

Catholic Parish of the Nambucca Valley

Corpus Christi, Bowraville

Our Lady Star of the Sea, Nambucca Heads

St. Patrick's Macksville

Christ the King, Taylors Arm

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE
LENT
YEAR A
22ND FEB 2026



Administrator: Fr. Peter Rebello OCD

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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. Now 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 loincloths.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 50(51):3-6,12-14,17

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

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. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

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.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12-19

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. 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.

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.

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.

A nourishing desert :Vast, bare and silent, the desert is a place of spare and rugged beauty. It is also very confronting: an arid, barren environment with extreme temperatures, searing heat by day and freezing cold by night. The desert may serve as a metaphor for our experiences of desolation, when we are stripped bare of our confidence and must face our most vulnerable selves. Even though Jesus was the Son of God, there were no doubt moments when he was led into the desert when he experienced desolation, when he thought that God was absent or silent. When faced with grief, loss, or hardship, we may find it difficult to persist in faith. Even waiting for God may seem like an added – even an unbearable – burden. But, as Simone Weil, in *Waiting for God*, reminds us: “we cannot take a step toward the heavens;” instead, we find that, in God’s immense love for our frail humanity, "God crosses the universe and comes to us.” God comes to us! The three temptations faced by Jesus present examples of situations where we in our own lives may be tempted to rely on ourselves to overcome some very basic human challenges: the need to fill our hunger, the desire to be powerful or influential, and the need to feel safe and secure. In his responses, Jesus teaches us not to succumb to the temptation to compensate for our human weaknesses by focusing on satisfying our desires. Instead, he invites us to lean ever more closely on God and to let God begin to work within us with great love and tenderness and fashion us every more closely in God’s image. Jesus shows us that, even at our lowest ebb, God fills every hunger and quenches every thirst. He reminds us that any influence we may wield comes not from being powerful but by walking with others in humility, solidarity and love. He reminds us to remain steadfast; for we can rest secure in the trust that God embraces our every vulnerability. Through God’s transforming presence, we can begin to experience the desert not as a place of despair or desolation, but as a place of deep encounter with God and transformation. Stripped bare of everything superfluous to our needs, and utterly dependent on God, we become open to a profound conversion of heart and real growth. When Anthony, one of the early Desert Fathers, emerged twenty years after his time in the desert, his brothers were surprised to see that he was not haggard, but instead looked well and was radiant with inner peace. Amidst the suffering of any desert into which we are led, let us pray for the grace to respond as Jesus did – to open ourselves utterly to God. Let us awaken to the divine within and around us and respond to him, to the beauty of his creation, and to each other in an entirely new, grace-filled and life-giving way. Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2026

**during lenten season every tuesday lenten prayer group will meet at Nambucca church 5 to 6pm
more detail contact 0448107036**

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Louise Allan, Ethan canale, Hilda, John Logan, Peter O’corner , shirly
laverty ,

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES
OCCUR AT THIS TIME**

, Erne Thorne ,Fr. Frank O’gorman
, Peter Owens
lotti. latham, Mureen, and Eulilaha , Pod Clough, Trevor Latham

WE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Dianne Wills, . Tammy Metz,

TUE 24th Feb	9:30 am mass at Macksville
WED 25th Feb	No Mass PFC meeting at 4pm
THU 26th Feb	9:30 Am Mass at Macksville
FRI 27th Feb	Station of the cross 9am Mass at 9:30 Nambucca
SAT 28th Feb	4:30 pm Reconciliatin 5pm Nambucca
SUN 1st March Second sunday of lent	8Am Mass in macksville 9:30 am in Bowraville

****Mass Intention envelopes are located at the back of the Church****