We begin this week with our series of reflections by parishioners as to a symbol that has meaning for them in relation to Lent or Easter. Thank you to those who have been willing to share with us their thoughts.

I have chosen the symbol of Monopoly money for this first Sunday in Lent: Temptation in the Desert. I think that in times when we lose faith, doubt, feel separated from our God and His plan for us, we feel empty, alone and disillusioned with our life and our daily living. I see these times like being in a metaphorical desert, just like Jesus. At these times it is easy to be tempted by false gods that promise fulfilment, power and wealth. But they are hollow and false, just like the play money used in Monopoly. As Jesus teaches us in this week’s reading, true fulfilment can only come from God.

Written by Carmel Schaumburg.

Time passes so quickly. There never seems to be enough hours in the day. Why do we rush around madly living our lives at such a hectic pace? For me, Lent is a time to slow down – stop, think about how I live my life – do I need to make some changes – declutter, get rid of what is not needed and focus on what things are important to me to become a better person and I have 6 weeks to reach my goal.

Lent is a time to deepen in person prayer. The closer we come to Jesus through prayer the more we understand what it means to follow in Jesus’ footsteps.

We are asked to reach out to all people in need regardless of what those needs are – to show empathy, acceptance, forgiveness and compassion. This is the year of mercy and we have been given this wonderful gift of mercy. Let us share it with others.

Through our Lenten journey, Lord, deepen our understanding of the mystery of Christ – and make it a reality in the conduct of our lives. AMEN.
During this year of Mercy we are invited to participate in a “gentle revolution” through our tender and meaningful actions founded on our relationship with a forgiving God. One of the articles I read had 56 ways we can make our actions more merciful, so each week I thought I would share one with you:

**Mercy Action # 27**

Respond to provocation with the respect you wish a person would show you.

Recent baptisms included (left), Jose Miguel Lennon Peñaloza, son of James and Natalie, great grandson of Jill Lennon.

We also celebrated the baptism of Callum John Burnett Webster, son of Hayley and Jason (dec’d), brother to Jessica.

May the joy of Christ live within their hearts.

Our next Parish Luncheon is on the 7th March at 11.30am. Please spread the word and invite people to come along to a simple social gathering. Jane Blomley is also seeking volunteers to help in the kitchen/serving or someone simply to help with the shopping. If you are able to give an hour or two, please give Jane a call on 4675 4132 or 0401 042 041. Thanks.

World Day of Prayer will be hosted this year by the Uniting Church. Please come along on Friday, 4th March 2016 in the Uniting Church, Francis Street at 7p.m. Please bring a small plate of food for supper.

Want to play Carpet Bowls?
Parish Centre from 9.30am.
Next game: Monday 15th February, 2016

The next Parish Council Meeting will be Thursday, 18th February at 3.30pm at the Presbytery.

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**Mercy Action # 27**

Respond to provocation with the respect you wish a person would show you.
St Mary’s Mass Times
Tuesday (16/02)………………(Kaloma)……………11.00am
Friday (19/02) …………………………….12.15pm

20th/21st February, 2016
SUNDAY MORNING: 9.00am
27th/28th February, 2016
SATURDAY EVENING: 6.00pm
SUNDAY MORNING: 8.00am
NO CHILDREN’S MASS
5th/6th March, 2016
SATURDAY EVENING: 6.00pm
SUNDAY: Daymar 8.00am & Weengallon 10.00am
12th/13th March, 2016
SUNDAY EVENING: 6.00pm

WE PRAY FOR those who have entered your kingdom: including Margaret Beasley (Roma), Albert Knight, Sam Maiore (Roma), John Walmsley (St. George), Paul Zacka, Lyn Sutton, Thelva O’Shea, Darryl Hennessy, Bub Porter, Darrel Littlewood, Heather Glasser, Nancy Thurecht (Talwood), Anna Van Kuijck, Ray McKenna, Florence “Margy” Pavlicevich, Teresa Butler, Mark Batchelor, RAMON O’Neill, Frank Holland, Noel McGovern, Winston Thorne, Jill Welsh Field, Natalie MacPherson, Erin Laverty, Norah O’Brien, Father John (Jack) Clancy, Father Jeff Scully, Kay Coleman, Marion O’Leary, Matthew Palmen.

For all whose anniversary is at this time: including Peter Spittles, Bronwynne Faddy, Paul FitzGerald, Betty “Topsy” Hunt, George Hartin, Michael Gibbs, Kevin Cook, Claire Park, Mia Beck, Jenny Marsh, Robert Ford, Barry Cook, Barbara Bendall, Ally Brennan, Arthur Gordon, Bill Bishop, Joan Price, Molly McDonald, Joan Turvey, James “Ally” Brennan, Joyce Turvey, Georgia Bourke, Carolyn Sewell, Tom Simpson.


If you would like to include the name of someone in these lists, please check with the person or family concerned and then phone Kath on 4671 5087 (Thursday 9am to 3pm).

Let us pray for all those clergy whose anniversaries occur during this month:
Rev Msgr Michael Potter 01/02/44, Ve A/Deacon Robert O’Shea 02/02/40, Rev Fr Raymond White 08/02/00, Most Rev James Byrne DD 11/02/38, Rev Msgr John Bergin 18/02/00, Rev Fr Michael Hayes 19/02/60, Rev Fr Michael Cronin 20/02/92, Rev Fr Henry MacFarlane 20/02/46, Rev Fr Michael Sheehan 25/02/47

Lord, welcome them into the company of your Saints.
INTRODUCTION

My friends, making a commitment and fully embracing it is neither easy nor simple. Second thoughts and doubts come with the territory, including the temptation to renege on the choices we’ve made. Jesus struggled with faith, authenticity, even his calling. That struggle is reflected in his 40-day sojourn in the desert following his baptism. This Lenten season is the time for us to reflect on our own baptismal calling and the many temptations to abandon or ignore it.

First Reading
Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Moses calls the people to remember their history.

Responsorial Psalm
Be with us, Lord, when I am in trouble.

Second Reading
St. Paul to the Romans 10:8-13
All who believe in Christ will be saved.

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……..

Gospel
Jesus is tempted in the desert.

Prayers of the Faithful
For the church: that it may sustain us in our struggles to remain faithful to our baptismal calling … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those who are tempted by power, fame, security or material possessions … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those whose struggles cause them to lose faith, give up hope, become complacent … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those unwilling or unable to embrace their baptismal commitment … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For those who work to strengthen and support others on their faith journey … remembering your mercy, we pray,

For the needy, the sick and the dying among us; and for those who have died … remembering your mercy, we pray,