



Celebrating Liturgy of the Word with Family 1st Sunday Lent

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- If you are with others, arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre. Include a something purple if you can, candles, Bible and cross. If you are by yourself, make yourself comfortable and prepare a prayer focus.
- Open the links in this prayer guide.
- Share the reader role if possible. It's always good to practice beforehand - pause for commas and full-stops. Avoid correcting children as they are reading or during the Liturgy. If you are by yourself, read the readings aloud. Say all the parts – avoid hurry.

Light candles. SIGN OF THE CROSS: In name of the Father... OR **Ki te ingoa...** Tēnā Koutou Katoa
Welcome everyone. Today is the 1st Sunday of Lent. Pope Francis has said that Lent is a time for renewing faith, hope and love. So let's think about that as we sing Hosea's song – Come back to me.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ2oI-UhTec>

READER:

E te Ariki, Lord Jesus, you were prepared for your ministry by baptism and by temptation in the wilderness. As we start our Lenten journey, so too do we prepare ourselves for your death and resurrection. Be with us through our trials and give us the courage to find the path that leads us to you.

(prayer from Caritas - <https://caritas.org.nz/lent>)

God, you are wonderfully kind and full of mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

You fill the whole earth with good things

(All) Christ have mercy

You are full of compassion, slow to anger

(All) Lord have mercy

COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: In this time of silence, we bring to mind all the things we want to pray for.
(Allow silence, 1 minute)

God you give us every good gift. Help us turn away from sin and listen to the Gospel; to pray, fast and care for others during this Lent. We make this prayer through Jesus, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **All: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis :8-16 Good News Bible

Reader 1 God said to Noah and his sons,

Reader 2 "I am now making my covenant with you and with your descendants, and with all living beings — all birds and all animals — everything that came out of the boat with you.

Reader 1 With these words I make my covenant with you: I promise that never again will all living beings be destroyed by a flood; never again will a flood destroy the earth.

Reader 2 As a sign of this everlasting covenant which I am making with you and with all living beings, I am putting my bow in the clouds. It will be the sign of my covenant with the world.

Reader 1 Whenever I cover the sky with clouds and the rainbow appears, I will remember my promise to you and to all the animals that a flood will never again destroy all living beings.

Reader 2 The Word of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Silence – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word find a place to rest inside us.*

PSALM: 25 Kids https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bCloxL_gZw
Youth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76yjGMeTW5o>
Others <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LazU29o1YcE>

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22 Good News Bible

Reader 1 For Christ died for sins once and for all, a good man on behalf of sinners, in order to lead you to God. He was put to death physically, but made alive spiritually, and in his spiritual existence he went and preached to the spirits in prison.

Reader 2 These were the spirits of those who had not obeyed God when he waited patiently during the days that Noah was building his boat. The few people in the boat—eight in all—were saved by the water, which was a symbol pointing to baptism, which now saves you.

Reader 1 It is not the washing off of bodily dirt, but the promise made to God from a good conscience.

Reader 2 It saves you through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone to heaven and is at the right side of God, ruling over all angels and heavenly authorities and powers.

Reader 1 The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God

Follow the reading with silence.

Discuss (questions from Caritas Lenten program)

- What are some things we can do during Lent to actively step into a closer relationship with God?
- How can we help each other throughout this Lenten journey?

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

Reader 1 At once the Spirit made him go into the desert, where he stayed forty days, being tempted by Satan. Wild animals were there also, but angels came and helped him.

Reader 2 After John had been put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee and preached the Good News from God. "The right time has come," he said, "and the Kingdom of God is near! Turn away from your sins and believe the Good News!"

Reader 1 The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

After the reading - silence. Let some words go over and over in your mind.

Watch: Kids / family <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukIBEWtlqDg>
Adults <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm3JK7JYAKs>

Reader: The Catholic aid agency, Caritas offers us a program of study during Lent. We can also donate to Caritas. The money we donate helps support people who have little to live on. The girls in the picture are being educated at a Rural Training Centre in the Solomon Islands. Caritas supports this project. Money we donate to Caritas is used to support this program



Discuss (or reflect if you are on your own):

- Why might it be important to support people even when we cannot see them.
- What am I called to this Lent? How do I want to respond?

Prayer of the Faithful: *As God's people, one of our responsibilities is, after we have listened to the readings, to pray for the needs of the whole world.*

Let's pray for all in need.

For the Church – that we all open our hearts to the Gospel, welcome the kingdom of God and take God's love and peace and mercy to the world.

(Silence) READER: In your mercy Lord **ALL:** Hear us now we pray.

For all in public office – that our community leaders will work hard to care for our common home help people appreciate the wonder and beauty of the natural world.

(Silence) READER: In your mercy Lord **ALL:** Hear us now we pray.

For catechumens – that we will support and encourage them as they make the journey towards the baptism and the new light of Easter.

(Silence) READER: In your mercy Lord **ALL:** Hear us now we pray.

For the success of the corona virus vaccine – that the vaccine will be successful in ending the virus and that it be available for all people, even those in the poorest countries.

(Silence) READER: In your mercy Lord **ALL:** Hear us now we pray.

For people who suffer violence – that the patient love of friends and trusted family, they will find healing.

(Silence) READER: In your mercy Lord **ALL:** Hear us now we pray.

For all of us – that we enter in to the spirit of Lent; to prayer, fasting and works of charity.

(Silence) READER: In your mercy Lord **ALL:** Hear us now we pray.

Hear us God. These are our prayers. ... Amen

READER: And now let us pray together as Jesus taught us: Choose Māori or English

Māori at this link <https://www.aucklandcatholic.org.nz/liturgy/mass-readings-in-te-reo/> Words are on the screen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Reader:

Let us pray; E te Ariki, Lord Jesus, through your baptism you showed us how to align ourselves with God. Your time in the wilderness showed us how to hold fast to our faith. When we are challenged to go out, to face temptation and uncertainty, help us to remember that you are with us. Through the hardships that we face, help us to keep our eyes trained on your face, our ears tuned to your voice. Āmene.

(Prayer provided by Caritas)

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG: (You might want to dance) I wanna do right <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIxxuTV-5vk>

Lent-stagram

2021 LENT
CALENDAR



				WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
				Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
				What happened on Calvary that day so long ago (and what happened at the garden tomb, as well) is not just ancient history. It's personal. As personal as a family photo-shoot, your Instagram account, your diary, or a scrapbook of your life.	Be ready to discover just how hard God worked to make you family—a featured image in His story—and just how wonderful that is! <i>Read 1 John 3:2</i>	Think: Have you ever been included in something (a team, a family event, a church event) when you weren't actually a "member"? Did that make you feel awkward? Special?	
SUN.	MON.	TUES.		Read Genesis 2:7			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
"Do you want to know how much I want you in the family album?" Jesus seems to say. "This is how far I'm willing to go to make you part of the family!" And he suffers and he dies.	And then he rises again, to put the exclamation point on the end of the sentence. "You're part of the family! FOREVER!" Click! Snap! Flash!	With that flash, you were burned into the picture of salvation forever. And with that flash, Christ was burned into our memories and onto our souls forever. A Savior. A Friend. A Brother. Your image is burned into God's heart! <i>Read 2 Corinthians 5:17</i>		Read Romans 8:14-18 three times today, in the morning, at noon, in the evening. Does it read differently as it sinks in?	Consider this: Did God really say, "Let there be light"? Or maybe might God have simply coaxed chaos to "Say 'Cheese!'?"	Read Genesis 1:1-2:4	
28	March 1	2	3	4	5	6	
In Genesis 2, God's plan for his home-grown garden paradise becomes clear. Paradise equals FAMILY. God lovingly molds Adam from clay.	Read Genesis 3, paying special attention to the wording of the serpent's temptation of Eve. Do you see how the serpent is tempting Eve to take matters (even her whole life) into her own hands? Do you see how the serpent is destroying her trust in God? These events threw God's perfect picture out of focus.	Think: Consider sin today. Your OWN sin. What sins in your life do you wish were gone? Which ones would you "retouch"?	It is God himself who develops a whole new picture for our lives. And he does that through his Son Jesus.	If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <i>2 Corinthians 5:17</i>	Think: Recall times when you felt alone, confused or lost. Did knowing that you are a beloved child of God help you at those times?		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Read Hebrews 4:15. Jesus was tempted (as we are) to avoid his suffering and death. But, unlike us, Jesus was without sin—he had the backbone to resist those temptations. He followed God's plan. He overcame his fears. He overcame the test of the devil. All for our sakes!	Pray: Share some of your deepest concerns with Jesus today. As you pray, picture Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane. Imagine him truly understanding your feelings and experiences.	Keep this verse in mind all day today: <i>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8</i>	Nothing about Jesus' trial was fair. Courtroom cameras might have caught that ... or maybe they would not have. Read about the events in the courtroom on that night in Matthew 26:57-75. It's something like having a hidden camera right there where Jesus was. Open up your Bible and let the drama begin. You can "see" for yourself what happened there.		Imagine you are a sketch artist at the trial of Jesus. On a piece of paper, draw a series of sketches—images of what you might have seen there.		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <i>Philippians 4:4</i>	Smart phones have made it possible for us to take as many pictures as we want. We can take a picture of a sunset over and over again until we get it "perfect."	In our lives, we are given many chances for "do overs." Every time we sin, and we are sorry for what we have done, our God grants us forgiveness.	As children of God, now forgiven, we can recommit our ways to the Lord. We can strive to do his will. We can forgive others as we have been forgiven.	St. Paul tells us to "live by the Spirit." That means producing the fruits of the Spirit. And the fruits of the Spirit are ... <i>Read Galatians 5:22-23</i>	Draw a picture of something you did this week that you were not proud of. Then draw a "redo" picture of what you would do in the same situation, living by the Spirit.	Lord, give me the courage to change the things I can change, the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference.	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Lent gives us the time to absorb the light that lingers in the shadows. During Lent we open the shutters of our hearts ... and we leave them open. The images are burned into our souls. The light streams in, and we slowly come to realize that Christ really is making the brightness of his salvation known ... even in the darkness.	Open your heart this Lent! Absorb the light of Jesus' salvation! And then SHINE! <i>Read Matthew 5:16</i>	Read: Matthew 25:31-46. Have you seen Jesus today? What did he look like? Did you help him? Feed him? Clothe him? Visit him?	Our Lent-stagram features a picture of family at the table. Jesus celebrated a family reunion of sorts on Maundy Thursday at the Passover meal.	Jesus said he had wanted to celebrate this meal with his disciples for quite some time. Jesus and his disciples were coming together to be "family." When we share this meal today, we get a tiny vision of the HUGE feast that awaits us in heaven—the Lamb's High Feast. There's a place set for you there! Just picture that! <i>Read John 13:1-17</i>			
28 Palm Sunday	29	30	31	April 1 Holy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3	
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! <i>Matthew 21:9</i>	If the events of Holy Week would have happened in today's world, images of Jesus' face would be posted online and on all the news channels.	But Jesus was arrested in secret, in the dark, in the shadows. <i>Read: Matthew 26:47-56. Imagine being part of the crowd who came to arrest Jesus.</i>	Our faces are the ones that should be on "Wanted" posters. We are the ones who are guilty of sin. Jesus did nothing to deserve an arrest, trial or crucifixion.	But, because of God's great love for us, only one mug shot remains—the mug shot of our Messiah. His death and resurrection erases our entire record as sinners.	Read: Matthew 20:18-19. Could the disciples see past the images of Good Friday? Did they have the faith to wait and trust that Jesus' promise would come true?	The Easter sunrise shows that darkness is vanquished! We shine our risen Savior's light into every dark corner of the world!	
4 Easter Sunday	Jesus lives! And so will you! Happy Easter!						