

# WEEKLY REFLECTIONS

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



**Deut 26:4-10 | Rom 10:8-13 | Luke 4:1-13**

Lent is the season for getting back to basics. It is the time for having a clean-out, getting rid of attitudes and patterns of behavior that prevent us from being as free as God made us to be. We can all be hoarders of one kind or another. We can store up angers and resentments and fears that we no longer need. It is time to give them away.

In today's Gospel, we learn that the Spirit led Jesus to a lonely place. Up to this point in Luke's Gospel, we have seen Jesus as a member of his family and community. We have met Mary and Joseph and Elizabeth and Simeon and Anna and John the Baptist. Now Jesus must stand on his own and decide what really matters in life. Is he going to rely on material things? Is he going to want power at any price? Is he going to put himself rather than God at the heart of his decision making? These are the temptations of the devil.

This week through Project Compassion we have encountered the story of Anatercia, a truly remarkable 12-year-old living in southern Mozambique. Sickness, death and environmental challenges forced her to decide at a young age what really matters. She has been working for her family and community. This is where the work of Caritas Australia is so striking. With your help, Caritas is assisting Anatercia and thousands of young people like her to stand on their own two feet, to have food and water, and to pursue education. Her story shines a light on this year's theme for Project Compassion from the book of Genesis: 'for all future generations.'

Today, St Paul reminds us that 'all belong to the same Lord, who is rich enough, however many ask for his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' The Lord calls on us as well! The Lord asks us to remove some of our own clutter and do what we can to embrace the whole human family. Our deepest longing is for God to be the centre of our lives and nothing else.