

**Sunday 22 February 2026**  
*First Sunday of Lent (Year A)*

**First Reading - Genesis 3.1-6**

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The serpent

    was more cunning  
    than any other creature  
    the Lord God had made.

The serpent said to Eve, 'Did God say  
    that you are not to eat  
    from any of the trees  
    in the garden?'

Eve said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit  
    of any tree  
    in the garden;  
except the tree  
    in the middle of the garden,  
for God said that if  
    we even touch it,  
    we shall die.'

The serpent said to Eve, 'You will not die;  
    but when you eat  
    the fruit  
    of that tree,  
    your eyes will be opened,  
    and you will be like God,  
    knowing good and evil.'

Understanding now  
    that the fruit  
    of the tree  
    would bring knowledge,  
and seeing that it was beautiful,  
    and good to eat,

Eve took fruit  
    from the tree,  
    and gave some to Adam, who was with her,  
    and they ate.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Second Reading - Romans 5.12-19**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Sin - rebellion against God - came into the world  
    through Adam;  
and death  
    came into the world  
    through sin;  
and death spread to all,  
    for all have sinned.

And so we see  
    that sin  
    was already in the world, and leading to death,  
long before the laws,  
    defining and measuring sin,  
    were given to Moses.

But now, the power of sin and death,  
    which all began  
    with the sin of Adam,  
is swept away  
    by the far greater power  
    of the gift of God's grace  
    in Jesus Christ.

The sin of Adam  
    led to death,  
but now  
    there is life  
for those who receive forgiveness  
    in Christ.  
Adam's trespass  
    led to condemnation and death for all.  
But Christ's work of righteousness  
    leads to forgiveness and life for all.  
By the disobedience of Adam,  
    many were made sinners, and died.  
Now, by the obedience of Christ,  
    many will be made righteous, and live.  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Gospel - Matthew 4.1-11**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
    according to Matthew.

Jesus was led by the Spirit, into the wilderness,  
    to be tempted by the devil.

He ate nothing  
    for forty days, and forty nights.

The tempter came to him,  
    in his great hunger, and said,  
    'If you are the Son of God,  
    command these stones  
    to become bread.'

But Jesus answered, 'The scripture says  
    that life is sustained,  
    not by bread alone,  
    but by the word of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city,  
    and placed him  
    on the highest point  
    of the temple,  
saying, 'If you are the Son of God,  
    throw yourself down from here,  
for the scripture says

    that the Lord Most High  
    will send angels to protect you,  
    to raise you up in their hands,  
    so that  
    you will not even hurt your foot  
    against a stone.'

Jesus answered, 'The scripture also says,  
    "Do not put the Lord your God  
    to the test."

Then the devil led him to a high mountain,  
    and showed him all the kingdoms of the world,  
    and their splendour; and said,  
    'All these, I will give to you,  
    if you fall down and worship me.'

Jesus said, 'Away from me, Satan;  
    for the scripture says,  
    "Worship and serve  
    the Lord your God,  
    and no other."

And the devil left him.

And angels came,  
    and ministered to him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.