

# St. Mary of the Angels Geelong

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2026



## Daily Reflections

<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/daily.html>

**MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

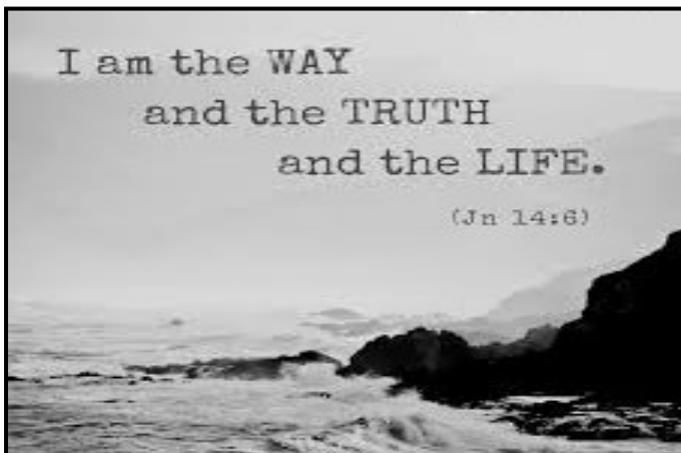
**6<sup>TH</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

*James 1: 1-11, Psalm 118: 67-68, 71-71, 75-76. R. v. 77,*

*Mark 8: 11-13*

***Reflection: Be kind to me, Lord, and I shall live.***

James has wise words for us today. He reminds us that our trials and hardships can be a *happy privilege* if we see them as opportunities to develop our faith and character. He encourages us to ask God for wisdom in hard situation, so we are strengthened by our dependence on God and are not *like the waves thrown up in the sea when the wind drives*. Just as the waves move according to the prevailing wind, sometimes we can be driven by the need for the approval of those around us, even if our heart knows that is not necessarily the right way out of the dilemma. Better to stand against the wind and waves of human approval and ask in faith for God's help- and then, of course, accept that God will help in God's own way. Wisdom often comes through reflection on how we cope with the *happy privilege* of life.



**TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

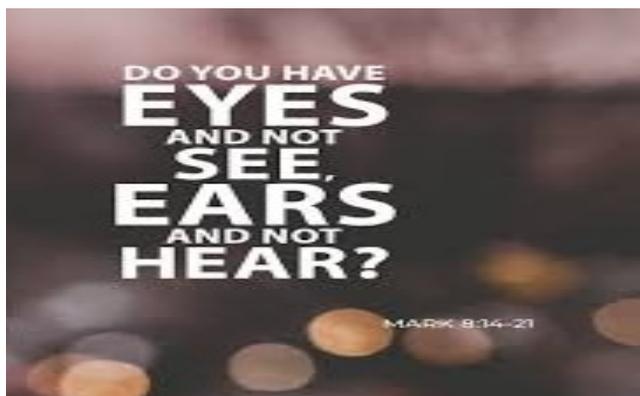
**6<sup>TH</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

*James 1: 12-18, Psalm 93; 12-15, 18-19. R. v.12,*

*Mark 8: 14-21*

***Reflection: Happy are those you teach, O Lord.***

It is reassuring to realise that Jesus, at times, was frustrated with those around him. In yesterday's Gospel we read that he responded to the Pharisees with a sigh that came straight from the heart. Today he responds to the disciples with a string of questions ending with Are you still without perception? Even those closed to Jesus missed the point ending with Are you still perception? Even those closest to Jesus missed the point of what he was about! Today I will take time to reflect on the questions that Jesus asked his disciples. In my own context I will ask Jesus to help me see where my mind is closed, what I don't hear or see, what I don't understand, what I need reminding about in my relationship with God. Tomorrow, we begin the season of Lent. The next six weeks will be an opportunity for us to reflect on what it really means to follow Jesus, what the cost of discipleship is all about. I will begin preparing today.



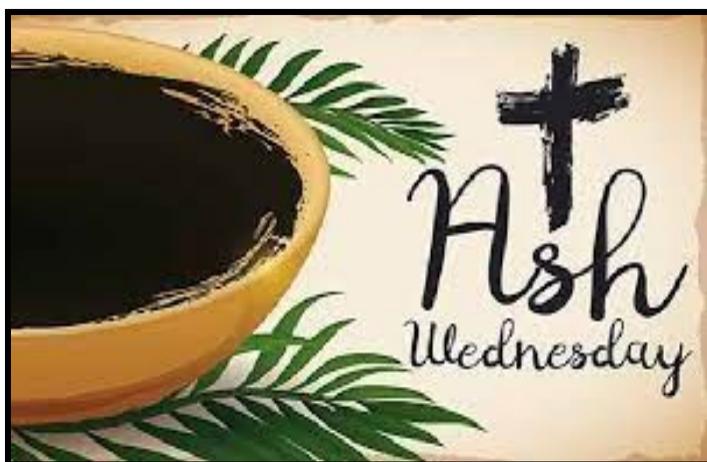
**WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Joel 2: 12-18, Psalm 50:3-6, 12-14, 17. R. v. 3,  
2 Corinthians 5: 20 \_\_\_\_ 6:2, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18.*

*Reflection: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Today I stand on the threshold of the desert. I feel called to open wide the windows and doors of my heart and sit with Jesus in the desert for the next 40 days. It is time to clear away the things that have been getting in the way of my relationship with God and to let in the cleansing winds of repentance and renewal. Being in the solitude of the desert will enable me to come back to God with all my heart, to pray, fast and be generous in my reconciliation. I know I won't be alone during this time. The One who loves, forgives and rejoices in me will be right there encouraging me to start over. No doubt it will be uncomfortable in the desert, but I enter this experience in the hope that from it I will once again see how beautiful the desert can be, and that this beauty will create a new landscape within my heart.



## THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

*Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

*Deuteronomy 30: 15-20, Psalm 1: 1-4, 6. R. Psalm 39.5,*

*Luke 9: 22-25.*

*Reflection: Happy are they who hope in the Lord.*

Psalm 1 can be read as a summing up of today's words Moses and Jesus: Choose life and *Take up your cross every day and follow me*. We know from experience that choosing life is not always easy. Sometimes it means accepting disappointments, suffering, pain and loss along the way. Jesus' life certainly shows us the truth of this. Lent is our opportunity to once again choose life; as the psalmist says to be like a tree that is planted by a stream that yields fruit, not like chaff blown away by the wind. What choices do I need to make this Lent to achieve *life and prosperity* rather than *death and disaster*? Will I have enough stamina to keep making those choices right up until we celebrate the new life of Eastertime? I pray that I may find myself among those whom it can be said *Happy are they who hope in the Lord*.



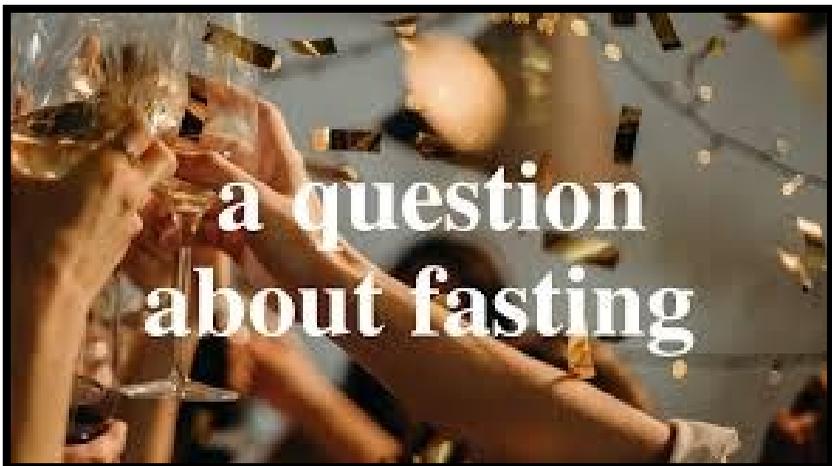
## **FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

*Friday after Ash Wednesday,*

*Isaiah 5 : 1-9, Psalm 50; 3-6, 18-19, R. v. 19, Matthew 9: 14-15.*

*Reflection: A broke, humbled heart, O God, you will not scorn.*

Lent is about prayer and fasting. When we think of 'fasting' we probably think first of eating less food as a form of penance. Today Isaiah is challenging us to rethink what fasting really means. He states that God does not want to see a show of sacrifice but, rather, how that sacrifice changes our hearts. He calls for the people to notice suffering, to speak up for the marginalised, to share what they have and to fast from burdening others. Pope Francis has created a practical list of things to fast from. Included are fasting from worries and instead trusting in God, fasting from complaints and instead contemplating simplicity, fasting from pressures by turning to prayer, fasting from anger so as to be filled with patience and fasting from words and instead being silent so as to really listen. What will I be fasting from this Lent?



## SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

*Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

*Isaiah 58: 9-14, Psalm 85: 1-6, R. v. 11, Luke 5: 27-32*

**Reflection:** *Teach me your ways O Lord, that I may be faithful in Your sight.*

Levi seems an unlikely choice to be invited to be a follower of Jesus. He was a tax collector who worked for the Romans and, as such, he was despised under Jewish Law. Obviously, he was deeply touched by the way Jesus spoke to him because he immediately walked away from his way of life and even wanted to throw a party to celebrate that he was a changed man. Jesus chose to go to the celebration and thus got offside with the Pharisees and scribes who were scandalised that he would mix with such company. For me, this reinforces my belief that, even if we think we are 'sinners', Jesus sees the good in each one of us and invites us into a change of heart. If I think I am healthy, like the Pharisees, I won't see that I need help, but if I know I am sick then Jesus can reach out to me and offer repentance.



