



# MACKENZIE CATHOLIC PARISH

Albury-Fairlie-Tekapo-Twizel  
*Communion / Participation / Mission*



## 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT- YEAR C

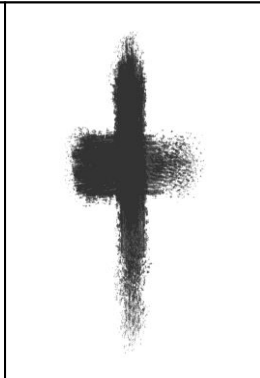
8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025

### READINGS AT MASS

**Deuteronomy 26:4-10.** Moses reminds the people of Israel that they are a people who have been led by the hand of God throughout their history.

**Romans 10:8-13.** 'Where does God live?' asks St Paul: very near to us, on our lips and in our hearts.

**Luke 4:1-13.** Lent is a time for conversion and a renewed fidelity to God and Jesus leads us on the path as he himself faces temptation and renews his fidelity to God.



### Parish Contacts

7 Gall Street, Fairlie 7925

### Parish Website:

[www.mackenziecatholic.nz](http://www.mackenziecatholic.nz)

### Parish Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/mackenziecatholicparish>

### Parish Priest:

Fr. Tien Cao

M: 021 181 4721

Email:

[petercaochitien@yahoo.com](mailto:petercaochitien@yahoo.com)

### Having Exhausted All These Ways of Tempting Jesus, the Devil Left Him

The First Sunday of Lent is marked by our meditation on Jesus' victory over the three temptations of the devil, who is the father of lies (Luke 4:1-13). These temptations are common to every human person, regardless of religion, cultural background, or language. They are rooted in our fallen nature, and the devil cultivates and awakens them. Yet, by our free will—like Jesus—we can choose to cultivate the word of God in us rather than the word of the devil.

The devil's first lie is: "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf." Jesus is indeed the Son of God, but the devil attempts to plant doubt in His identity by using the word "if." Here, the devil does not deny the existence of God, as some atheists do, but rather seeks to persuade Jesus that God does not care for Him in His hunger and weakness. He also tempts Jesus to use His energy, time, and priorities for material gain—to turn stones into bread. After fasting for forty days, Jesus is physically weak, yet He firmly declares: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." The strength of Jesus comes from his fasting and disciplines of self-denial.

Jesus wants us to recognize that hunger for truth is as real and urgent as hunger for food. When doubts arise within us—or when others question if God is truly our Father—may our prayers and the word of God strengthen our faith. When modern "Pharaohs" and the devil himself persuade us to work on Sundays, undermining the importance of prayer and Sunday Mass, may we boldly declare that our hunger for God is as vital as our hunger for truth. And when people challenge us by asking, "If God exists, why are so many in the world hungry?" may we respond: "There is more than enough food for everyone, but there is a lack of justice and righteousness in its distribution." Only the Holy Spirit, present in the Word of God and in our conscience, can open our eyes to this truth.

The devil's other two temptations follow the same pattern—appealing to pride and a desire for vainglory. The devil falsely claims authority over the kingdoms of the world, offering them to Jesus in exchange for worship. But the truth is, the devil owns nothing. He is not the creator, and those who follow him chase after emptiness. God alone is the Creator of heaven and earth, and He shares His power and glory with those who trust in Him. Apart from God, there is nothing.

May this Lenten season be a time of deep reflection and renewal, as we reject the devil's lies and embrace the truth that only in God is our true fulfillment found. *Fr. Tien Cao*

### PARISH MASS TIMES

#### FAIRLIE - ST. PATRICK'S

Sunday 9:30 am

Tue – Fri

Adoration: 8:00 – 9:00 am

Mass: 9:15 am

Reconciliation every day during adoration

#### TWIZEL – All Saints'

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

#### TEKAPO - Good Shepherd Church

Last Sunday of the Month

Mass 30<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00 pm

### Parish Council

Tony Hill

027 331 7861

### Parish Finance

Leonie Guiney

027 2933 228

### Twizel Church Charitable Trust

Gerry Dauvin - 027 482 8284

### St. Joseph's School

Kelly and Bridget

M. 027 685 8659

[E.principal@stjofairlie.school.nz](mailto:E.principal@stjofairlie.school.nz)

W.

<https://www.stjofairlie.school.nz/>

**PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS AND NOTICES**

**1. This Friday only, Daily Mass will be at 11:30 AM.**

**2. Stations of the Cross During Lent:**

*In Fairlie:* St. Patrick’s Church: 6.00 pm – Every Friday

*In Twizel:* All Saints’ Church: 6.00 pm – Every Wednesday

ON-DEMAND - We understand that not everyone can attend in person. You can now experience the Stations on-demand at <https://www.fdm.org.nz/stations-of-the-cross> Visit the website anytime to reflect and pray in a way that best fits your schedule.

*In Twizel:*

(1) Rosalie Ardagh is available to help you download *the Hallow App* so you can join the Lenten Daily Reflection.

(2) Let’s gather before Mass on Saturdays from 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM to mix, mingle, and strengthen our relationships by sharing our Lenten experiences.

**3. Faith Formation:** For you and family, **FORMED** is an online Catholic media platform filled with over 4,000 programs about the bible, faith and parenting, movies, audio dramas, talks, e-books, and even cartoons for our children. You can gain access to all of FORMED’s content by following these simple steps:

• (1) Go to <https://signup.formed.org/> (2) • Enter your parish name: **Mackenzie Parish** (3) • Enter your name: ... and your email address: .....

**4. Food For Faith for Lent:** Fr. John O’Connor offers brief daily encouragements for those seeking greater maturity in relationship with Jesus Christ. Sign up to receive daily emails at [www.foodforfaith.org.nz](http://www.foodforfaith.org.nz)

**5. Jubilee Year Of Hope 2025:** Pilgrimages are an important element of the Jubilee Year. The designated pilgrimage sites for our diocese are:

- A. St Mary’s Pro-Cathedral, Christchurch.
- B. St Patrick’s Church, Akaroa
- C. The St Mary MacKillop Chapel, Catholic Parish of Opihi, Temuka.
- D. Sanctuary of Fourviere & Shrine of Mary, Mother of Light, Leithfield.

For more information on these sites visit <https://cdoc.nz/news-events/jubilee-year-pilgrimage-sites-announced>

**6. Caritas NZ: Lenten Reflection Program 2025:** Resource: <https://www.caritas.org.nz/lent-resources>

**7. Bishops’ Lent Appeal:** *Your compassion in action restores hope and saves lives.* Lent is a time of sacrifice, giving, and action. Your gift this Lenten season will ensure that more families continue to receive the assistance they urgently need. Giving envelopes will be distributed at Mass. Every donation given will support Caritas’ life-changing humanitarian and development work around the world, and create change not just for today but for the future. This year, Caritas are encouraging you to give online or through direct deposit, if possible, to reduce costs and makes processing donations faster. To learn more or donate visit [www.caritas.org.nz](http://www.caritas.org.nz) Thank you for your generous support.

**8. Gratitude for Len Smith’s Generous Bequest:** With deep gratitude, we acknowledge a generous bequest from Len Smith which will greatly benefit our parish community. His kindness and legacy will continue to bless and support our mission. We offer our heartfelt prayers for Len, entrusting him to the mercy and love of God. Masses will also be celebrated for the repose of his soul, in thanksgiving for his generosity. May the Lord reward him abundantly, and may his example inspire us all to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us.

**9. Generosity Begets Generosity:** Following the combined meeting of the Parish Council and Finance Committee this week, we are pleased to announce that, on behalf of the parish, we are pleased to make a substantial contribution to the Bishop Cares Appeal for the Priestly Retirement Home. The campaign is still in need of support. If individuals wish to make additional donations, please feel free to do so.

**ALL SAINTS TWIZEL ROSTER**

Date	Reader	OHP	Extra-Ordinary Minister
8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mary Murdoch	Kathleen Carpenter	Elizabeth Higgins
15 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Elizabeth Higgins	Bronwen Dauvin	Sandy Murray

**Church set up for March 2025:** Carpenters

**ST. PATRICK’S CHURCH FAIRLIE ROSTER**

Date	Reader	Prayers	Ex’Ord Minister	Collector	Greeter
9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Christine O’Connell	Christine O	Neville Smith	Neville Smith	Amanda O’Brien
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Terry O’Connell	Terry O’Connell	Christine O	Cath Hanrahan	Mary Calder

**Cleaners:** 28 Feb/7 Mar Gary Brosnahan / Mary Brosnahan