

# 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT (a) 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023

## Introduction

- Greet the people and name the Sunday of the Year (see above)
- Acknowledge visitors and welcome them.
- Remind everyone that there will be refreshments ? ? ? ?
- Announce the theme of the liturgy ( see next )

## Theme – THE TESTING OF JESUS

commentator: *The Lenten Sunday Eucharists  
are a focus for our re-commitment  
to our baptismal promises at Easter time.  
The autumn season's  
lessening daylight in the early mornings,  
and the cooling temperatures,  
image for us the Presence of GOD,  
checking and pruning our extravagant growths;  
bringing about effects which may go unnoticed now,  
but which in time will produce surprising new growth!*

- Announce the opening hymn: . . . . .

## Greeting

presider: *Ki te ingoa o te Matua, ☩ o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu:  
The grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, whose table we share,  
be with us.*

all: *And with your spirit*

## Penitential Rite *Invitation to Repentance* *either*

presider: *Gathered together in Christ, let us ask forgiveness with confidence,  
for GOD is full of gentleness and compassion.*

*or*

*My sisters and brothers in Christ, let us acknowledge our sins,  
that we may worthily celebrate these sacred mysteries.*

## **I confess: . . .**

presider: *Friends in Christ, the season of Lent is time for preparing.  
We journey to new places where we can hear GOD's Voice afresh  
and sense GOD's Presence anew. We do not journey alone: . . .*

- *The Spirit of GOD is with us in our desert place, testing our worth as GOD's own people in the new world GOD is bringing to be. Spirit of GOD, lead us to new life: . . . - (pause) - LORD, have mercy:*
- *The Spirit of GOD is with us even when we try to keep the lid on changes and*

want to think we are in control. Spirit of GOD, lead us to new life: . . .

- (pause) - **CHRIST, have mercy:**

- *The Spirit of GOD is with us sharing our humanness, guiding our search for meaning, showing us the Way. Spirit of GOD, lead us to new life: . . .*

- (pause) - **LORD, have mercy:**

*GOD of Mercy, forgive us our sins in the name of Jesus Christ who takes away the sin of the world and brings us to lasting life. Amen*

**GLORIA (Omitted)**

### **Opening Prayer**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... ) LORD our GOD,  
in every age you call a people to hear your word and to do your will.  
Renew us in these Lenten days: washed clean of sin,  
sealed with the Spirit, and sustained by your living bread,  
may we remain true to our calling and, with the elect, serve you alone.  
Grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty GOD for ever and ever.*

*all: Amen.*

### **Introduction to the first reading:** ( Genesis 2 : 7 – 9 & 3 : 1 – 7 )

*commentator: According to the story in the Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve failed to resist the subtle power of evil. The story of their failure will be contrasted with Matthew's account of Jesus' lonely and painful resistance of evil in today's gospel reading.*

### **Introduction to the second reading:** ( Romans 5 : 12 – 19 )

*commentator: Paul deals with a specific problem of the early Christian community. Like the psalmist in Ps.51, the apostle is not concerned with an analysis of the origin of evil, sin, or death. His concern is with proclaiming good news.*

### **Gospel Acclamation:**

*all: 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!*

### **Introduction to the gospel reading:** ( Matthew 4 : 1 – 11 )

*commentator: Adam, the original parent of humankind, failed the test to resist the power of evil. Jesus – the new Adam – successfully resists the power of evil!*

### **Homily Notes** *presider:*

- *The Lenten readings for the first year of the three-year cycle of readings we use in the liturgy emphasise the fact that Lent is a season of preparation for catechumens who will be baptised at Easter and a season of renewal for the already-baptised who will reaffirm their own baptismal commitment. During the next five weeks: we reflect upon the temptation of Christ, his transfiguration, his meeting with a woman at a well, his healing of a man born blind and his raising of Lazarus. Each teaches a different aspect of*

## *Baptism.*

- *What has today's Gospel passage got to do with Baptism? More specifically, what has it to do with my Baptism, whether past or pending? Is the Christian life easy or difficult? Considering that it entails a life-long struggle against temptation, it is difficult. Considering that it entails a life-giving awareness of the forgiving love of GOD, it is easy. If GOD has created me to live a certain way, why do I find it difficult to live the kind of life GOD calls me to? Something is very wrong. I continually make choices that seem based upon the mistaken belief that what is bad for me is better, or at least easier, than my true good.*
- *The temptation that Jesus faced is, in fact, the temptation I face. It was a temptation to take the easy way out. Jesus was hungry and tired after his fast. To go for the 'quick fix', to take no responsibility for his actions and leave everything up to GOD, to grab for power – we all face similar temptations. We disguise laziness as faith. We disguise irresponsibility as hope. We disguise lust for power as love.*
- *Basically, there is only one temptation, the temptation to betray my calling. The calling of Jesus was to face rejection and the cross. The devil offered him a way out, tempting Jesus with ways to avoid the suffering that his calling entailed: 'You face hunger, danger and ineffective powerlessness? Come to me!'*
- *What is my calling/vocation? Paradoxically, temptation may help me find it. If the basic temptation I face is to betray the very purpose GOD has given to my existence, then looking at my temptations may give me hints of GOD's will for me. One of the values of the sacrament of Penance is that it gives me opportunities to reflect upon temptations in my life and take an honest look at those to which I give in. If I do more than merely compile a list of sins, but look for the underlying reasons for my sin, I may come to see patterns in my life, patterns that show the paths by which I try to get away from or get around the calling GOD has given me. If I trace those paths back, I may find out the kind of person the devil would rather not have me be.*
- *A broad hint of that calling can be found in the Renunciations we make at our Baptism and when renewing our Baptismal commitment: 'Do you reject sin so as to live in the freedom of GOD's children?' Baptism is a rejection of sin in our lives. It is uniting ourselves with Christ who sent the devil on its way when he refused to give in to temptation. What we reject is anything that prevents our living in the freedom of GOD's children. That is my basic calling, to be a child of GOD, free to grow, to love, to serve. Free to reject the glamour of evil, refusing to be mastered by sin. I will have an unique way way to live that calling, just as you will*
- *This then, is the aspect of Baptism that the Gospel tells us of today. When we accept Christ's call to union with him in the Church, we commit ourselves to spurning the enticements of evil that would lessen our freedom as sons and daughters of GOD. Lent is, among other things, an opportunity to prepare to*

*make the renunciation of Easter by examining myself to find out where in my life temptation finds it easy to take root. Then, through prayer, fasting, reflection and works of mercy that break down my self-centredness, I make in deeds the renunciation I will make in words as we celebrate the Resurrection.*

- *The WORD of GOD is our bread too! The Exodus tradition makes the point that the gifted manna is sufficient for each person's daily needs (Ex.16:17-18). The memory of the desert as the place where food is surprisingly given, overturns our concepts of humanly managed food delivery-systems. We can even dare to think of a future world, where there will be food enough for everyone! That's the powerful imagery of GOD's WORD of promise.*
- *Our hearing the WORD of GOD is a moment of subversion and ambiguity. Like disciples after the discussion with the strange rabbi on the road to Emmaus, we hold together our old failed, largely unexamined world, along with a new hopeful world of promise, voiced in the WORD of GOD. In such moments surprising food is given for our journey.*
- *In the Greco-Roman world of Jesus' first disciples, the overwhelming majority of people were excluded from the good life. The task of the transformation of the world to GOD's way, was unfinished but urgent. Today, in our more fortunate community, the majority who will hear these readings, are comfortable ones who are by-and-large untouched by economic recessions! Yet we modern disciples of Jesus are still called to live in radical trustful ways!*
- *Living trustfully in GOD's way, excludes thinking that some people exist for the benefit of others. Disciples seek a balance between co-operation and competitiveness, with the main value being a preparedness to share. Such sharing is based on the concept that life and land are "gifts" to be honoured and respected rather than commodities to be traded for gain.*
- *In the gospel account of Jesus' testing, Matthew addresses the issue of power and access to the good life. Matthew implies that being tested is not necessarily to be a sinner but is part of the normal human condition. Even Jesus was tested. Testing in our traditions consists in the fact that other things are genuinely attractive - like a good standard of living, or being popular, or successful. But as a result of seeking such objectives, GOD's call to transformation seems less attractive and may go unheeded.*
- *Jesus' response to temptation was to find peace and courage in hearing the WORD of GOD and in the dignity of being GOD*
- *'s Son.*

## **Creed / Statement of Faith**

**Intercessions - 1<sup>st</sup> WEEK OF LENT [ Sun 26<sup>th</sup> February – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 ]**

*invitation to pray:*

*commentator: Friends in Christ, we remember Jesus' words, "Stay awake praying at all times." Let us pray for our needs and the needs of our world: . . . ,*

*first intention*

- 1: *For members of the Christian community and those preparing to become members. May Christ's faithfulness in the face of testing, inspire us all to live trustingly: . . . - ( pause ) - We pray to the LORD: All: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*second intention*

- 2: *For the victims of the cyclone aftermath. May Christ's faithfulness in the face of testing, inspire their resilience and may the rest of our people come to their support, . . . - ( pause ) - We pray to the LORD: All: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*third intention*

- 3: *For ourselves as we begin Lent. May we make time for prayer in the secrecy of our rooms: . . . - ( pause ) - We pray to the LORD: All: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*fourth intention*

- 4: *For all who have experienced injustices. May we honestly recognise the past and support attitudes and measures that correct injustices:  
- ( pause ) - We pray to the LORD: All: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*fifth intention*

- 5: *May Christ's faithfulness in the face of testing, inspire us to be generous with our time with those who are alone, distressed, worried or unwell. Their Christ-like courage in the face of testing can enrich us. By our presence with them we can reassure them that they do not journey alone. We pray especially for:*

*(Mangawhai) **Petronella Ter Veer, Matteo Gray, Sarah Lambert, Frances Palmer, Philip Cotching, Aloysius Brom & family, Rose Quigley, Dan van Jaarsveld, Tom Gardener, Helen Bremford, Jocelyn Dahl, Tina Meehary, Lorna Boccock, Laurel Ensor, Noel Paget, . . .***

*(Wellsford) **Dallas Colville, Rob & Karen Lennon, Lucille Jenneker, Maree Cameron, Rita McCurran, Wilma Jansen, Gerard McCurran, Bill Jones, . . . . .***

*(Maungaturoto) **Trevor Brjlevich, Tony Ruiterman, Lourdes Crisostomo, Bill Lewis, Beverly Simons, Peter Aukett, . . .***

*May your healing love restore them to wholeness and health: . . .*

*- ( pause ) - We pray to the LORD: All: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*sixth intention*

- 6: *Let us pray for those who lost their lives **during the cyclone, the earthquake in Turkey and Syria** and all who have died as a result of **the war in Ukraine** and for our dead whose anniversaries occur around this time including: **Myrtle Lambert, Cyril Joseph, John Peacock and Jacinta Schicker . .***

*- ( pause ) - We pray to the LORD: All: **LORD, hear our prayer:***

*Concluding Prayer:*

*commentator: **GOD of graciousness and compassion, give answers to our prayers in Your great kindness. We ask this through Christ our LORD.***

*all: **Amen.***

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... ) Lord,  
at the beginning of this holy season refashion our hearts  
and make them one with the sacrifice we are about to offer.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*all: **Amen***

### **Preface**

*presider: The Lord be with you.*

*all: — **And also with you.***

*Lift up your hearts.*

*— **We lift them up to the LORD.***

*Let us give thanks to the LORD our GOD.*

*— **It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

*It is truly right and just,  
our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Each year you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast.  
By more faithful prayer and works of charity  
and by celebrating the mysteries of our rebirth,  
we are led to the fullness of grace as your sons and daughters.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
with all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join their unending chorus of praise:*

*all: **Holy holy holy!***

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

#### **Memorial Acclamation**

*( the Eucharistic Prayer ends with the great 'AMEN' )*

#### **Introduction to the LORD's Prayer**

*commentator: With trust in GOD, who nourishes us in the hour of need,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:*

*all: **Our Father, . . .***

*presider: Deliver us, LORD, we pray, from every evil;  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that by the help of Your mercy,  
we may be always freed from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

*all: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are Yours, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Sign of Peace**

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles:  
'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you'.  
Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church  
and grant us the peace and unity of your Realm,  
where you live, now and always:*

*all: Amen.*

*presider: The peace of the LORD be with you:*

*all: And with your spirit.*

*commentator: Let us offer each other an appropriate sign of peace:*

**Lamb of GOD**

*all: Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us (x2)*

*Lamb of GOD, You take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.*

*presider: LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living GOD,  
who by the will of the Father  
and the work of the Holy Spirit,  
through your death gave life to the world;  
free us by this your most holy Body and Blood  
from all our sins and from every evil:  
keep us always faithful to your commandments  
and never let us be parted from you.*

*all: Amen*

*presider: Behold the Lamb of GOD. Behold him who takes away the sins of  
the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.*

*all: LORD, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

**Holy Communion**

*presider: Ko te Tinana o te Karaiti:  
( Ko nga Toto o te Karaiti: )*

**Prayer after Communion**

*presider: ( Kia inoi tatou: ... ) Lord,  
you have renewed us with the heavenly bread  
that enlivens our faith, inspires our hope,  
and strengthens our charity.  
Teach us to hunger for Christ, the true and living bread,  
and to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord..*

*all: Amen.*

*( an opportunity for announcements/notices etc. . . . )*

## **Dismissal**

*commentator: We are sent; in the name of the GOD,  
the Idea of creative loving;  
we are sent in the name of Jesus,  
the Expression of God's creative love;  
we are sent in the name of the holy Spirit,  
the Extension of God's creative love - now;  
to live trustfully;  
having found peace and courage  
in the Word we have heard.  
and in the Presence we have experienced.  
We have experienced  
something of the dignity  
of being heirs with Jesus.  
We are to honour that dignity  
by our practise of love towards others,  
until we gather again.*

*all: **Amen***

## **The Blessing**

*presider: Kia whakapaingia koutou e te Atua kaha rawa,  
e te Matua, e te Tamaiti ✠ e te Wairua Tapu.*

*all: **Amene***

*commentator: The Mass has ended, go in peace.*

*all: **Thanks be to GOD.***