grace, however in this Jubilee year, it takes on a special significance. We are invited to live Lent not merely as a season of penance, but as a journey of profound renewal, and ultimately a journey to Easter.

The Synod has encouraged us to rediscover our identity as a Church that listens and walks together, fostering communion and participation. This means that our Lenten practices must not be individualistic but communal, embracing the needs of our sisters and brothers, especially the poor, the marginalised, and those preparing for the sacraments of initiation.

A poignant story which I heard at the Synod comes to mind. In a small parish in Africa, a group of catechumens—men and women preparing for baptism—gather each week, sharing their testimonies of how Christ has transformed their lives. One young woman, Maria by name, fled war and found refuge in the Church. Through the love and accompaniment of the Christian community, she encountered Jesus and now awaits the Easter Vigil with hope in her heart. Her journey mirrors that of the early Christians, and those from our own Archdiocese, and reminds us that Lent is about walking together toward the light of Christ.

Please Pray For...

Sick

Jack Ballinger, John Burton, Henk Daams, Andrew Harms, Blossom (Teresa) Ferrarese, Brian Fiora, Ashlee Lloyd, Gertrude Stolarski, Helen Malin, Froilan Milan, David Neville, Michael Persse, Ailbe Sheehy, Cecelia Smeath, Barbara Turner, Alida van Dijk, Alwyne Williams, Mary Patricia Williams, Sandra Lloyd, Steve Parker.

Recently Deceased

Maurice Sequeira, Dino Barbieri, Gerry Roberts.

Anniversary of Death

Irmengard Bachmayer, Mary Centofanti, Jock Colville, Merawyn (Mem) Corin, Joy Cutting, Ann D'Mello, Teresa Dامتو, Rosario de Guevara, Mary Gillespie, Hugh Greenslade, Patricia Hynes, Elva Mahar, Frank Mason, Barry McGeough, Tony McNamara, Betty Phillips, Carmen Suter, Doreen Tarca, Arthur Wagenknecht, John Walsh, Hartley Weckert, Richard Myles White.

Anniversaries from Saturday 8th to Friday 14th March.

Parish Pastoral Council

Supporting our parish community on our journey of faith.

Chair: Neil McGoran (neil.mcgoran@cesa.catholic.edu.au)

Ex Officio: Fr Philip Marshall, Fr Ian Wilson, Andrew Baker.

Members: Stewart Chilcott, Joanna Falkland, Mike Galea, Yesamma Hendry, Lijo Kurian, Sandra Lloyd, Jo Manalo, Leo Sexton, Jan Sobotta.

Parish Finance Council

For parish property, maintenance and finance matters.

Chair: Peter Schaefer. **Ex Officio:** Father Philip Marshall.

Members: John Cook, Bernard Croese.

To give to our parish first and second collection, scan this QR code or log onto: adelaide.goodgiving.com.au/qr/parish/mbs.



Diary Dates This Week

Mon	10/03	9:45am	Arty Crafty Ladies	OLOM Foyer
Mon	10/03	4:00pm	CGS / Atrium Level 2	Parish House
Tue	11/03	10:00am	CGS / Atrium Level 1	Parish House
Tue	11/03	10:00am	Lenten Reflection Group	OLOM Foyer
Tue	11/03	7:00pm	Knights Southern Cross	OLOM Foyer
Thu	13/03	10:30am	Christian Meditation	Parish House
Thu	13/03	7:30pm	Guitar Choir Practice	OLOM
Fri	14/03	6:30pm	Lenten Reflection Group	OLOM Foyer
Sat	15/03	9:30am	Organ Choir Practice	OLOM
Sat	15/03	3:00pm	CGS / Atrium Level 3	Parish House
Sat	15/03	5:15pm	Rosary	OLOM
Sun	16/03	10:15am	Sunday Readings	Strath Hall
Sun	16/03	10:30am	Legion of Mary	Parish House
Sun	16/03	3:30pm	RCIA	OLOM Foyer

Help to Clean the Church

Unfortunately we are now down to one person doing all of the cleaning at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Are you able to help? Please contact Michelle in the Parish Office if you can help clean occasionally.



Reflection

on the Scripture Readings

As we begin the journey towards our Easter celebration, today's gospel reading from Luke sets us on our way. For Luke, Jesus' temptations in the wilderness point to the terrible conflict that awaits him at the end of the public life - when 'at his appointed time' the devil returns to

frustrate the Saviour's work. In Luke's account, the last temptation takes place in Jerusalem - Jesus' final conflict with the forces of evil will take place in the holy city.

A great realism runs through the biblical story. God's final purposes for the human family and for the whole of creation will only be realised through the Saviour's defeat of the forces of evil. We do not need to be persuaded that evil forces are work in our world - selfish abuse of the freedom given to God's creatures; but also the destructiveness caused by the blindness of those who have lost their way in a darkened world.

Today's gospel presents the conflict of Jesus with the forces of evil as a very personal one. Perhaps this presentation is a summary of the teaching in which - drawing on the experience of a life shared with us - Jesus warned his disciples of the temptations that would call them away from their commitment to follow him. They will be tempted to give false gods the place the one true God should have in their lives: creature comforts and possessions; power abused for selfish advantage; a 'religious' complacency that presumes on God's favours without a genuine commitment to the ways of God.

In the gospel accounts, the temptations of Jesus are closely linked with his baptism by John: 'Filled with Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there'. In the Jordan he showed that he had thrown in his lot with struggling humanity - 'put to the test in exactly the same way as ourselves, apart from sin' (Hebrews 4:15). By his example, and finally through the power of his Paschal Mystery, he would make himself the 'Way' to the fullness of life for a lost world. Our reading from Paul to the Romans celebrates this triumphant outcome.

As we reflect upon the conversion to which the Church invites us during our Lenten journey, the Lord's example should be our inspiration. The temptations he faced encourage us to look beyond superficial problems in our lives and characters, and to face up to the root causes of these failings - the false gods that so easily seduce our divided human hearts. Today's liturgy brings us another valuable lesson. The Word of God is a power for good in the lives of those who know and love the Scriptures. The words of Scripture with which Jesus confounds the tempter come from the book of Deuteronomy. Paul cites this same book (30:14) as he proclaims the Church's faith in the risen Lord. This book is one of the high points of the Old Testament. In today's first reading it gives us a summary of Old Testament faith in the God's faithfulness - a faithfulness that is finally expressed in the Paschal Mystery.

Fr John Thornhill SM

The Emmaus Series at www.themmausseries.com

King Single Electric Bed Available

The Mt Barker/Strathalbyn Conference of St Vincent de Paul has a donated king single electric bed in very good condition for sale, asking \$400. All proceeds will be used for the work of the Conference in the Mt Barker/Strathalbyn area. If you are interested please ring Tom Mead on 0432 215 998.

Question of the Week

Jesus answered him (the devil), 'It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only God'. (Luke 4: 8)

Adults: How willing are you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ openly to others? **Young People:** When has giving in to a temptation hurt you? How does giving in to a temptation keep you from being the person you think God wants you to be?

Children: Would you still be able to say that you believe in Jesus if others made fun of you for it?

Presentation for Baptism

We welcome parents Diane and Fernelo Manalo who are presenting their daughter to us in preparation for her baptism. The presentation is on Sunday in the 9am Mass at Our Lady of Mercy, Mount Barker. We ask God to bless the Manalo family as they prepare for this important occasion.

Opportunities for Lent

1) Fr. Philip will host a **Lenten discussion group** on Fridays 14th, 21st, and 28th of March and 11th of April, in Our Lady of Mercy Church foyer from 6.30 to 7:30pm. Another group meets on Wednesdays at 10am in the foyer (but Tuesday this coming week).

2) **Individual reconciliation** will be available on Saturdays at Our Lady of Mercy Church between 5.00pm and 6.00pm.

3) **Second Rite of Reconciliation** on Friday 4th of April:

i) Church of the Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn, 5pm

ii) Our Lady of Mercy Mt Barker at 7pm

4) **Sacrament of Anointing** for those with serious illness after every Mass on the weekend of the 5th/6th of April.

5) **Holy Week:**

a) **Palm Sunday:** Procession and Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Mt Barker, 9am, and at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn, 11am

b) **Mass of the Lord's Supper,** The Church of the Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn 7pm

c) **Good Friday Stations of the Cross:**

i) Church of the Good Shepherd, Strathalbyn, 11am.

ii) Macclesfield 11am, Davenport Square

d) **Good Friday Service:** Our Lady of Mercy Church, 3pm

6) **Easter Vigil,** Our Lady of Mercy church, 7pm

7) **Easter Sunday Masses:**

i) Our Lady of Mercy Church, Mt Barker, 9am

ii) Church of the Good Shepherd Strathalbyn, 11am

Couples for Christ

Couples For Christ Australia (CFCA) is active within the Mt Barker / Strathalbyn Catholic Parish and would like to invite you to join in with our household groups to attend a Christian Life Program of 7 weeks of inspiring talks and fellowship. The Christian Life Program strengthens the family in Christian growth, promoting understanding in the Catholic Faith and values and is the stepping stone into CFCA. Please scan the QR code on your phone and go to the website to get more details.



We are hosting two Household meetings with more information on Friday 7th March at 7.30pm at The Good Shepherd Church Hall 2 Chapel Street Strathalbyn and repeated on Friday 21st March at 7.30pm at St Francis de Sales College Function room. 8 Dutton Road Mount Barker.

Bring a Friend Weekend

Welcome to all those who have joined us as part of Bring a Friend Weekend, and anyone who is new to our parish. We hope that you have a joyful and peace-filled time with us today and we look forward to getting to know you a little more.

Loving the Least of These

Embrace Life, the pro-life focus of the Archdiocesan Justice, Healing and Inclusion Office invites you to its second Interactive Forum, *Loving the Least of These* with a focus on Genesis Pregnancy Support Services, presented by Ms Juli Sharpe on Wednesday March 19 at 6pm-7-30pm at John and Mary Fennessy Rooms, level 2, Centacare, 45 Wakefield Street, Adelaide. Free parking is available in the Cathedral carpark. Contact jhi@adelaide.catholic.org.au for more details.

Fringe Lunchtime Organ Recitals

St Francis Xavier's' Cathedral on Wednesday March 12, Wednesday March 19 and Sunday March 23 (Young Organists) at 1pm. Entry is free and all are welcome.

The annual **Festival of Hymns** also returns for 2025 on Sunday March 16 at 1pm in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral. Come along and join in an hour of hymn singing! Cathedral organist, James Lloyd will lead this free Fringe Festival event.

Would you like to be an Altar Server?

If you are a young person who has received Confirmation and First Holy Communion, you may be interested in becoming an altar server. There are laminated cards on the leaflet rack in Our Lady of Mercy Church foyer which outline how to do the role. Please feel welcome to take one home to read. To find out more, ring the parish office on 8391 1053.

This is a very big burden to place on one set of shoulders.

Weekly eNews

Copies of the Archdiocese of Adelaide *Weekly eNews* are available in churches to pick up this weekend.



First Sunday of Lent 8th and 9th of March 2025

Project Compassion 2025 shares three stories from around the world. We'll meet **Toefuata'iga** - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) from Samoa, **Lam** from Vietnam and **Irene** from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Each of this year's stories reflects diverse challenges, yet they are united by the shared determination to overcome adversity and create better futures for themselves and their communities.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Sunday Readings

FIRST READING DEUTERONOMY 26:4-10

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

The confession of faith of the elect.

Moses said to the people: 'The priest shall take the panner from your hand and lay it before the altar of the Lord your God. Then, in the sight of the Lord your God, you must make this pronouncement:

"My father was a wandering Aramaean. He went down into Egypt to find refuge there, few in numbers; but there he became a nation, great, mighty, and strong. The Egyptians ill-treated us, they gave us no peace and inflicted harsh slavery on us. But we called on the Lord, the God of our fathers. The Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression; and the Lord brought us out of Egypt with mighty hand and outstretched arm, with great terror, and with signs and wonders. He brought us here and gave us this land, a land where milk and honey flow. Here then I bring the first-fruits of the produce of the soil that you, Lord, have given me." You must then lay them before the Lord your God, and bow down in the sight of the Lord your God.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 90:1-2, 10-15

R. Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **R.**

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways. **R.**

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon. **R.**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.'
I will save him in distress and give him glory. **R.**



First Sunday of Lent

SECOND READING ROMANS 10:8-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.

Scripture says: The word, that is the faith we proclaim, is very near to you, it is on your lips and in your heart. If your lips confess that Jesus is Lord and if you believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, then you will be saved. By believing from the heart you are made righteous; by confessing with your lips you are saved. When scripture says: those who believe in him will have no cause for shame, it makes no distinction between Jew and Greek: all belong to the same Lord who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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!

GOSPEL LUKE 4:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says:

You must worship the Lord your God,
and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said to him, 'throw yourself down from here, for Scripture says:

He will put his angels in charge of you
to guard you,

and again:

They will hold you up on their hands
in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said:

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him to return at the appointed time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Next Week: March 16, Second Sunday of Lent, Year C,

As Jesus prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning.

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Psalm: 26:1, 7-9, 13-14, Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1, Gospel: Luke 9:28-36.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, Alleluia & Gospel verses, & Lenten Gospel Acclamation from *Lectionary for Mass*© 1969,1981, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.