

Parish Press

Sunday February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

Sentence

We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Matthew 4.4

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God,
whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin:
give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will,
that, as you know our weakness,
so we may know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

Genesis 2.15-17, 3.1-7	Page (OT) 2
Psalm 32	Page (OT) 394
Romans 5.12-25	Page 118
Matthew 4.1-11	Page 2

Today's services are

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Holy Communion followed by morning tea

This week we pray for all who live on Beech St, Mont Albert

“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” - Joel 2:12

- A Christian Presence in Our Community since 1886 -

Mark's Reflection

In Matthew's Gospel, immediately after his baptism, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The same Spirit who descended upon him now leads him into testing. The wilderness is not a place of comfort, but of hunger, vulnerability, and spiritual battle.

For forty days and forty nights Jesus fasts. We are reminded of Israel's forty years in the wilderness. Where Israel faltered, Jesus stands firm. Where we so often give way, he remains faithful.

The tempter approaches at Jesus' point of physical weakness: "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." Yet Jesus refuses to use his power for self-serving purposes. He answers with Scripture: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Deuteronomy 8:3 NRSV)

Next comes the temptation to test God — to demand proof of divine protection. Again Jesus responds with Scripture: "*Do not put the Lord your God to the test.*" (Deuteronomy 6:16)

Finally, the devil offers worldly power and glory in exchange for worship. Jesus rejects the shortcut to kingship: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." (Deuteronomy 6:13)

Each temptation strikes at identity, trust, and loyalty. Jesus chooses obedience over appetite, trust over spectacle, worship over power.

In this account we see not only the faithfulness of Christ, but the pattern for our own discipleship. Temptation often comes subtly — appealing to good desires (food, safety, success) but twisting them toward self rather than God. Like Jesus, we are called to ground ourselves in Scripture, to trust the Father's provision, and to worship God alone.

The story ends with angels ministering to him. The wilderness does not have the final word. Faithfulness leads to strengthening.

As we walk through seasons of testing — in our families, workplaces, and community — may we remember that Christ has gone before us. He knows our weakness. He has overcome. And in him, we too find strength to stand.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 4:15 NRSV)

May we follow our faithful Lord, trusting the Word of God and worshipping him alone. God bless. Mark

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is on February 18th and we will be having the Ash Wednesday Service at 10am. Copies of our Lenten Study book 'Walking in the Way of Love' are available today.

From Fr Jim

Some time ago Fr Jim conducted a session here entitled 'In the Event of my Death', which many found very helpful. He is to conduct a similar program again over 2 Sundays (22nd Feb and 15th March) at St John's Camberwell and you are warmly invited to attend. The details of program times and topics covered are on the notice board in the Narthex.

Surrey Hills Music Festival 28 Feb '26

A fun-filled day and night of free music in Union Road.

Holy Trinity are hosting six choral groups in the church from 1.00pm to 5.30pm and we need a few more volunteers to help supervise the movement of people in and out of the buildings. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Thank you to those who have already offered.

Market Volunteers needed

Can you cook a sausage, plate up a scone or chat to customers? If not, good news we can train you! We would love your help in our market cafe or at the sausage sizzle. If you can spare a few hours please talk to Kaye for the cafe or Nigel for the sausage sizzle.

Parish Prayer List

Helen Burston, Stephen Binns, Thelma Fiddymen, Bruce Knox, Helen Morris, John and Sally James, Edith Jenkins, Ann Constable, Gwen Jackson, Verna Hubert, Paul Carver, Bruce Murray.

We remember

We give you thanks for your servants in every age. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your kingdom. Charlotte Tanswell, Doris Hutton, John Gawler, Dorothy Richards.

This Week at Holy Trinity

Wednesday

10am Holy Communion Service followed by morning tea and Lent study

Thursday

10am Prayer Service
7.30-9.30pm Choir Practice

Sunday

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Family Communion Service and morning tea
5pm Evensong followed by wine and cheese

Readings this week

Monday Matthew 25.31-46

Tuesday Matthew 6.7-15

Wednesday Luke 11.29-32

Thursday Matthew 5.20-26

Saturday Matthew 5.43-48

Sunday

Genesis 12.1-4a

Psalm 121

Roman 4.1-5 (6-12) 13-17

John 3.1-17

Direct Giving to Holy Trinity

To give directly to the Parish, via the Anglican Development Fund,
BSB: 703-122.

Acct No: 0500 4680.

Holy Trinity Surrey Hills.

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