



# *St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception*

2134 Great North Rd, Avondale, Auckland 0600

21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

*Vision / Tirohanga*

*Growing in Faith Together / Oranga i roto i te Whakapono*

*Goal / Whainga*

*To Grow in Awareness as One Parish Family / Kokiritia te  
Oranga Kotahitanga o te Whanau Whakapono*



## First Week of Lent

**Readings: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm: 24; Peter 3:18-22; Mark: 1:12-15**

### 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 for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into 'the wilderness' and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter when we renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith.

The four verses that make up today's gospel present a little drama that is played out in several 'worlds': the celestial, the human, the animal and the 'wilderness' worlds. Jesus is, as usual, the main character.

The Spirit, Satan, God and God's angels, members of God's heavenly court, represent the celestial world. The 'wild beasts' interact with the 'angels' in the wilderness. Numbers feature symbolically, as do settings and characters.

God's Spirit has featured in the previous scene: Jesus is the chosen one of God on whom God's Spirit rests, the one sent to be a light to the peoples. Now the Spirit impels Jesus into the wilderness, the place of beginnings for Israel. Satan, a member of God's heavenly court, tests (a better translation of the Greek than 'tempts') him.

Jesus is tested for 40 days, just as the people of Israel were tested during their 40-year ordeal in the wilderness. Jesus passes the test that Israel failed. He is 'with the wild beasts'. This evokes Isaiah's prophecy of a time when God would reign, a time of reconciliation, of trust, of harmony and peace: 'The wolf shall lie down with the lamb...' (Isa 11:6-9). Jesus is with the wild beasts, but is not devoured, because God looks after him. He reconciles the most seemingly irreconcilable elements.

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**Tue – Fri:** 11am – 2pm  
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Pledge Giving Account Number: 02-0100-0120958-04  
Mass Offering Account Number : 02-0100-0120958-05

## **First Sunday of Lent**

### **A Reading from the book of Genesis 9 : 8-15**

God spoke to Noah and his sons, "See I am making a Covenant with you and with your descendants after you; also with every living animal with you : birds, cattle, that is, with every living creature of the earth that came out of the Ark. I establish My Covenant with you. Never again will all life be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the Covenant I make between Me and you, and every animal living with you for all future generations. I set My bow in the clouds and it will be a sign of the Covenant between Me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember the Covenant between Me and you and every kind of living creature, so that never again will floodwaters destroy all flesh."

#### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm 24:4-9**

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

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R).
2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R).
3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R).

### **A Reading from the first letter of St. Peter 3:18-22**

Christ himself, innocent though he was died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and in the spirit he went to preach the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which only saved a small group of eight people "by water", and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing of the physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels of the Dominations and Powers his subjects.

#### **The Word of the Lord.**

### **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**

### **A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15**

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. The time has come he said and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.

#### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

# Covid-19 Alert Level 2 Parish Announcements

**No Saturday 6pm Mass ( 20 February) and no Sunday Masses (21 February)**  
Choir practice may resume as long as not more than 100 people and please record the names of the attendees.

**For those entering the Church please scan or write your name and contact details on the sheet provided in the foyer.**

**The next update regarding alert levels will be on Monday, until then we wait and pray that we go back to level 1**



**We welcome a new member to our Parish family through the sacrament of Baptism.**

**Sancia Mendes**

## **Sacramental Programme 2021 Update**

**Sacramental Classes will start on Saturday 27 February** from 3pm to 4pm at the Church and will run for 10 weeks. A friendly reminder to those who have not yet paid the \$20 registration fee.

**Dominic Savio Children's Club** – All children aged 6b and above are invited to join this club, entry is free. Every Saturday afternoon from 3:00pm to 4:00pm at Fr.McGrath Room **will start on 27 February if we go down to alert level 1.** We play games, have fun, plan for outings etc. Altar servers are invited to join the club. The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity coordinate the activities. We welcome assistance from parents/ volunteers. For more info contact MC Sisters at 8264071.

**Invitation to join Choir at 8.30 am Mass every 2nd Sunday:** We extend an invitation to any members of the congregation who would like to join us in singing at Holy Mass every 2nd Sunday of the month. Please come and join us in the seats near the organ. You would be most welcome. For further information, please contact Colleen Lewis colleen.lewis@xtra.co.nz.”



**Bishops Lent Appeal** For this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, Caritas is making available our Lent Reflection booklets which include the Gospel readings for each week of Lent. These can be reflected on or prayed with on an individual or small group basis in compliance with Covid restrictions. They can be viewed from our website [https://caritas.org.nz/system/files/resources/2021%20LRP%20English\\_web.pdf](https://caritas.org.nz/system/files/resources/2021%20LRP%20English_web.pdf)

## **Catholic College Open Days**

**Marist College**, Tuesday 02 March,  
3pm – 6pm

**Marcellin College**, Thursday 04 March,  
4pm - 7pm

**Baradene College**, Thursday 4 March,  
6:30pm

**St. Dominics** , Tuesday 23 March,  
6:30pm

**St. Mary's College**, Thursday 04 March,  
2:30pm-6:30pm

**St. Pauls College**, Thursday 04 March  
9:30am or 1:45pm

## *Dates for your Diary*

Sun, 21 Feb	No Sunday Masses
Fri, 26 Feb	Finance Committee Meeting 7pm Presbytery
Sat, 27 Feb	Church Cleaning Roster: Legion of Mary
Sat, 27 Feb	Sacramental Classes begin 3pm to 4pm Church
Sat, 27 Feb	Last Vigil Mass 6pm Church
Sun, 28 Feb	Youth Mass 7pm St. Patrick's Cathedral
Tue, 09 Mar	PPC Meeting, 7pm Presbytery
Tue, 16 Mar	SMACC Meeting, 7pm Presbytery
Thu, 25 Mar	BOT Meeting, 5:45 pm School

## St. Mary's Avondale Community Centre **SMACC**



For all those giving for SMACC thank you for your continued support.

If not yet giving, would you consider making a regular payment towards SMACC Fund?

Account Number for SMACC Building Fund:  
02-0108-03339938-04

*'Celebrating Communities'*

## Coming Sunday: Second Week of Lent

Readings: Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18; Psalm: 115; Romans 8:31-34; Mark: 9:2-10

	Saturday, 6 pm	Sunday, 8:30 am	Sunday, 10:30 am	Sunday, 6 pm
<b>Commentator</b>	Cynthia Paul	Mark Simento	Rosalyn Fononga	Celine George
<b>Ministers of the Word</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Eric Bonamis 2 <sup>nd</sup> Don Perera	1 <sup>st</sup> Ivory-Joan Peauvasa 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kieth Simento	1 <sup>st</sup> Maleta Fononga 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amanda Bucumi	1 <sup>st</sup> Raisa Mathias 2 <sup>nd</sup> Leena Rebello
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Communion</b>	A. Bonamis V. Coelho	J. Peauvasa M. J. Sherwood M. Suisala	B. Joseph F. Lakalaka M. Talataina	P. Nair N. Imperial

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday:** Mass: 8.30am / 10.30am / 6.00pm

**Saturday:** Rosary & Novena: 5.30 pm

**Vigil Mass 6pm (till end of February 2021)**

**Tuesday – Saturday:** Mass: 9.00am

**Daily Rosary:** Mon – Sat, 8.25am; Sun, 7.45am

**Wednesday:** Rosary & novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help: 6:30pm

**Friday Adoration:** After 9 am Mass to 10:30 am

**1<sup>st</sup> Friday:** Mass: 7 pm

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturday: after 9 am Mass, (other times by appointment)