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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Year A

7th/8th March 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to The Third Sunday of Lent.

Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi



Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed 2026 to be the Jubilee Year in honour of the *il Poverello* or 'the little poor man' - St Francis of Assisi. Christians throughout the world have embraced this special Jubilee as Goodnews, so that in a world torn apart by violence, St Francis - the man of peace, will inspire us to become

models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace. This message could not have come at a better time as the entire world is truly in need of peace.

Today, the earth our mother cries, because her children, our brothers and sisters around the world weep everyday under the weight of wars and suffering. Even God's entire creation sheds silent tears in the face of loud human violence that further advances the culture of death. This is why we need the *Poor Man of Assisi*, who offers us his message of life and hope as he points us to the authentic source of true peace.

On this anniversary of the 800 years of the death of St Francis of Assisi (Francis died on 3 October 1226), the Church grants a special grace to those who pray earnestly, fully observe the requirements of the Jubilee and shape their lives by the example of St Francis and Jesus Christ.

Lent is the perfect time to pray more. Throughout this year, St Francis will inspire us and intercede for us as we pray for peace in our hearts, our homes and in the world. In response to our prayer, we hope that God will fulfill His promise for us, as the Scripture says: 'He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for

many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord!' (Isaiah 2, 4-5) Amen.

The Parish Leadership Team- 28 th February

The Parish Leadership Team (PLT) met last Saturday 28 February, for their first meeting of the year. The meeting began with Fr Stanley saying how happy he is to be back, and how well everything ran while he was away. All acknowledged the service of the visiting priests. The PLT will send a letter of thanks to the priests who assisted whilst Fr Stanley was away.

The PLT recognised that this is the Special Year of St Francis of Assisi and discussed how to integrate Franciscan spirituality into our parish life this year. To begin with, a Lenten Retreat will be offered at the Kingaroy Parish Hall on 28 March, connected to the life and teachings of St Francis. The PLT welcomes ideas from parishioners of initiatives for this Special Year.

The South Burnett Support Alliance contacted the PLT recently and invited the parish to provide a meal at the Salvation Army Hall in Kingaroy. The PLT agreed to do so around the end of April. Once the date is confirmed, it will be shared on the newsletter. If you are interested in helping, please let the office know.

The Blackbutt Church sacristy has new carpet, made possible by the generous donation of a benefactor. The PLT extends their sincere appreciation to this kind person. All the church communities reported that all is going well in their respective churches. The next PLT meeting will be in Blackbutt on 9 May.

Blessings, Father Stanley.



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 7th March	Blackbutt	5pm	Vigil
Sunday 8th March	Kumbia	8am	Liturgy
	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

First Reading: **Exodus 17:3-7**
Responsorial Psalm If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: **Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**
Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: **John 4:5-42**



WEEKDAY MASS - THIRD WEEK OF LENT

Thursday 12th March	Blackbutt	9am	Mass
	Kumbia	5:30pm	Mass
Friday 13th March	Kingaroy	9am	Mass
	Nanango	12pm	Mass

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Friday 13th March	Cooyar	6pm	Vigil
Saturday 14th March	Blackbutt	5pm	Liturgy
	Kumbia	6pm	Vigil
Sunday 15th March	Nanango	8am	Mass
	Kingaroy	10am	Mass

NEXT LENTEN PROGRAMME DATES

- Kingaroy - Wednesday 11th March at St Mary's Parish Hall at 6:30pm.
- Blackbutt - Thursday 12th March after 9am Mass.

CENT AUCTION



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

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.

LENTEN RETREAT

A Lenten Retreat is being offered on Saturday 28 March at the Parish. The theme is "A day in the desert, with St Francis of Assisi". The day will include exploring desert spirituality, learning various contemplative prayer practices, and quiet time for prayer and reflection. Please contact Carrie Lock for more information: carrielocktd@gmail.com

PARISH PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Death Anniversaries: Francis Cronin, Fr Kevin Ryan, Kevin Mc Ardle, Veronica Brown, Charles Jurd, John Carroll, Pat Cronin, Yvonne (Von) Caffery.

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, Julianne Cross.

PROJECT COMPASSION



Third Sunday of Lent 7-8 March 2026

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

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.

OLHC NANANGO - MAJELLAN MORNING TEA



The Majellan Morning tea will be on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 10-00 a.m. in OLHC Parish Hall. All welcome. Please bring a plate to share.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross will be held at St Mary's Church Kingaroy at 8:30am each Friday during Lent.

SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

The 2nd rite of Reconciliation will be held in St Mary's Church Kingaroy on Monday 23rd March at 6pm.

ST MARY'S CHURCH WORKING BEE

Thank you to those parishioners who assisted at the recent working bee. A significant amount was achieved around the garden and the church premises. A big thanks to everyone.

