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| Collection amounts for January 2016 ~PARISH NEWS~  ~ PARISH NEWS ~  **~ GOSPEL REFLECTION ~** |

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time to consider how we might respond to the pain of the world and of its inhabitants. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into “the wilderness” and for grappling with the mysteries of life. It is a time of preparation for Easter when we will renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

The gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus’ forty-day experience in “the wilderness”. Jesus is said to be “filled with the Holy Spirit” and, like so many human beings before and since, is “led by the Spirit” into the wilderness of life to be “tested” there. [“Tested” is a more accurate translation of the original Greek term than is “tempted”]. Forty is a symbolic number in Israel’s story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. The wilderness is ever so real and at the same time symbolic. In Israel’s story, it is the place of testing for God’s people: “Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness… testing you to know what was in your heart” (Deut 8:2). Jesus now passes the tests that Israel failed.

Jesus is “with the wild beasts”. This terse statement recalls the prophet Isaiah’s vision of a future time of reconciliation and harmony when “the wolf will lie down with the lamb” (Isa 11:6-9). Jesus is presented as the one who ushers in that age of peace and healing of division. God’s agents care for him in his time of testing: “angels minister to him”. In this context, Jesus announces the coming of God’s empire or reign. His message is to “repent” or to “think beyond” in a way that might turn lives around in God’s direction, and to “believe the good news” that he is set to proclaim in word and action. At a time of growing divide between the mega-rich and the desperately poor, we might look back to our symbolic tradition and forward to ways of bringing good news to those mostly deeply affected by the inequities in our world. ***An excerpt by Sr. Veronica Lawson***



***Immaculate Conception Parish***

P O BOX 600 Tumut

Catholic Community

**‘CLERGY’**

* **Fr. Sijo Jose (Parish Priest)**
* **Fr. George Ogah (Assistant Priest)**

**‘PARISH SECRETARY’**

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-------------------------------------------------------- **‘WEEKEND MASS TIMES’**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

**Sunday: 10am (children’s liturgy)**

**Talbingo Sunday: 8.00am**

**‘THIS WEEKS MASS TIMES’**

**Tuesday: 6pm in Chapel**

**Thursday & Friday: 8am in Chapel**

**Saturday: 9am (every fortnight - Thursday: 11am BUPA Liturgy**

**Saturday: 9.40am BLAKENEY LODGE Liturgy)**

**‘ROSARY’ Saturday at 8.45am**

**Exposition at 8.30am (1st Sat of month)**

**‘RECONCILIATION’**

**Saturday at 5.15pm**

**‘LITURGY MEETING’**

**Tuesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

**‘PRAYER GROUP’**

**(Rosary & Divine Mercy)**

**Wednesday: 2.00pm in Chapel**

**‘CONTACTS’**

**Care Group: Anne Huebner 69473406**

**1st Sunday of Lent Year B**

**February 18th 2018**

***Gospel Acclamation***

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.**

***Responsorial Psalm***

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

***Entrance Antiphon***

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

***Gospel Acclamation***

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Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

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| T THIS WEEK Saturday & Sunday 17th & 18th February | | | |
| Ministry | Saturday Vigil 6pm | Sunday 10am | |
| Acolyte | Barry Madigan | Anne Huebner | |
| Reader | Patricia Wilks | Sue Bulger | |
| Commentator | Maureen Cook | Liz Boxall | |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | Kerrin Henderson | |
| Musicians | Maureen Norman | Anna Quinn | |
| Altar Servers | Jessie Raftery & Dana Parry | Abby Crampton & Olivia Dean | |
| Church Care  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  LINEN Joanne Little | Group 2: Anna, Pat & Sophie | | |
| NEXT WEEK Saturday & Sunday 24th & 25th February | | | |
| Ministry | Vigil 6pm | | 10am |
| Acolyte | Peter Malone | | Sue Bulger |
| Reader | School Mass | | Mark Hogan |
| Commentator | School Mass | | Pat Spannagle |
| Children’s Liturgy | ---------- | | Fran Butler |
| Musicians | Anna Quinn | | Patricia & Monica |
| Altar Servers | Jessica & Emily Kelly | | Gabbi & Maggi Dalisay |
| Church Care | -------------------------------------- | | |

Feast Day**Wishing all our wonderful dads a Happy**

R O S T E R S

**FEAST DAY 22nd February: the Chair of Saint Peter**

**In marriage, the joy of love needs to be cultivated (*Pope Francis*)**

**There will be no 10am Mass this Wednesday 21st February**

**~PARISH NEWS~**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be held in the Chapel during Lent starting Friday 23rd February at 6pm. **PROJECT COMPASSION** **BOXES** are available for parishioners to take home.  **ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN RESOURCE Good News in Tough times DVD** is availabe to order from the bookshop on 0262399888 or online: www.faithresources.org.au **CHILDREN’S LITURGY** has resumed during the 10am Mass, could the volunteer rostered please be present and let Fr. Sijo or Fr. George know they are available. **CATHOLIC VOICE** please collect your February issue. **SAVE THE DATE World Day of Prayer.** Our catholic parish will be hosting this event on Frdiay 2nd March at 7pm in the church followed by supper, could ladies please bring a plate to share. **SPECIAL THANKS** this weekend to our faithful Acolyte Barry Madigan O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. ~Henri Nouwen~

**We pray for those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith:**

**MASS HAS BEEN REQUESTED FOR:**

Hickson & O’Sullivan families, Colleen Anderson, Reg & Mary Madigan, Matt Downing, Wilkinson & Downing families, Frank Stanfield, Peter Heffernan, Tim & Amy Twomey, Barbara Fuller, Tom & Merle Arentz, Harriet & Ruben Arentz, Kevin & Nola Arentz, Dulcie & Arthur Piper, Marie & Ray Cowan, Kevin Cowan, Kevin Hawthorne, Marie Quinn, Brian Muir, Jack Sunners, Joseph & Maureen Hetherington, Natalie Baker, Ian Barbour, Yvonne Harrison, Fr. Peter Quirk, Con & Ennis Twomey, Mons. John Twomey, Sr. M. Brenda Twomey, Sr. M. Canice O’Sullivan, Sr. M. Celine McCormack, Bert & Teresa Butler, Anne Lawrance, Joan & Bob Liddell, Mary & William Claffey, Margaret Peel, Ruby Harmer,Alan & Angela Guthrie, Hassel & Joy McGrath, Noel Cook, Hargreaves family, Family members & relatives of Tran family, Frederick & Mabel McInerney, Ken Elliott, Jock Roberts, Ralph Klaus, James Kelly, Harry & Muriel Nancarrow, Harry & Pat Nancarrow, Christine Welsh, Allison Brady, Scott Payne, Ben Roddy, Paul & Nick Young, Robert Longford, Julie, Jack & Thelma Cobden, Jamie Nixon, Stan Kenny, Marzol family members, members of Young, Egan, Breward & Van de Brug families, Russell & Peter Ritchie, Hector, Annie & Kevin Turner, Jean Kelly, Margaret McMahon, Veronica Tiernan, Mollie Fuller, Joan Malone, Ken & Brian Gee & family members, Rudi & Filomena Comai, Marallo & Comai families, Celia Mullaly, Jim McInerney, Kath Stuckey, Gus & Kath Clout, Ab & Mildred Shanahan, Ina Clout, Timothy Blakeney, Madelin Fenn, Chris Ballard, Maude Kelly, Lois Shallow, Frank, Eileen & Marie Malone, John Callister, Joan Stockwell, Pauline Shedden, John Hourigan, Tom & Dorothy French.

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