

21 FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday Message

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

THE WORD

Year B • Psalter Week 1



INTO THE DESERT!

(MARK 1:12-15)

Jesus' forty-day stay in the desert follows immediately the story of his baptism; at that event, the Spirit comes upon him and he is revealed as the Son of God.

It is this Spirit which drives him, almost violently, out into the wilderness. It is better that we appreciate this episode as Jesus "being tested", rather than "being tempted": in modern speech temptation is usually associated with sin, or at least with something wrong or not quite right. It is much more serious than that: it centres on how Jesus understands what it means to be the Son of God. Before Jesus begins his public ministry, it is important that he be put to this test. We might note that although Satan is mentioned, Satan is merely the agent, the means: it is the Spirit who subjects Jesus to the ordeal.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark gives us no details about Jesus' struggle, he simply reports the fact. Jesus' fast of forty days recalls those of Moses and Elijah: the mention of the number forty also evokes the memory of Israel's experience in the desert during the Exodus journey, during which the people were tested "to see what was in their heart". Wild beasts are often associated in the Bible with powers opposed to God, but there is also a positive vision of human beings living peacefully with such other creatures. Later in Mark, the evangelist will present the vision of a new creation.

Once Jesus has passed the test, he is ready to undertake his mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God and sets off into Galilee. ■

SAY

Lord, make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

(Psalm 24:5)

LEARN

It is better to understand Jesus' experience in the desert as his being "tested" rather than "tempted".

Fasting is a means of heightening our spiritual awareness and perception.

It is the Spirit which puts Jesus to the test: Satan is simply the means by which this is achieved.

DO

Prepare a container of some sort for the money you will save from your Lenten penance. One of the practices of Lent is almsgiving; what we put aside, we are supposed to give to charity, which is the modern form of almsgiving.

REFLECT

What are you giving up for Lent? Perhaps someone has asked you this already. Many people see Lent as an endurance test: if they manage to reach Easter with their resolution intact, they can take some pride in the fact; if they have broken their resolution, they can feel downhearted and defeated – again! But this is to miss the point: such an attitude is, literally, self-centred – we are concentrated on ourselves and our own efforts, whereas

the season of Lent is all about ourselves and our relationship with God.

One of the purposes of fasting is to make us more spiritually aware: the less our body has to do, the more heightened our spiritual senses can be. If we eat or drink less and spend more time in quiet prayer, then all sorts of thoughts will arise in our mind. The lack of distraction can be very unsettling: we may be faced with all sorts of uncomfortable questions that

we would rather not think about. It might help us to remember that even Jesus had to struggle with questions about himself before he could embark on his public mission as the Son of God empowered by the Spirit. We are daughters and sons of God through baptism: this Lent, the Spirit is asking us to reflect on how we each understand that truth. Difficult, perhaps, but worth the effort. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, "See,
I establish my Covenant with you, and
with your descendants after you; also with
every living creature to be found with you,
birds, cattle and every wild beast with
you: everything that came out of the ark,
everything that lives on the earth. I establish
my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall
be swept away again by the waters of the
flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the
earth again."

God said, "Here is the sign of the Covenant
I make between myself and you and every
living creature with you for all generations:
I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a
sign of the Covenant between me and the
earth. When I gather the clouds over the
earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I
will recall the Covenant between myself and
you and every living creature of every kind.
And so the waters shall never again become
a flood to destroy all things of flesh."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 24

Response:

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love
for those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died
once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to
God. In the body he was put to death, in the
spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit,
he went to preach to the spirits in prison.
Now it was long ago, when Noah was still
building that ark which saved only a small
group of eight people "by water", and when

God was still waiting patiently, that these
spirits refused to believe. That water is a
type of the baptism which saves you now,
and which is not the washing off of physical
dirt but a pledge made to God from a good
conscience, through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is
at God's right hand, now that he has made
the angels and Dominations and Powers his
subjects.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness
and he remained there for forty days, and
was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild
beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went
into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good
News from God. "The time has come" he
said "and the kingdom of God is close at
hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(all bow during the next two lines)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the

Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,
to make these offerings,
for with them we celebrate the beginning
of this venerable and sacred time.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIphon

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread,
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,

and charity strengthened,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,
the true and living Bread,
and strive to live by every word
which proceeds from your mouth.
Amen.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish
to be perfect, we have nothing more to do
than to perform the ordinary duties of the
day well. A short road to perfection – short,
not because easy, but because pertinent
and intelligible. There are no short ways to
perfection, but there are sure ones.

St John Henry Newman

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon

1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

We are a *LiveSimply* parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest: Fr. Jamie McGrath
Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson
Office Hours: 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesday to Friday
Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

We live stream all services

Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
Visits at JR Hospital: Priest/Chaplain 01865 221732
Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
Parish Website: www.ourladyandstedomund.org.uk
Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871

Tel: 01235 520375
Tel: 01235 520375



www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Please note that during this pandemic period, and until further notice, the Parish Office opening hours will be from **Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm**. Outside of these times, Fr Jamie will respond to urgent phone messages as soon as he can.

PRIVATE PRAYER

We are blessed that the church can be open, but for **private prayer only**, on the following days and times:

- † Tuesdays: 12pm to 1pm**
- † Fridays: 12pm to 1pm**

MASS BOOKINGS:

On Monday 22nd February you can book for Masses from Sunday 28th February to Saturday 6th March.

PLEASE remember to give as many dates and times when you could attend – otherwise you may be disappointed. *We are currently limited to 20 people at each Mass.* Also be clear on the number of people you are booking for and let us know if you would like to attend more than one Mass during the week.

HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

No Internet Access?

Phone **07395 946827** EACH MONDAY between 10am and 11am ONLY to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

Have Internet Access?

DON'T phone. Instead, email:
contact@ourladyandstedomund.org.uk

EACH MONDAY, to book a place for the FOLLOWING week

NEWSLETTERS

Please remember that we are currently still not able to offer newsletters or any other printed material in church. Please bring your own with you if you would like to (you can download it from our website).

1st Week of Lent (Year B)

Attendance through booking system only, but also available on our live stream

Sunday 21 February

10.15am Mass (Ben Jeacock, RIP - anniversary)
6.30pm Mass (Private intention)

Monday 22 February

9am Mass (Marry Fallon intentions – 80th birthday)

Tuesday 23 February

No Mass See: www.ourladyandstedomund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse for other masses

Wednesday 24 February

7pm Mass (Chris Crouch, RIP)

Thursday 25 February

9.30am Mass (Magdalen & Thomas Kelly, RIP)

Friday 26 February

7pm Mass (Alexandra Paterson special intentions – 20th birthday)

Saturday 27 February

12pm Mass (Crouch family intentions)



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot today receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



LENTEN PROJECTS

Our fundraising for our Lenten projects was cut off abruptly last year due to the pandemic! The sum raised by that point was £2,678.40 – less than a third of what we are usually able to raise! The PPC has therefore made the decision to keep the same projects for this year as we did for last year. These were **5th Gospel Christians**, a charity that works to support Christians in the Middle East, particularly the Iraqi Christian refugees currently in Jordan, and **BeSpace**, a small Oxfordshire based charity that works to provide reflective, interactive prayer spaces in all primary and secondary schools in Oxfordshire.

As a reminder, information on these two charities is available on the **What's On** section of our website.

It is not feasible with the current restrictions to fund raise in the usual way. However, individuals and families are encouraged to find creative ways to fund raise for themselves, or to put money in a 'pot' during Lent. There will then be an opportunity at the end of Lent (information to be given later) to make your donation online or using the gift aid pink envelope if you have one, or simply putting it in any envelope clearly marked 'Lenten Projects'.



FAST, PRAY and GIVE

LENT FAMILY FAST DAY

The CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day will be on **26th February**. There is more information and a short video on the News page of our website. You can make donations using this link cafod.org.uk/lent but if you are unable to access that but would like to make a donation, you can send it directly to: *CAFOD head office, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB*

PRAYER FOR A FRUITFUL LENT

Loving God,

During the sacred season of Lent, bring me closer to You. Prepare a place in my home and my heart for silence and solitude, so that I may re-discover the grace of a prayer-full life. Help me to fast from those things that threaten the well-being of body and soul and remind me of the grace of simplicity. Enlarge my heart so that I give to those in need, and in so doing, re-discover the grace of gratitude and generosity. May the season be a grace-filled time to rekindle my love for and faith in You. Amen.



HOPE & HEALING

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Lent is a time of Hope and Healing! The light and promise of Eastertide shines ever more brightly in the darkness.

We invite you to join our parish *2021 Lenten 'Hope and Healing' Prayer and Reflections* by zoom.

The course will continue every Thursday throughout Lent and will include a variety of reflections, scripture, Sycamore films, and the opportunity for prayer. Everyone is welcome to join all or any of the sessions and people can choose whether to participate in various discussions and sharing or can simply listen and reflect if they prefer.

Hope and Healing will be hosted by the parish RCIA team and anyone interested should contact Pauline on pehanley@hotmail.com or call 07506 753085 to register for the zoom link.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

At present it is not possible to prepare our children for their First Holy Communion and this may not be possible until 2022. However we would like to have an idea of how many children will wish to be prepared once we can get started again. To give us an indication, could you please tell us the name and age of your child/children and give us a contact phone and email address. We can then compile a list and be able to contact you with news about when we can re-start.

Please send this information to Errol Midwinter Phone 01235 522679 or email errolm@btinternet.com



**St Edmund's Catholic
Primary School**

In our school every day we learn, love and pray.



DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER VACANCY

The Governors of St Edmund's School are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and inspirational leader to join our Headteacher in leading our successful and much-loved school.

Calls to discuss this position further with our Headteacher, Mrs Maria Delany-White are encouraged and warmly welcomed.

Please contact The School Business Manager (01235 521558 or clomas2266@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk) to request an application pack.

Closing date: **Wednesday 3rd March 2021 by 12.00 noon.**

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF

Beryl Haslam