



## Mass Times

### Saturday 8 March

6 pm Gatton

### Sunday 9 March

7 am Forest Hill

9 am Laidley

### Tuesday 11 March

4:30 pm Rosary

5 pm Forest Hill

### Wednesday 12 March

8:30 am Rosary

9 am Gatton

### Friday 14 March

NO Laidley Mass

### Saturday 15 March

6 pm Laidley

### Sunday 16 March

7 am Glenore Gve

9 am Gatton



## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available from 5:30pm  
each Saturday  
afternoon  
or by appointment

# Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Parish

Gatton Laidley

Phone: 07 5465 3131 Email: [gatton@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:gatton@bne.catholic.net.au)

## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Year C)

9 March 2025

### Call to Refine and Purify

There are five Sundays in Lent, followed by Palm Sunday, all of which prepare us for the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. On this first Sunday of Lent, we hear Luke's account of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the desert, and for forty days he is put to the test by the devil.

In a positive sense, a test can refer to God testing the faith of believers to strengthen them. In a negative sense, it can refer to Satan or evil forces tempting individuals to sin.

In the Greco-Roman world, testing was a common concept, whether in the context of education, the military, or philosophy. Testing was a means to prove the worth or capability of an individual.

In the Hebrew Scriptures, testing by God was understood to **refine and purify faith**, as seen in the stories of Abraham and Job. So, the New Testament reflects this dual understanding of testing as both **a divine tool for growth** and a potential snare for sin.

The three temptations of Jesus are the same temptations that we all face in one way or another.

Firstly, I am tempted to place myself at the centre of the universe, to feed myself with bread – the attempt to play the chief central character. Jesus, however, reminds us that **life must be centralised on God and his Word**.

Secondly, I readily grasp and relish the power that the evil one holds out to me, and I use it to bully or bulldoze others into submission.

Thirdly, while I'm not about to throw myself from the roof of the church, I am tempted to use my ministry to gain popularity and celebrity status.

The best way to resist temptation is to **know and act on the word of God** like Jesus. For the word of God is living and active.

*"I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you"*

(Psalm 119:11)

### Responsorial Psalm: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS – see back page for Lenten groups and Stations of the Cross**

- Saturday  
**8 March** 10:30am **INFORMATION SESSION FOR NEW & CURRENT SACRISTANS**  
Gatton Church – if you are a current sacristan, or interested in learning what is involved at any of our parish churches, please attend this session.
- Sunday  
**16 March** 10:30am **LENTEN ENCOUNTER**  
Community Centre Gatton  
Will you become more Christ centred this Lent?  
Morning tea and lunch provided.  
Donations appreciated towards catering.
- Friday  
**4 April** 9:30am **LAIDLEY CATHOLIC LADIES CLUB**  
**Annual General Meeting** - Parish Hall, Laidley.
- Friday  
**11 April** 7:00pm **CELEBRATION OF GOD'S MERCY**  
St Mary's Church Gatton  
Reflection and reconciliation ... celebrating the tender love of the Father and his unfailing mercy.

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES and MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS IN 2025**

If you or someone you know in our parish is celebrating a special anniversary or milestone birthday this year, please advise Chris at the Parish Office. We will have a special event later in the year, and invitations will be sent closer to the time.

## **BEAUTIFUL LADIES CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS**

We thank God for the lives of **Marie Linnan** and **Bernadette Fitzgerald** who both celebrate their birthday in the week ahead. The grace of God is so evident in the way Marie and Bernadette encourage and support people to be all they can be. May God continue to bless them with good health and strength in the year ahead.

## **THE JOURNEY FOR THOSE BECOMING CATHOLIC**

OCIA is a beautiful journey for adults, with each Mass and special celebration drawing them deeper into their relationship with Jesus and with our community. Please continue to pray for **Corey, Sami, Casey and Dallas**.

## **ALPHA is amazing! Good news – there is still room for you at the table!**

Over 30 people are taking the Alpha journey together, commencing at 6pm on a Monday night at the Community Centre next to St Mary's Church in Gatton. At Alpha, you share a very delicious meal, watch a short film, followed by some great group discussions. Why not come and experience a session? It's free ☺

## **POPE FRANCIS – March Prayer Intention**

This month, let us unite with Pope Francis for **families in crisis**.  
Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts even in their differences.  
Let us also pray for Pope Francis that he may recover from this current health crisis.

### LIVING LENT

As we journey through Lent in 2025, what are some of the ways you can prioritise your personal relationship with Jesus and draw nearer to Him?

- **Pray the Rosary** – use an App, pray while driving, start with just one decade
- Journey beside Jesus in **Stations of the Cross** on a Friday or before weekend Mass
- Attend **week day Mass**, arrive early to pray the Rosary
- Be part of the **Lenten small group** who will meet for weekly discussions using the “Metanoia” resource
- Receive the Sacrament of **Reconciliation** - available before each Vigil Mass or by appointment.

During Lent, we are called to be good news for the poor. Project Compassion is a wonderful way to do this. The theme this year is **UNITE AGAINST POVERTY THIS LENT**. In this Jubilee year, the theme is Pilgrims of Hope. It is “hope” which calls us to come together and Unite Against Poverty. As a parish community, we are **inviting you** to join in two easy activities. Show your love for people living in poverty this Lent.

#### Activity 1

**The Long Walk for Water** - Take on a 40-day walking challenge during Lent to bring clean, safe water to vulnerable communities. Let people know why you are committed to walking 30 minutes a day for 40 days. Ask for their encouragement, and also their financial support. You'll get fitter, feel great, and change the lives of people living in poverty. Pick up one of the small Project Compassion Lent boxes available this weekend and use it for your donations.

As a parish, we are planning two mornings where we will walk as a parish community, raising funds for the work of Caritas.

In Laidley, this will be after the 9am Palm Sunday Mass on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**.

In Gatton, this will be after the 9am Mass on **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March**.

Mass, morning tea, walk, then refreshments. Your donations will be gratefully received. If you cannot walk, perhaps you can support others.

Our commitment to walk, and the extra effort required, may be a good Lenten sacrifice as we join our hearts to those who walk many miles every day for life-giving water.

#### Activity 2

We will be having some **Caritas Morning Teas**.

In Laidley, this will be after the 9am Mass on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**.

In Glenore Grove, this will be after the 7am Mass on **6<sup>th</sup> April** (please bring a plate)

In Gatton, this will be after the 9am Mass on **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April**.

Our regular parish morning tea is free. At the Caritas morning tea, we are asking people to **donate to Project Compassion** to support the work of Caritas, as together, we unite against poverty this Lent.

There would also be a great opportunity for any parish group, or family and friends, to get together and have a morning tea or meal, with donations going to Project Compassion.

## OUR PARISH

### Parish Priest:

Father Emmanuel  
Ayankudy CMI  
A/ Hrs: 5462 5374

### Parish Manager

Christine Pingel

### Parish Office:

37 John Street  
South, Laidley

Days of operation  
may vary – please  
phone in advance.

### Postal Address:

P O Box 6  
Gatton Q 4343

### Phone:

07 5465 3131

### Email:

gatton@bne.  
catholic.net.au

### Facebook:

Our Lady of the  
Valley Catholic  
Parish

### Website:

www.olv.org.au

### Safeguarding:

Complaints and  
Disclosures  
Phone: STOPLINE  
1300 304 550

## SCHOOLS

OLGC Gatton  
5460 2999

OLGC Kindy  
5462 4810

OLGC OSHC  
0487 001 722

St Mary's Laidley  
5465 1240

Sophia College  
5411 3400

## WE PRAY FOR ...

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen Bishop, Peter Das, Nikki McLay, Peter Heenan, Paddy Boyd, Toshikatsu Konishi, Shirley Myles, Neville Heenan, Joan Linnan, Sienna Beutel, Brian Wells, McGregor-Shaw Family, Michael Trail, Therese Thompson, James Earley, Theresa Jones, Theresa Knight, Roslyn Furber, Toni Woodward, Pat Schultz, Leigh Bachmann, Janene Cornelius, Edilberta Parcell, Mary & Lionel Dusart, Vivian Moore, Clara Hutchinson, Elizabeth Marten, Judy McGlade



### RECENTLY DECEASED:

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Ray Wilson, Ben Quade, John Panzram, Leo Ziebarth, John McManus, Alice Ryan, Gertrude Legge, Fr Kevin Ryan, Lloyd Luck, Thomas Wolens, Monica Hauser, Zigmund Pitura, Maureen Fox, Silvio Cerneaz, Simona Facundo, Emil Buhse, Collingwood Hickey, Percy Krenske, Sadie Zischke, Kathleen Murrhly, Bernardrio Francisco, John Caldwell, Lillian Hammond, Teresa Clarke, Evelyn Redinger, Alfred Mischke

## WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS LENT?

### PERSONAL LENTEN REFLECTION GUIDE "Metanoia" \$ 9ea

### LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

**Wednesday morning** Gatton Community Centre @ 9:30am  
commencing 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Saturday afternoon** @ 1pm Week 1- 8<sup>th</sup> March at 27 Sandpiper  
Drive, Regency Downs.

Week 2 – 15<sup>th</sup> March at 25 Campbell Street, Laidley  
(Location may vary - Please check with Tootsie 0414 382 072)

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS ... Every Friday during Lent.

4pm St Patrick's Church Laidley

5pm St Mary's Church Gatton

Come and journey with Jesus as our facilitators use a range of  
reflections to guide you in this special season of grace.

**Stations of the Cross** will also be held before weekend Masses  
at both Laidley and Gatton during Lent.

## CANDLE OF HOPE

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, we will soon have a **Candle of Hope** at all churches, and we are inviting any parishioner to nominate to light the candle each week. May this small ritual bring peace and hope.  
Please contact the parish office or advise the welcomer if you would like to participate.