



ST. PADRE PIO PARISH GLENMORE PARK

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SUNDAY 09 MARCH 2025	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	YEAR C
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PARISH OFFICE HOURS
 Tuesday – Friday 8:30am – 3:30pm
 Closed 12:00pm – 12:30pm

SUNDAY
 8:00am Mass & 10:00am Mass

MONDAY
 7:00pm Mass

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
 9:00am Mass

WEDNESDAY
 7:00pm Mass (every Wednesday includes Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help)

SATURDAY
 9:00am Mass
 Novena to St. Padre Pio & Blessing with his Relic
 9:30am Sacrament of Penance
 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass

RECONCILIATION (Confession)
Tuesday – Friday
 Before & after Mass (*depending on priests' availability*).

BAPTISMS
 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays. Minimum booking time: two months in advance.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS & ALL-NIGHT ADORATION
 7:00pm Mass, Adoration starts
 3:00am Divine Mercy Chaplet
 9:00am Saturday Mass

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP
 Every Wednesday, 7pm Mass, then YA meeting for 18-35yrs.

FRIDAY PLAYGROUP
 Contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS
 Please contact the Parish Office.



The Temptations of Jesus

Author: Pope Benedict XVI

First of all, the wilderness to which Jesus withdrew is the place of silence and poverty, where man is deprived of material support and faces the fundamental existential questions;

where he is driven to the essential and for this very reason can more easily encounter God. However the wilderness is also the place of death because there is no water, nor even life, and it is the place of solitude where man feels temptation more acutely. Jesus went into the wilderness and was subjected there to the temptation to stray from the path marked out for him by the Father so as to follow other easier and more worldly paths (cf. Lk 4:1-13). He thus took on our temptations, burdened himself with our wretchedness in order to defeat the Evil One and open a path to God for us, a pathway of conversion.

Reflecting on the temptations to which Jesus was subjected in the wilderness invites each one of us to answer a fundamental question: What really counts in my life? In the first temptation the devil proposes to Jesus that he turn a stone into bread to appease his hunger. Jesus retorts that man lives on bread *as well*, but that he does not live on bread *alone*. Without a response to his hunger for truth, to his hunger for God, man cannot be saved (cf. vv. 3-4).

In the second temptation the devil proposes the way of power to Jesus. He takes him up and offers him dominion over the whole world; but this is not God's way. Jesus is very clear that it is not worldly power that saves the world, but the power of the Cross, of humility and of love (cf. vv. 5-8).

In the third temptation the devil suggests to Jesus that he throw himself down from the pinnacle of the Temple of Jerusalem and have himself saved by God through his angels, that is, that he do something sensational to put God himself to the test; but the answer is that God is not an object on which to impose conditions of our own making; he is the Lord of all (cf. vv. 9-12).

What is the essence of the three temptations to which Jesus is subjected? It is the proposal to exploit God, to use Him for one's own interests, for one's own glory and for one's own success. And therefore, essentially to put oneself in God's place, removing Him from one's own existence and making Him seem superfluous. Each one of us must therefore ask him- or herself: what place does God have in my life? Is He the Lord or am I?

Picture from: <https://au.pinterest.com/pin/92605336059705211/>

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Overcoming the temptation to subject God to oneself and one's own interests, or to put him in a corner and be converted to the correct order of priorities, giving God first place, is a journey that each and every Christian must make over and over again. "Repent" is an invitation we shall often hear in Lent, it means following Jesus in such a way that his Gospel is a practical guide for life; it means letting God transform us, in order to stop thinking that we are the only ones to build our existence. It means recognizing that we are creatures, that we depend on God, on his love, and that only by "losing" our life in him can we gain it.

This requires us to make our decisions in the light of the Word of God. Today it is no longer possible to be Christian as a mere consequence of living in a society that has Christian roots: even those who are born into a Christian family and receive a religious education must every day renew their decision to be Christian, that is, to give God first place in the face of the temptations that a secularized culture constantly suggests to them and in the face of the critical opinion of many of their contemporaries.

The trials to which society today subjects Christians are indeed numerous and affect their personal and social life. It is far from easy to be faithful to Christian marriage, to practice mercy in daily life, to make room for prayer and inner silence; it is far from easy to oppose publicly the decisions that many take for granted, such as abortion in the case of unwanted pregnancy, euthanasia in the case of serious illness and embryo selection in order to prevent hereditary diseases. The temptation to set faith aside is always present and conversion becomes a response to God that must be strengthened several times in life.

As an example and an incentive we have important conversions such as that of St Paul on the road to Damascus, or of St Augustine; yet, in our epoch of the eclipse of the sense of the sacred, God's grace is at work and works marvels in the life of so many people. The Lord never tires of knocking at man's door in social and cultural milieus that seem engulfed in secularization.

This is how it was for the Russian Orthodox Pavel Florenskij. Following an agnostic upbringing, so thorough that he felt really hostile to the religious teaching imparted at school, Florenskij the

scientist found himself exclaiming: "No, it is impossible to live without God", and entirely changed his life, even to the point of becoming a monk.

I am also thinking of Ety Hillesum, a young Dutch girl of Jewish origin who died in Auschwitz. At first far from God, she discovered him looking deep within her and she wrote: "There is a really deep well inside me. And in it dwells God. Sometimes I am there, too. But more often stones and grit block the well, and God is buried beneath. Then he must be dug out again" (*Diaries*, 97). In her disrupted, restless life she found God in the very midst of the great tragedy of the 20th century: the Shoah. This frail and dissatisfied young woman, transfigured by faith, became a woman full of love and inner peace who was able to declare: "I live in constant intimacy with God".

In our time there are many conversions, understood as a return of those who, after a Christian, though superficial upbringing, distanced themselves from the faith for years, only later to rediscover Christ and his Gospel. In the Book of Revelation we read: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me" (3:20). Our inner self must prepare to be visited by God and for this very reason must not let itself be invaded by illusions, appearances and material things.

In this season of Lent, let us renew our commitment to the journey of conversion, to overcome the tendency to withdraw into ourselves and instead, to make room for God, seeing daily reality with his eyes. The alternative between being closed into our own egotism and openness to the love of God and of others, we might say, corresponds to the alternative of the temptations of Jesus: an alternative, that is, between human power and love of the Cross, between redemption seen in material wellbeing alone, and redemption as a work of God to which we should give primacy in life.

Being converted means not shutting ourselves into the quest for our own success, our own prestige, our own status, but rather ensuring that every day, in the small things, truth, faith in God and love become the most important thing of all. © Copyright - Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Above extract from: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/temptations-of-jesus-23012>



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ST. PADRE PIO PARISH INFORMATION

<p>STATIONS OF THE CROSS When: every Friday in Lent. Time: 7:00pm.</p>	<p>Sunday 09 March: First Sunday of Lent Year C NEXT SUNDAY: Second Sunday of Lent Year C Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18. Ps 26:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil 3:17-4:1. Luke 9:28-36</p>
<p>33 DAY CONSECRATION TO MARY PRAYER Change of day: This will take place in the Church every Friday, 6.30pm, till 25 March.</p>	<p>ROSARY PRAYER GROUP Date: Tuesday 11 March Place: Josephine Caruana Date: Tuesday 18 March Place: Jonie & Albert Yuzon</p>
<p>NOVENA MASS As part of a 9-day Novena Masses for the Feast of St. Joseph, being held nightly in different parishes, the Novena Mass on Tuesday, 11 March, will be held here in our parish. Time: 7pm. All are welcome!</p>	<p>LEGION OF MARY MEETING: Every Thursday, 5.30pm in the Church meeting room</p>
<p>ALLIANCE OF THE TWO HEARTS-VIGIL OF REPARATION FOR THE HOLY YEAR JUBILEE 2025 Date: 14-15 March, 7pm to 12am, Holy Mass. Program can be found on the noticeboard.</p>	<p>SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION The preparation for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation has started. Kindly keep the families involved in your prayers.</p>
<p>SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH When: Wednesday 19 March, 7pm Mass. We especially honour St Joseph on this day, for his unique role as the foster father of Jesus and we pray through his intercession for all families, the Church and for those who are dying.</p>	
<p>PROJECT COMPASSION</p>	<p>ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING Children in Yr 4 & above are invited to become altar servers. Training sessions will take place on: Thursday, 27 March after 9am Mass and Saturday 29 March after 9am Mass. For more info, please contact the parish office.</p>
<p> Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. Contributing towards Project Compassion is one way of living out the spirit of Lent. To find out more about the projects that Project Compassion assists, go to: www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion Compassion boxes & envelopes are available on the Welcome Table.</p>	<p>BETHANY PRIMARY SCHOOL- 2026 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN Enrolment packs are available via the website, school office or call 4723 3700. Kindergarten Applications are due on Friday 28 March for first round offers in April.</p>

MASSES OFFERED FOR THESE INTENTIONS:

Deceased: Mario Cauchi, Marie Spiteri, Joseph Aaron. **Prayers for the Sick:** April Cataroja, Susan, Molly Poulouse, Kyla Aggar, Richard Daher, Eric Norman Santos, Jimmy Zacharias, Alona Alcaraz, Adrienne Auld, Trent Moore, Ernesto Modelo, Joselito Canaria, Lynn Navarro, Kim Baluyot, Jasmine Arada, Maricris Palencia, Yvonne Videla, Alejandra Modelo, Emily & Danilo Rosales, Georgina Rastegorac, Maryrose Vella, Catherine Vella, Vincent De Giovanni. **Please contact the Parish office to offer a Mass intention.**

ST PADRE PIO PARISH ROSTERS WEEK THREE - THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH 15/16 MARCH

MASS TIME	5:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
COORDINATOR	Trudi Almeida	Lynn Young	Tracy Amituanai
ACOLYTE SENIOR SERVER	Billy Layug Lya Layug Kylie Sultana	Khalid Younan Gilbert Grech	Chris Hersey Dit Almer
READER	1. Rolaine Vibar 2. Trudi Almeida	1. Sue Guy 2. Ajumol Alexander	1. Julio Amituanai 2. Noel Xavier
MUSIC	Our Daily Bread		Modern Harmony
HOSPITALITY		Help needed	Connie & Rosie
BAPTISM			
CLEANING TEAM	Susan Guy, Anna Roberts, Aiman & Maria Jajo, Johan - MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE.		

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR C

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 Ps 90:1-2. 10-15. R. v.15

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

1. 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.)**

2. 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.)**

3. 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.)**

4. 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.)**

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.