



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

**ST. PADRE PIO CHURCH
PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm
Closed 12:00pm – 12:30pm

SUNDAY

8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass

MONDAY

No Mass and Office closed

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

9:00am Mass

SATURDAY

9:00am Mass
Novena to St. Padre Pio
9:30am Sacrament of Penance
5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass

BAPTISMS

11:30am 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
Sundays. Please contact the
Parish Office. Presentation and
Baptism Information mornings
are held every 4th Sunday.

**FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT
ADORATION**

8:00pm –9:00am Saturday Mass
3:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet

CHILDREN'S YOUTH GROUP

For children: Year 1 to Year 8.
Every 1st & 3rd Saturday
4.30pm-5.30pm in school hall

FRIDAY PLAYGROUP

9:30am – 11:30am 0-6 years
Bethany Catholic Primary School
Hall Contact Joanne D'Agostino,
via the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS

Please contact the Parish Office.

Dear Friends,

“Lead us not into temptation”, a phrase from the prayer Our Father. Have you ever wondered why Jesus asked of us to pray as such? It is not a problem in being tempted but yielding to temptation that makes us sinful. Even Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, but He never yielded to the temptations. Jesus was vulnerable in the wilderness with hunger and thirst and the devil tries to strike Him at His vulnerability. The pathetic defeat of the devil is evident that we too can win against the temptations of the devil provided we don't yield to the temptations of the devil.

Temptation 1 – bread vs Bible

Hunger and thirst are recognized as necessities of life. God created hunger and thirst in human lives so that we have the dependence on God and His divine providence. It doesn't mean that we concentrate on the material goods to the point of neglecting the Word of God. Only our bodies are satisfied by bread, but our souls can be saved by the Word of God. The Book of Genesis taught us how self-pity of humans led them to disobey God and ultimately resulted in death. The first humans accepted the fruit of disobedience whereas Jesus refused the devil and brought back the obedience to God.

Temptation 2 – Cross vs crown

Don't try to negotiate with the devil. The devil, satan, knows how to trick human minds. You need to be strong and firm in your convictions and faith in order to fight against the devil. When the devil asked Jesus to jump down so that the angels will hold Him up so that He will not be hurt, Jesus retorted by saying, don't test the Lord. Jesus didn't have to prove to the devil that He is the Son of God. Jesus never yielded to the pressure from the devil to prove Himself. If we are guided by the Holy Spirit, we too can fight against the evil spirit as Jesus did. Jesus knows that the Cross will bring the ultimate Glory to God.

Temptation 3 – God vs satan

The last temptation is here and now. It is happening now. The world has turned to satan to worship him. All that God condemned in the Holy Scriptures, have been brought into the world by legalizing them. Unfortunately, some of the religious leaders have fallen for the tricks of the devil. When the devil demanded worship from Jesus, Jesus ordered the devil to get out! He knows that instead of winning the world from the sins by worshipping the devil, Jesus chooses to go through suffering, humiliation, crucifixion and death on the Cross to save us.

Let us learn from Jesus to fight against the devil and never compromise on our way to heaven or we will fall prey to satan. May the season of Grace, help us to achieve our goals.

God Bless..

Kind regards,
Fr. Suresh Kumar



Picture from: [pinterest.com.au/pin/recipes--326651779217075088/](https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/recipes--326651779217075088/)
The Below is from: ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/lent-14353

What is Lent and why is it celebrated?

Lent is the liturgical season of "preparation for the celebration of Easter. For the Lenten liturgy disposes both catechumens and the faithful to celebrate the paschal mystery: catechumens, through the several stages of Christian initiation; the faithful, through reminders of their own baptism and through penitential practices" (*General Instruction of the Roman Calendar*).

In 2023, Lent begins on February 22 (Ash Wednesday) and ends on April 6 (Holy Thursday), as the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins. Easter Sunday is April 9.

What are the 40 days of Lent?

What began as a shorter time of preparing catechumens for baptism at the Easter Vigil, expanded over the centuries to 40 days of penitence, excluding Sundays... Today the Season of Lent is a little less than 40 days, the Church having designated the three days from the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to the Vespers (Evening Prayer) of Easter Sunday as a Sacred Triduum (3 days), celebrating the Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

While the development of the Lenten days was various throughout the Church, it may have been suggested by Christ laying in death for 40 hours, or by his 40 days of prayer and fasting in the desert (a number itself reminiscent of Israel's 40 years in the desert for disbelieving God). Regarding the connection to Christ's own life, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us, "For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning" [Heb 4:15]. By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. (CCC 540)

Why are Sundays not counted in Lent?

Each Sunday of the year is like a *little Easter*, filled with the joy of the Resurrection. In the same way, every Friday of the year is penitential because it reminds us of Good Friday.

What is traditionally given up for Lent?

Since Lent is a time of penitence it is usual to offer a *sacrifice* to the Lord, both to appeal for the grace of personal conversion, and to strengthen our will to be able to cooperate with that grace. The two go together, since without God we can do nothing (John 15:5).

The best sacrifice we can make is to give up sinning. The liturgies of the first days of Lent make this point of the *vanity* of prayer and penitence without moral conversion. For the Catholic, daily examinations of conscience, more frequent Confession, as well as more frequent Mass and Holy Communion are especially good ways to prepare for Easter. It would also be good to read Sacred Scripture, pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the Holy Rosary, daily if possible, meditating on the texts or prayers.

It is also usual to make some material sacrifice, one that calls for will-power and self-denial, whether television or social media, foods or treats we particularly like, recreations and other pleasures that we crave in excess, and which keep us from prayer and good works. The extra time can then be spent to pray and to serve, whether to volunteer at one's parish, or a local charity, such as a ministry to the poor or a crisis pregnancy clinic.

St. Catherine of Genoa said, "Lenten fasts make me feel better, stronger, and more active than ever." Lent should help us to be more active, in Charity — in love of God, and our neighbor. That is the best preparation for the celebration of the greatest act of Love in history.

"Lent is a season of intense prayer, fasting, and concern for those in need. It offers all Christians an opportunity to prepare for Easter by serious discernment about their lives, with particular attention to the word of God which enlightens the daily journey of all who believe."

- St. John Paul II



Picture from: clipart-library.com/lenten-prayer-cliparts.html

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

PROJECT COMPASSION

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available on the Welcome Table or by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413. Thank you.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

When: every Friday in Lent.
Time: 7:00pm.

FIRST FRIDAY ALL-NIGHT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Would you come and spend an hour with me?

When: This Friday 03 March
8:00pm: All-night Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins
3:00am: The Divine Mercy Chaplet
9:00am: Adoration will conclude on Saturday with 9:00am Mass & Novena to St. Padre Pio.
We encourage all parishioners to add their name to the sign-up sheet on the Welcome table.
Come and be blessed by God who wants to pour so many graces on us!



PARISH RECONCILIATION FOR LENT AND EASTER

When: 28 March, 7pm
Confession is also available every Saturday after the 9am Mass.

Sunday 26 February: First Sunday of Lent Yr. A

Friday 03 March: Autumn Ember Day: Special Day of Prayer and Penance.

Ember Days mark the beginning of each of the four seasons, where the Church prays to the Lord for the various needs of humanity especially for the fruits of the earth and for human labour and to give thanks to Him publicly. This has been observed in the Roman Church since the fifth century.

ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Date: Tuesday 28 February
Place: Teresa Brombal, 3 Woodi Close, GP
Date: Tuesday 7 March
Place: Danny & Cely Estigoy, 20 Olander Ave, GP

LEGION OF MARY ROSARY MEETING

Date: Every Thursday, 6:00pm
Place: Parish meeting room. All welcome to attend.

MET – Worship Celebrating Holy Week Seminar

When: 04 March, 9.30am-3pm at Bishop Bede Heather Centre, 1-5 Marion St, Blacktown.
A Seminar for acolytes and ministers at the altar (senior servers) in preparation for Holy Week. Presenter: Chris Ohlsen. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. RSVP by 28 February to mary.gale@parracatholic.org

BETHANY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open Days for 2023: 7 March, 8 March, 10 March from 9am-10am.
Go to bethanyglenmorepark.catholic.edu.au to register to attend & call the school office on 4723 3700 for enrolment packs.

MANDATORY SAFEGUARDING TRAINING SESSIONS for people in ministry

Every person involved in ministry is required by law to do the Safeguarding sessions either in person or online. There are various places in the Parramatta Diocese where these are **held in person**. For this information or how to do the **course online**, please see the **Parish noticeboards**.

THIS WEEK'S MASSES WERE OFFERED FOR THE FOLLOWING INTENTIONS: For the souls of: Annie Nicholson, Mary Mallett & Holy Souls in Purgatory. **Prayers for the Sick:** Nicholas Tadros, Charbel Bazouni, Simon Bazouni & family, Ava Vella, Lucy Marie Ciappara, Georgina Rastegorac, Waled Hana, Maryrose Vella, John Vella, Catherine Vella, Lolyn Velayo, Normie Santos. *Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass offered for Recently Deceased, Death Anniversary, Prayers for the Sick, Thanksgiving or Birthdays.*

ST. PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK ONE – FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 04/05 MARCH 2023

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Regina Rossetto
ACOLYTE	Joe Badrov	Khalid Younan	Chris Hersey Manny Medel
SENIOR SERVER	Kylie Sultana	help needed	help needed
READER	1. Freeda Fernandez 2. Angelina Badrov	1. Trish Warda 2. Denise Robens	1. Zon Lupisan 2. Regina Rossetto
MUSIC	Mitchell's Group		Children's Choir
HOSPITALITY		Vera Daher	Deepa Cijo & Cijo Mathew
CLEANING TEAM	Doris Cutajar, Paula Harris, Mel Gaudoin, Josephine Caruana, Valeni Rodrigues, Meghan Warda		



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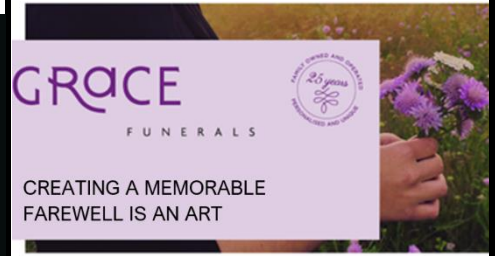
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NO SMOKING ON CHURCH
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