

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.