



Easter Leaflet 2013

Coolangatta Q 4225

Thursday : *Abstinence*

It is common practice to “give up something for Lent”. Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness and afterwards he was famished. Yet he did not succumb to the temptation to turn desert stones into bread rolls. Hunger can be satisfied in many destructive ways, but only God can satisfy our spiritual hunger. Abstinence helps us to refocus. Things that once seemed so important now seem less so. Jesus was focused entirely on God.

Jesus is the bread of life. Whoever comes to Him will never be hungry. Alleluia!

Read : John 6. verses 27 and 35

Pray : • give thanks for family meals and food shared

• pray for the hungry and all who suffer from famine and drought

Prayer of the week

Action : Give some food to your parish pantry and/or send a donation to relieve hunger overseas

Friday : *Temptation*

The voice of the tempter is very seductive. It focuses on our weaknesses, our desires, trying to convince us that a lie is the truth. Being tempted is not a sin, provided we are not deceived. Jesus listened only to the voice of God. God tells us to “Listen to Him”. *Alleluia for each time we overcome temptation, for it is only in God’s strength that we do so.*

Read : Hebrews 4.14-16

Pray : • give thanks for God’s forgiveness and love

• pray that all those in power will exercise their authority wisely

Prayer of the week

Action : Tackle a bad habit.

Saturday : *Closeness to God*

Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we can have an intimate relationship with God. Nothing now stands in our way. *Sing Alleluia for all that is.*

Read : Hebrews 10.19-25

Pray : • give thanks for the new life God gives us through faith in Jesus Christ

• pray for those who are separated from each by distance or discord

Prayer of the week

Action : Look for signs of God’s presence in creation and other people

Dear Friends,

I am continuing Bronwyn’s way of addressing you as “friends”, even though most of you do not know me yet. My hope is that that will change as we get to know each other in my new role as Prayer and Spirituality Co-ordinator, and then I can truly call you “friends”.

As I begin to write my first prayer leaflet it is exactly one week to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten journey to Easter. There can be no Easter celebration until we make this journey: no joy of resurrection without the sorrow of the cross. In life, however, the boundaries between joy and sorrow are not as clearly defined. Sorrow sometimes encroaches on our joy; laughter can be mingled with tears. We do not sing “Alleluia” during Lent, but joy is not always absent. In their book, “Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia for All That Is” Abp Rowan Williams and Joan Chittister OSB encourage their readers to find the “Alleluia” in every situation.

In this Easter leaflet I have taken some of the themes from Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness and tried to relate them to our own lives. Some highlight our struggles, others cause us to rejoice. May we find the “Alleluia” in all of them.

Love and prayers, Sue

Prayer of the week

At Easter love and resurrection become the perfect whole. The tomb is empty, Christ has risen glorious from the dead. Lord, help me to cherish the revelation of your new beginning. Love and resurrection have made me whole. Amen.

[from “A Worship and Prayer book for MU Australia, p.86]

Sunday

Filled with the Spirit

Luke writes that Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit ... and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” This was no straying from the path. We sometimes stray and find ourselves lost in the wilderness but, no, the wilderness is where God wanted Jesus to be at that time. This journey was part of Jesus’ calling. Jesus’ disciples were filled with the Spirit at Pentecost and later driven out of Jerusalem. This may have seemed like the wilderness, but in this way the Gospel came to reach the ends of the earth.

Alleluia to God who leads us and guides us and brings us back when we stray.

Read : Isaiah 43.18-21

Pray : • give thanks for the leading of the Holy Spirit in times of testing and trial

• pray that we might discern the way God wishes us to go

• pray for those preparing for baptism

Prayer of the week

Action : Resolve to have some ‘quiet time’ this year. Attend an MU quiet day.

Monday

Battling with demons

When the early Desert Fathers went out into the wilderness, they were not trying to escape from the world. The wilderness was thought to be the haunt of demons, and they went out into the wilderness to do battle. They were not running away from evil; they went out and faced it head-on. We cannot run away from our bad habits, our addictions, our failings, our weaknesses. We need to do battle with them, “filled with the Spirit”. This is the only way to succeed. This is what our Lenten journey in the wilderness is all about.

Alleluia to God who strengthens us to overcome temptation and makes us whole.

Read : 1 Peter 5.6-11

Pray : • give thanks that God gives us courage to face our own demons

• pray for those battling addictions and illness

Prayer of the week

Action : Visit or call someone who is sick.

Tuesday

Renewing our faith

At the beginning of Lent the prophet Joel urges us to return to the Lord “with all your hearts”. We may not necessarily have strayed or fallen away, but this is an important occasion to renew our faith. With each temptation Jesus faced, he turned steadfastly to God and to God’s teaching. We know that he was tempted but he did not turn away. Each decision marked a renewal of faith – a recommitment to God’s way.

Alleluia to God who welcomes us with open arms when we return to Him.

Read : Hosea 6.1-3

Pray : • give thanks for those who have been instrumental in our own faith journey

• pray for all who have strayed and struggle to find faith

• for parents to share their faith with their children

Prayer of the week

Action : Encourage someone who is struggling through hard times.

Wednesday

Knowledge of the Scriptures

When we read our Bibles regularly, and even more when we attend a Bible study, we gradually build up a knowledge of the Scriptures. This is more than mere head knowledge. It equips and clarifies our decision-making and helps us to choose God’s way. Jesus found an answer to the Tempter in the words of the Scriptures. He knew that by doing so he was standing on solid ground.

Alleluia to God who enlightens us through His Word.

Read : Romans 15.4-6

Pray : • give thanks that God reveals himself to us in the Scriptures

• pray for all who teach the Word of God

Prayer of the week

Action : Read a child a Bible story.