



ROSEVILLE UNITING CHURCH

“Sharing the love & welcome of Jesus”



roseville.unitingchurch.org.au



@530worship



@rosevilleuniting

WHAT IS LENT?

*An extract from a piece by Marcus Campbell of Uniting World.
You can read the whole thing here -*

<https://unitingworld.org.au/what-is-lent-2026/>

Every year, sometime between when hot cross buns unscrupulously appear in supermarkets and the eating of a chocolate egg, many of us catch a vague mention of “Lent”. To many the word will sound ancient, dusty. Locked in books and church halls from another time. For those of us who attend a mainline church, it may involve a 40-day season of prayer, fasting and giving. But to put it down to just a list of duties to perform would be to undercut one of the most powerful and contemporary aspects of the season: intentional time to clarify and refocus our lives on what really matters.

And rarely has that felt more necessary.

We live in an age of relentless fragmentation. Our attention is no longer simply divided; it is actively hunted. Algorithms are engineered to keep us anxious, scrolling, comparing. Every app, advertisement and news cycle competes for a piece of us. We are invited to perform our identities, signal our values and consume our way to meaning all at once, all the time.

Nowhere is this divided loyalty more visible than in our relationship with material wealth. We accumulate position and possession, often not out of greed, but out of anxiety. Out of the quiet fear that we are not enough, that we do not have enough, that we must hold on to everything we can. Life becomes cluttered. Generosity becomes difficult. God recedes to the back of the queue.

The disciplines of prayer, fasting and generosity are a direct challenge to that condition. They loosen the grip of status anxiety. They relocate our identity not in what we own or achieve, but in our relationship with God and with the people around us. They give us back what the algorithms are stealing from us: attention and focus.

This is why Lent is not a relic. It is a rescue.

...The season of Lent has always been marked by three practices: fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Three disciplines that together orient the Christian life not just inward, but outward. The logic is simple, but radical. When you fast, you create space, in your body, in your budget, in your attention. The tradition has always said: don't leave that space empty. Fill it with something that matters. Feed someone. Clothe someone. Build something that lasts.

Chris

Sunday March 1st

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Holy Communion with Chris Goringe**
Organist: Robert Bevan
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Genesis 12: 1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
John 3: 1-17 or Matthew 17: 1-9

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**

What's on this week...

Tue Kids Playtime 10.00-11.30am
Wed Book Club 10.15am
Social Games 1.00-3.00pm
Fri Christian Meditation 2.30pm
PYES 6.30-9.30pm
Sat eSoc Warriewood Wetlands 10.00am

Sunday March 8th

<https://roseville.unitingchurch.org.au/livestream>

9.30am **Worship Service with Chris Goringe**
5 Minutes of Faith: Maddie McDonnell
In person and online...

10.45am **Second Cuppa**

5.30pm **Worship Service with Chris Goringe and Stuart Powell**
In person and online...

Bible Readings from the Lectionary:

Exodus 17: 1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5: 1-11
John 4: 5-42

From The Resource Centre at Lent

The image of Lent as a journey is picked up by author Thomas Steagald, who takes us on "A Lenten Journey with Jesus: Shadows Darkness and Dawn." Here, he looks into some of the stories about Jesus in the Gospel of John: the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, the encounter with the woman at the well, the healing of the man born blind, the raising of Lazarus... With thoughtful insights, Tom Steagald "takes us to the heart of these stories that reveal not only the shadows surrounding Jesus but those in our world and in our lives. And we hear the good news in Jesus, God has gone ahead of us ..."

In the same way, Paula Gooder's book "This Risen Existence. The Spirit of Easter" explores this time as "the high point of the church's year..."

Time spent here with these authors - pausing, reflecting - may well be worthwhile.

eSoc Warriewood Wetlands Walk

Saturday March 7

Meet at the church at 10am to carpool.

- ♦ Walk begins at 14 Jacksons Road, Warriewood.
- ♦ Explore Warriewood Wetlands on a 2.4km self-guided route with nine QR codes detailing local vegetation and habitats in Sydney's largest sand plain wetland.
- ♦ The 26-hectare area supports endangered plants and animals, with over 150 bird species including the Regent Honeyeater, Goshawk, and Powerful Owl
- ♦ Enjoy birdwatching, spot ducks and swamp hens, listen for frogs, and look out for microbats like the large-footed myotis.
- ♦ Café lunch will be involved!
- ♦ This activity is open to all ages so bring friends

RSVP 5/3/26

Maz 0432 115 744

Join us in Prayer ...

God of Australia, God of the Pacific,

We are joined as communities who face storms, floods, and heat.

We know what it means for disaster to come suddenly, to feel vulnerable and yet held by the strength of others.

When we feel small before wind and water, be our calm. Remind us that we don't face these moments alone, but as people connected across oceans and neighbourhoods.

We give thanks for leaders in Churches in the Pacific, Asia and Africa who teach safer ways to prepare—raising strong shelters, planning evacuation routes, and sharing knowledge that saves lives.

Bless those who walk alongside communities, helping resilience grow. May their work be a refuge when storms begin to rise.

For families who practice, plan, and look out for each other, and for Churches that open their doors in times of need—we give thanks.

Help us to learn from their courage and cooperation. Build in us the same readiness to show up, share resources, and care for our neighbours.

Amen

UnitingWorld

lentevent



QR Code for Lent Event

You can also use this link

<https://bit.ly/ruc26> to donate via the team, or to join the team.



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