



CHRIST THE LIGHT

CATHOLIC PARISH

DOREEN, KINGLAKE, MERNDA, WHITTLESEA

1st Sunday of Lent. Year B. 21 February 2021

Parish Priest: Rev Martin Ashe
Assistant Priest: Fr Jude Johnson
Parish Secretary: Margaret Stanford [Tues & Fri: 9am – 4pm]
Pastoral Associate: Sandy Starbuck Tue, Wed, Fri [9401 6324]
Sacraments: Contact Parish Office [9412 8493]
Finance/Admin: Monique Heckmann Tue, Wed, Thur [9412 8493]
Parish Office: 48 Mernda Village Drive, Mernda 3754
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Phone Number: 9412 8493
Email: merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au
Website: www.christthelightparish.org.au

Nazareth Centre (St Joseph's Primary School)

44 Mernda Village Drive Mernda 3754

Weekday Mass: Wednesday & Friday 9:15 am

Weekend Masses: Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8am and Sunday 10:30am

St Mary's, Whittlesea

2-20 Fir Street Whittlesea 3757

Weekday Mass: Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 am

Weekend Mass: Sunday 10 am

Reconciliation 2nd & 4th Saturdays 10 am

St Mary's, Kinglake

124 Whittlesea-Kinglake Rd Kinglake 3763

Weekend Mass Sunday 8:30 am

St Joseph's, Mernda

1490 Plenty Rd Mernda 3754

Reconciliation 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturdays 10 am

We pray for those who have died recently: Skip Nutter

And those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Lionel Gamlath, Murin Perera, Susan Jacintha

We pray for those who are ill in our community: Sajad Kolahdooz, Virginia Ballo Baltazar

Entrance Antiphon:

When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him the length of days.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Responsorial Psalm:

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Second Reading: St Peter 3:18-22

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: Mark 1:12-15

Next week: Yr B 2nd Sunday of Lent

First: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Second: St Paul to Romans 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

GOSPEL REFLECTION

We could think of wild beasts and angels as two opposing forces. The wild beasts could be understood as servants of Satan, putting Jesus' relationship with God to the test, enticing him to put himself rather than God at the centre of his life. The angels, in contrast, are servants of God, supporting Jesus in his time of struggle, giving him the strength to stand firm in the test, to withstand the onslaught. There is some parallel between where Jesus found himself in that wilderness at the very beginning of his ministry and our own lives.

We too can find ourselves caught between wild beasts and angels. We too can find our best convictions, our deepest values, being put to the test. The values of the gospel are not always at home in the world in which we live. The pressure to compromise with those values can be very strong. We can find ourselves in something of a moral and spiritual wilderness where there is very little appreciation for or understanding of the gospel message. Indeed, we can feel very alone as Jesus must have felt very alone in the wilderness.

At such times we have to remind ourselves that we are not alone, no more than Jesus was really alone in the wilderness. The angels are ministering to us. The Lord's ministering, empowering and comforting presence is always at hand. That was the opening message of Jesus as soon as he stepped out of the wilderness, 'the time has come; the kingdom of God is close at hand'. Jesus had come up against the kingdom of Satan during his forty days in the wilderness. However he emerged from that testing time knowing that the kingdom of God was stronger than the kingdom of Satan, proclaiming that the reign of God was present for all.

Association of Catholic Priests.



**We are a Child Safe Parish.
We hold the care, safety and well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults as a central and fundamental responsibility of our community.**

LIVE STREAM MASS SUNDAY 10:30AM

Can be accessed at the Home Page of the parish website.

www.christthelightparish.org.au

Please note that the Mass remains on the website and is also available to watch at anytime on that day



**The Parish Office is open
Tuesday—Friday**

If you would like to contact the parish please call **9412 8493** and leave a voice message or email **merndawhittlesea@cam.org.au** and a team member will get back to you as soon as possible.

ASHES. As we were still in lockdown on Ash Wednesday, some ashes were distributed at the Thursday and Friday morning Masses. If you are interested in receiving ashes, there are little zip-lock bags for you to take home with a family Lenten prayer ritual attached. Please find them at the back of all our Mass centres this weekend.



Project Compassion Sunday 21 February 2021. Jamila is a Rohingya refugee living in a camp in Bangladesh with her elderly mother and baby daughter. With the support of Caritas Australia, and through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila has been able to access to emergency food, shelter, counselling, and vocational training that will help to support her family. **Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. Children who prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2020 in our Catholic Schools of St Mary's Whittlesea, St Joseph's Mernda, St Paul the Apostle Doreen and the Catechist Sacramental Program, will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation over the coming week. Please remember them, their families and teachers in your prayers. May this be a reminder of God's healing power and presence in the Sacrament especially as we journey through this Lenten season.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS. Sunday, 21 February our Parish community will witness the dismissal of our RCIA Elect. Sonya Nwokediuko, Gerrad Harper and Mark Lockwood as they join the Parish RCIA Ministry Team with their Godparent and Sponsors for the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral. Please remember them in your prayers as they enter their final period of Scrutiny to participate in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter.

Message of the Holy Father Francis for Lent 2021, entitled: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem " (Mt 20: 18). **Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love.** In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the "living water" of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter Vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten Journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the Resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ. More details can be found at: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2021/02/12/210212a.html>

WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE UP FOR LENT? The year 3/4 students at St Paul the Apostle, Doreen are learning that Lent is a time for Christians to remember Jesus' sacrifice and how he resisted temptation. They were asked if you were giving up something for Lent, what would it be? Why would it be difficult for you to give it up? Draw what you would give up for Lent. One student, Zoe Stanford, wrote that she would give up lollies, even though she really likes eating them and going without lollies for 40 days is a really long time. As adults, we can support our children during this season of Lent.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli welcomes vaccines. He acknowledged that while none of the vaccines are a cure for COVID-19, they will for the time being provide a significant measure of protection from the worst effects of the virus. 'Soon the most vulnerable people in our country – our frontline workers and those at greatest risk – will receive their first dose against the COVID-19 virus,' said Archbishop Comensoli, who is also Chair of the Australian Bishops Commission for Life, Family and Public Engagement. 'I encourage the Australian government to do all it can to make a vaccine choice available to all residents in Australia as soon as possible, and offer the same care to our poorer neighbouring countries.' More information can be found at <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/letter-to-the-clergy-and-faithful-re-vaccines>

Friday Lenten Reflection Series. Lent is a season when we turn back to God. In order to increase our prayerful journey through Lent, the parish is hosting **Friday Lenten Reflection Series. Every Friday at 7pm via Zoom until 26 March.** It may take approximately 45 minutes. "It's all about hope" by Christopher Monaghan CP will be used to guide our reflection and meditation throughout this series. **Zoom Link details: Meeting ID: 278 901 2630 Password: 374 347**