



Parish Office Hours: 9:30am - 2:30pm
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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Year A

21st/22nd February 2026

Lent Pastoral Letter 2026

Archbishop Shane Mackinlay

There have been significant changes for us in the Archdiocese of Brisbane over the last year. Shortly after Easter last year, Pope Leo XIV succeeded Pope Francis, and then in September I took up my new ministry as Archbishop of Brisbane. Last week, Pope Leo issued his first Message for Lent, in which he reflects on three themes: listening, fasting and our shared journey together. I was particularly struck by the first of these themes, as I feel like much of my focus over these early days as Archbishop has been on listening. I need to learn about the people of the Archdiocese, its parishes and communities, its schools, hospitals and aged care, its organisations and agencies. I need to hear about the joys and sorrows that people carry, as well as the hopes and fears that are part of looking to the future.

Pope Leo points out that listening is not just something we do when we enter a new situation. Rather, it is a critical ongoing part of healthy relationships with one another and with God. Lent is a time when we seek to open ourselves to conversion: acknowledging our failures and mistakes, so that we can turn again to God and renew our relationships with those around us. The journey of conversion always begins with listening. As Pope Leo says: 'Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the Word of God to touch our hearts.' That can only happen if we make space, stepping back from the noise around us, and from all that we want to say and convince others about, so that there is space to hear and to listen.

Making space for listening is an act of humility and generosity. It shows a deep commitment to the other. In Pope Leo's words, 'the willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone.' We know what a precious gift that is from our own experiences of another person really listening to us.

Pope Leo proposes that the best model we have for listening is God's relationship with his people. Again and again, God's first response in the scriptures is to assure us: 'I have heard my people's cry.' And Jesus' own ministry is shaped by listening to the needs and hopes of those he encounters. So, as Pope Leo says, 'we must allow God to teach us to listen *as he does*.'

In our own context, listening has been the starting point for our synodal journey, both in our contribution to the Synod for a Synodal Church and in our own celebration of the Archdiocese's Synod 24. We have experienced that a dialogue built on listening allows us to discern together where God is calling us. That experience allows us to recognise the importance of Pope Leo's observation that 'conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but to the quality of our relationships and dialogue.'

More broadly in our Australian community, listening with care, compassion and openness is desperately needed as we seek respond to the division, shock and grief that we are carrying after the appalling attack at Bondi last December.

As we enter this Season of Lent, most of our parishes will be commencing the final stage of preparation for baptism of those who wish to become Christian and for reception of Christians baptised in other Churches who seek to enter full communion with the Catholic Church. It is a privilege to accompany these elect and candidates on their path to Easter, as they offer us a model of listening to God's Word in a way that has led them on a journey of conversion, discipleship and renewal. Let us pray for them and be inspired by them throughout this Season of Lent, as we all seek to be renewed in listening and responding to one another and to the Word of God.

Yours sincerely, *+ Shane Mackinlay*

MOST REV. SHANE MACKINLAY
ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 21st February	Blackbutt	5pm	Vigil
Sunday 22nd February	Kumbia	8am	Liturgy
	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

First Reading: **Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7**
Responsorial Psalm Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading: **Romans 5:12-19**
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: **Matthew 4:1-11**

WEEKDAY MASS - FIRST WEEK OF LENT

Thursday 26th February	Blackbutt	9am	Mass
	Kumbia	5:30pm	Mass
Friday 27th February	Kingaroy Reconciliation (8:30)		
	Kingaroy	9am	Mass
	Nanango	12pm	Mass
	Nanango Reconciliation (12:30)		

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Friday 27th February	Cooyar	6pm	Vigil
Saturday 28th February	Blackbutt	5pm	Liturgy
	Kumbia	6pm	Vigil
Sunday 1st March	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

CENT AUCTION



Cent Auction to be held on 16 May 2026 in St Mary's Parish Hall. Doors open 12:30pm.

Sufficient prizes of donated goods already held. We would welcome cash donations or gift vouchers so we can purchase additional prizes. Gift voucher suggestions are: IGA, Supercheap Auto, Bunnings, Mitre 10, Martoo Meats, Memerambi Springs etc.

Entry Tickets for Cent Auction are on sale from Sunday 1st March 2026. Get in early as there are limited ticket numbers. Raffle tickets will also be on sale. Tickets can be purchased at the office during working hours.



Please call 0408 742 522 or 0459 603 274 with any questions you may have regarding the Cent Auction. You can also see Karen or Kate before Mass.

NEXT LENTEN PROGRAMME DATES

- Kingaroy -Wednesday 25th February at St Mary's Parish Hall at 6:30pm.
- Blackbutt -Commences Thursday 26th February after 9am Mass.

PARISH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Recently Deceased: Eileen Horne.

Death Anniversaries: Denise Johnston, James Radburn, Arthur (Glen) Powys, Maureen Kenny, Joan Reeves, Gaetano (George) Gatt, Moya Walsh, Edith Hanley, Edward Ekari.

Prayers for the sick:

OLHC Parish - Amelia Cole, Greg Knaggs, Damian Wyvill, Kyle Sutherland (Perrett), Chris Stevens, Shirley Warner, Bruce McCarthy, Wendy Smith, Luke Colahan.

St Mary's Parish - Denise Mann, Liz Mamczur, Ellie Spicer, Joe Smoothy, Judy Stanton, Jo Saunders, Michael Carroll, Therese Hanley, Teresa O'Sullivan, Juliette McCorley, Bruce McCarthy, Rikie Brinkman, Bernice Mahoney.

PROJECT COMPASSION

UNITE AGAINST POVERTY



this Lent

First Sunday of Lent

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each story highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us.



ST. MARY'S KINGAROY WORKING BEE



Saturday 28th February from 7:30am to 12 noon.

Working bee to continue maintenance of church garden and grounds. Morning tea will be provided. A contribution to morning tea, sandwiches or savories from anyone unable to attend would be appreciated. (Contact Kate Williams or Dennis Cook if you can contribute.) Please bring along general gardening tools if possible and hats and water.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2026

- Kingaroy - Salvation Army, 109 Kingaroy St, at 10am.
- Yarraman -Uniting Church, 15 Toomey St at 10am.
- Nanango - Wesleyan Methodist Church, 55 Cairns St. at 10am.
- Kumbia - Catholic Church, 42 Brook Rd at 1:30pm.