THE SAVING WORD

FIRST READING

Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

A reading from the book of Genesis

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

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.

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 loin-cloths.

The word of the Lord.

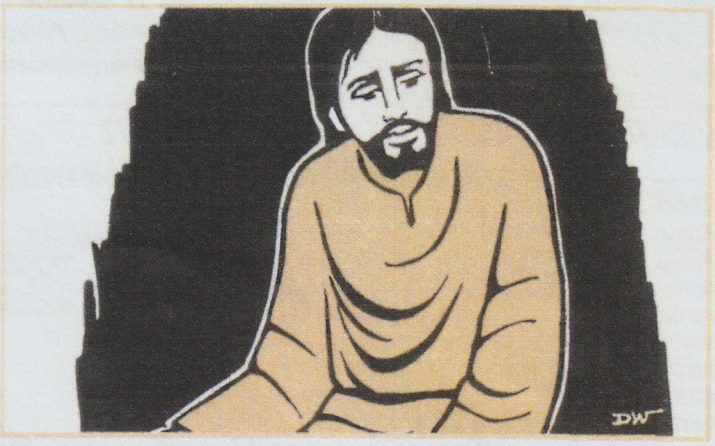
RESP PSALM

Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3

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

1. 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.

2. 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.



3. 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.

4. 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. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 5:12, 17-19.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Where sin increased, there grace abounded all the more.

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.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Longer form 5:12-19

The Parishes Of St Mary's Merredin and St Joseph's Kellerberrin

41B South Avenue, PO Box 55, MERREDIN WA 6415; **Ph**: (08) 9041 1118;
e-mail: merredin@perthcatholic.org.au; Parish Priest: Philip Perreau e-mail: philip.perreau@perthcatholic.org.au
Website: merredincatholicparish.org

1st Sunday of Lent | **A/2** | **22 February 2026**

Merredin celebrations during the week:

Monday:	**No Mass**
Tuesday:	**9.00am Mass**
Wednesday:	**9:00 am Mass**
Thursday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Friday:	**9.00 am Mass**
Saturday:	**6.30pm**
Sunday:	**10.30am**

Kellerberrin: Sunday 8:00 am Mass

Sat. Holy Half Hour-Rosary
6:00 to 6:30 pm

Reconciliation : 6pm Saturday

****Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick available on request****

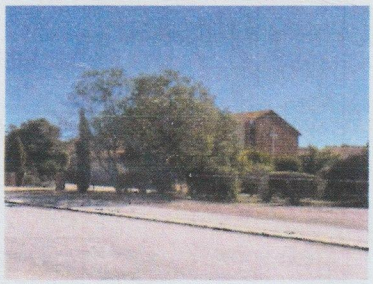
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Friday at St Mary's Church, Merredin from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Church Roster: 21/22 February 2026 | **28 February / 1 March 2026**

	21/22 Saturday 6.30 pm	21/22 Sunday 10.30 am	28 Feb/1 Mar Saturday 6:30 pm	28 Feb/1 Mar Sunday 10:30 am
Readers:	P. Riethmuller	G Dizon	H. Giles	D Quinn
Offertory:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
Church Cleaners:			H Giles	J Patroni
Sacristy	P Riethmuller		H Giles	
Altar Servers:	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

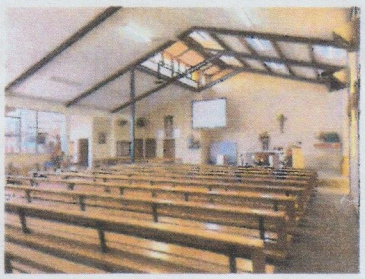
Special Ministers: T. Cutri; T. Glass, Y. Gray; P. Jackson; J. Jefferys; L. Jefferys; D. Pettit; P. Riethmuller.

SAVE THE DATE AND SPREAD THE WORD



St Mary's Catholic Church and
St Mary's School
will be combining to celebrate our
Centenary
Sunday 2 August 2026
10.00 a.m. Mass
12.00 Lunch

More details to come



Photos for the Centenary Celebrations

We are looking for photos reflecting of past life of the parish and school. If you have any, please email them to our email merredin@perthcatholic.org.au Thank you

Welcome

We welcome Ziayanna ROSARIO, baptised on 15th February to our Church

Parish Meetings

Parish Finance Comm Tuesday 24th Feb 5.30pm Presbytery

Parish Notice Board

Mary MacKillop Centre - Breakfast in the Garden Saturday 14th March

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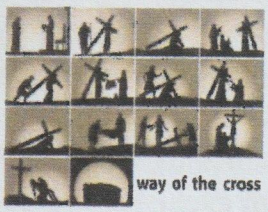
RECONCILIATION: Saturday 6:00pm – 6:20 pm
or on request prior to Sunday mass
Saturday - 6:00pm Angelus then the Rosary

PARISH NOTICES

Feast days for the week

Mon	23	St Polycarp
Wed	25	St Ethelbert, St Walburga
Thu	26	St Alexander of Alexandria
Fri	27	St Gregory of Narek
Sat	28	St Oswald



Eucharistic Adoration & Stations of the Cross

Every Friday of Lent:
Eucharistic Adoration 5.30pm
Stations of the Cross 6.30pm

Dryandra Age Care Prayer Service

Tuesday 24th February at 10.45am

S.H.A.P.E. up in 2026 (Written by Dave Quinn)

At the start of each year a lot of people set goals to get in shape physically. They want to lose some weight and tone up their bodies. In 2026 why not set the goal to shape up spiritually? 1 Timothy 4:8 NLT tells us that, "Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." Today I want to use the letters of S.H.A.P.E. to give us some Bible verses to remind us to stay in spiritual shape in 2026.

S – Seek the Lord with all of your heart Isaiah 55:6 – **Seek the LORD** while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Seeking the Lord with all of our hearts is the key to being in shape spiritually. Time and time again the Bible tells us that if we seek God with all of our hearts we will find Him. How do we do this? Through prayer, through Bible reading, through Mass and the Sacraments, through quiet time alone in His presence.

H – Hold on to the promises of God Hebrews 10:23 – Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for **God can be trusted to keep his promise**. One of the great things we have as Christians is hope. A hope of an eternal future with God where there is no more sickness, no more tears, no more pain and no more death. The letters of H.O.P.E. is an acronym for hold onto promises eternal. God can be trusted. His promises are yes and amen.

A – Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you Galatians 5:16 – So I say, **let the Holy Spirit guide** your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. For us as Christians we have the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us live the Christian life by giving us gifts that empower us to do God's work. The Bible tells us that it is the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead (Romans 8:11). A simple prayer for guidance is "Holy Spirit, what do You want me to do now?"

P – Present yourself as a living sacrifice Romans 12:1 – And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies to God** because of all he has done for you. Let them **be a living and holy sacrifice**-the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Sacrifice is a common theme throughout the Bible. In Old Testament times they sacrificed animals for the temporary covering on sin. In the New Testament we see Jesus sacrificed Himself as a once and for all sacrifice for us. Now God wants us to offer ourselves as a living sacrifice. God wants us to live wholeheartedly for His Kingdom.

E – Explain your faith to others 1 Peter 3:15 – Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, **always be ready to explain it**. Our last thing we have to do be in spiritual shape is explain our faith to others. This verse starts with worshipping Jesus as our Lord as the foundation. From that flows our hope we have in Him. A simple story of how you came to faith or why you believe in Jesus might be all it takes. Be open to letting God use you. Remember staying in physical shape is important. But spiritual training has benefits in this life and the life to come. Let us purpose in our hearts to stay in spiritual shape in 2026.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 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

Mt 4:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

SELF-CENTRED SEDUCTIONS

As is traditional on the First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel passage is about Jesus' temptation, an appropriate theme as we begin our own journey in Lent and begin to explore our own seductive temptations. We are all prone to these, and Matthew presents us with a Jesus similarly tested: an egoism exclusive of others especially God, the attraction to power and the seduction of wealth. These temptations are crafted in Old Testament terminology and imagery, particularly present in the Book of Deuteronomy, and ones that Israel experienced in the wilderness.

In today's story, Satan enters the scene, originally a member of the heavenly court (see Job) but, by the time of Matthew, God's adversary who tests the intention and fidelity of those who belong to God. Jesus is his target in three temptations. The first is about food and the temptation to break covenantal fidelity to God due to hunger. The second seeks to question Jesus' conviction of God's care of him. From the parapet of the temple, Jesus is told to throw himself from it, and test God's protection of him. In the third, with a vision of all the earth's kingdoms and seduction of wealth, Jesus is tempted to change his allegiance from God to Satan.

Matthew's point is quite clear writing to a Jewish audience most familiar with Israel's desert failures: Jesus is an authentic Jew who belongs to the Israelite people, knows and experiences their temptations, but resists the seduction of egoism, power and wealth in fidelity to God and his covenantal relationship. In this first week of Lent, today's Gospel invites us to reflect on those self-centred seductions that may compromise our true relationship to God.

Fr Michael Trainor