

TRUST

L E N T E N P R O G R A M 2 0 1 9

We are delighted to announce that we are now taking orders for:



Trust
Lenten Program 2019
with daily reflections

Trust is a 76-page full-colour book (240x170mm), with bulk pricing starting from only \$5.00 per copy (for GST Free Catholic Religious Groups).

Trust also includes short daily reflections (from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday) in addition to the longer-form Sunday Gospel reflections, spiritual direction, gospel readings, responsorial psalms, prayers and reflection questions that are traditionally part of the Lenten program for groups.

Therefore, **Trust** is also perfect for individuals who cannot attend a Lenten group.

For those part of a Lenten group, we are honoured to have **Fr Sean Cullen** (parish priest at St Thomas Aquinas Parish in Bowral and St Michael's Parish in Mittagong) and **Sr Hilda Scott OSB** (vocations director

at the Benedictine Abbey, Jamberoo) providing the Sunday Gospel reflections and spiritual direction. The shorter daily reflections have been written by 14 fantastic clergy, religious and lay contributors from around the world.

Trust also features beautiful religious artworks from the Masters such as Rembrandt, Rivière, Rubens, Fetti, Batoni and Ciseri which **Monsignor Graham Schmitzer** expertly breaks-open as part of his popular artwork spotlights.

TRIPLE CD RESOURCE

Trust is accompanied by a Triple CD Resource that includes six beautiful responsorial psalms recorded especially for the Lenten program—written by acclaimed Catholic composer, **Paul Mason**, and arranged and performed by one of Australia's leading session musicians, **Seth Harsh**, and sung by the talented **Michaela Rose** and **Fiesta Mataele**. You can listen to samples of the responsorial psalms at dowshop.org.au.

The Triple CD resource also includes audio narrations of the Gospel readings by **Bishop Brian Mascord** and audio narrations of the Sunday Gospel reflections narrated by Fr Sean and spiritual direction by Sr Hilda.

We have intentionally kept the **bulk-pricing** cost as low as possible to encourage parishes, schools and communities to buy the book on behalf of their communities.

Delivery is expected to begin in late January 2019.

Trust: lenten program book

Qty	\$ GST Inc	\$ Catholic GST Free groups
1-9	9.90	9.00
10-24	8.80	8.00
25-49	7.70	7.00
50-99	6.60	6.00
100+	5.50	5.00

Trust: Triple CD Resource

Product	\$ GST Inc	\$ Catholic GST Free groups
Physical CDs 1+	8.80	8.00
Digital Download 1+	6.60	6.00

Trust: Lenten book + TRIPLE CD RESOURCE (Physical CDs)

Qty	\$ GST Inc	\$ Catholic GST Free groups
1+	15.40	14.00

SAMPLES FROM WEEK 1



TRUST

LENTEN PROGRAM 2019

GOSPEL REFLECTION TRUST VS SELF-SALVATION

BY FR SEAN CULLEN

“Temptation and the devil are two subjects that are not taken too seriously anymore. The devil appears as a cartoon character, and temptation is seen as relatively harmless. We make jokes like: “The only way to get rid of temptation is to give in to it,” or, “Don’t worry about avoiding temptation, as you grow older it starts avoiding you.”

However, our light treatment of temptation and the devil masks the fact that they are deadly serious. In the life of Jesus, they were serious and real, as sooner or later, they will be for us all. Temptation appeals to our points of vulnerability and presents itself in a variety of ways. For Jesus, temptation targeted what was foremost in his mind—his vocation.

The three temptations thrown up at him were attractive, promising ways he could achieve the goal of ministry. The people were poor and hungry, so they would certainly gather around a Messiah who fed them bread. As ruler of the world, they would reverence a Messiah who acted as emperor. As someone who made them feel good about themselves, they would applaud a Messiah who showed a liking for the spectacular.

But, of course, Jesus saw these temptations for what they were: Attempts to achieve God’s purposes in an ungodly way. Jesus reaffirmed his complete reliance on God alone. All forms of temptation are not the same. But perhaps, all temptation has one thing in common. In the story of Adam and Eve, the serpent didn’t say, “Can I tempt you to do something wrong?” Instead, the serpent asked, “Do you want to be like God?” Whatever the form of temptation, it asks us: “Wouldn’t you like to be God?” It’s a temptation almost too good to resist.

Sure, I would like to play God rather than trust God. From the beginning, the

Scriptures make it clear that life can never be what it is intended to be if we relegate God to the outer circle and install ourselves at the centre. When God takes the central position, then other things will take their proper place. Sin can occur when we allow anything other than God to occupy our personal world—even if that other thing is basically good.

Jesus was able to dismiss these temptations because he had an absolute trust in his Father. For us, trusting in God is both the most difficult and the easiest thing we are invited to do.

It is the most difficult, because we always want to be in control, driven, in part, by the expectations of our culture. We feel the need to prove our worth, just in case we have no value. We are encouraged to go it alone, rely on no one, show that we are self-sufficient, uncompromising. On the other hand, trusting God is easy, because it is ultimately freeing. Who are we? We are not God. We are created by God. We are made in God’s image, but we are asked to let God be God. The promise of God is to make us free—not independent.

The unhappiness we experience in our personal lives, and in our world, can be traced back to human pride. It is healthy to take pride in our work, and where we came from, but we are simply ill-equipped to take control of our lives. Self-salvation is not possible. Jesus emerged from the wilderness intact because he said to the devil: “I get my power from my God, my Father. He is the trusted value in my life. I draw my worth from him, and I will never compromise that relationship.” Trust in God, first and last.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION I WILL TRUST IN YOU

BY SR HILDA SCOTT OSB

Here we are again at the beginning another season of Lent. Another opportunity to visit the most important relationship in our lives—God—who made himself visible to us in Jesus.

Here we meet a God who is serious about his commitment to us—resolved not to be deviated from his purpose which was, ultimately, to save us. We find a God who is ready to enter into who we are, a God who aches, is hungry, knows loneliness, has to face things that are seemingly beyond his control, and who walks a wilderness as do we. He also adds something else—a profound trust in the Father. When the “chips were down”, and life was swamping Jesus in the form of the temptations the devil was putting to him, he immediately went back to what he knew of his Father’s love for him. In those temptations, he was basically replying: “My Father will provide me with what I need, I cannot go away from the Father who loves me, and furthermore, I believe utterly that it does not matter how things look, my Father knows it all.”

This can be something of a mirror image of our own lives. There is nothing you and I have ever experienced that we will not find in this Gospel account, or in the life of Jesus. In our wildernesses, we too know loneliness, accusations—false or otherwise, despondency and uncertainty. The question today is: Do we also trust this God as Jesus does? Is that a vital component of our wildernesses?

Let me tell you a story dear to the heart of every Parramatta Sister of Mercy. Many, years ago, when I was a young novice, an older nun, Sr Anne Mary, came out to the novitiate, basically to die—she had cancer. It was a painful road for her. I suspect everything Jesus knew in this Gospel, Sr Anne Mary knew too. One Saturday afternoon, the cancer went to the brain, and in her agitation, she could only repeat, “Apostles and potatoes.” The superior general of the time, Mother Mary Thecla, rushed out to see her. She was a large woman in spirit, heart, soul and body. She took her place beside the bed, and said in her booming voice, “Anne do you know ...