

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

The temptations were not a pass-fail exam but information that let Jesus understand himself. That's what they are for us as well. Every temptation is the opportunity to rediscover, affirm, and claim our identity as a beloved child of God, one in whom he is well pleased.

The temptations did not establish Jesus' sonship, they helped reveal and confirm it. The temptations did not overcome his sonship. His sonship is what overcame the temptations. It's the same for us. If that is Jesus' way then it is also our way.

Our responses to the temptations of life, whether "yes" or "no," tell us something about ourselves. They offer information about who and whose we believe ourselves to be. They reveal where we place our trust, how we see the world, and our way of being towards others. In facing our temptations we discover our true hunger and emptiness. We find out where it hurts and see how we act out of our wounds. We discover our weaknesses. We can become awakened and self-aware.

With each temptation we learn a little more about ourselves. That is important information. It is diagnostic. All of this offers an opportunity for a new life and a new way of being as beloved children of God. Treatment and healing can only ever happen after the diagnosis has been made. There is no salvation without temptation. You could say we are tempted into salvation.

On a lighter note: Item in another Parish Newsletter: When you think about it - Moses was the first person to download files from the Cloud using a tablet. ☺

Coffee morning: The next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 19th March at 10:30am. There will be tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits, Bingo and a Bring and Buy Sale. Everyone is welcome.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm. that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

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Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind"
Philippians 2:2

10th MARCH 2019 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE C) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 9th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Margaret Murphy
Sunday 10th March	9:30am 11:00am	Joyce Davies RIP People of the Parish
Monday 11th March	9:30am	Kitty and Jack Insley & Cathy RIP
Tuesday 12th March	9:30am	Philomena Harrison RIP & all the Harrison Family
Wednesday 13th March	Noon 7:15pm	Harry Kelly RIP Music Ministry Rehearsal
Thursday 14th March	9:30am	Father Simon's Intentions
Friday 15th March		No service
CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY		
Saturday 16th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sunday 17th March	9:30am 11:00am Noon	Father Simon's Intentions Tony Kearns RIP Family Fun day
Monday 18th March	9:30am	Sick of the Parish

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

200 CLUB DRAW

Winner: £40 Prize
This week – Mr Alex Zoka

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases.

PRISONER OUTREACH

Please continue to bring in your loose change and leave the money in the bottle on the bookshelves in the porch and help to support this organisation.

Gift Aid: In early April we will be claiming the Tax Refunds for the Tax Year 2018-19 on Offertory Donations from those parishioners who Gift Aid.

If you are no longer paying Income Tax will you please let us know – you can advise us either by writing to us, or by emailing the parish on - stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk - or by telephoning George Snape on 01606 557201. If you are still paying Income Tax there is no need for you to take any action.

Family Fun Day: On Sunday 17th March we are having a Family Fun Day in the Parish Centre after the 11am Mass to celebrate the Feast days of St Joseph (19th) and St Patrick. There will be a Shared Table and an Easter Egg Tombola.

Bingo Night: We are collecting prizes for our next bingo night on Friday 5th April, doors open at 7pm and the bingo starts at 7:30pm. Please see the poster in the porch for more information.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

Prayer for our Parish:

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish
and grant us a new vision of your glory,
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,
through Christ our Lord.

.....
St Joseph pray for us

Gospel Reading Luke 4 1 – 13

Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry.

The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: *“Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.”*

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: *“It takes more than bread to really live.”*

For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, *“They’re yours in all their splendour to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.”*

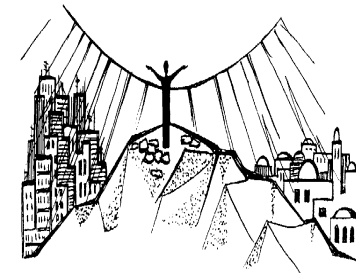
Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: *“Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”*

For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple.

He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone’?”

“Yes,” said Jesus, *“and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’”*

That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.



CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 15th March is CAFOD Family Fast Day.

Please pick up an envelope in the porch.

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi



A PASTORAL LETTER
On Our Christian Struggle
To be read at all Masses on the First Sunday of
Lent
10th March 2019

My dear brothers and sisters,

Every season of the Church's year constitutes a call to holiness. Be it Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter we find the same Jesus, the same Saviour bringing about our sanctification; leading us to the perfection of love found in intimate, loving union with Himself¹. Yet, Lent brings an urgent call to renew our struggle for holiness. A struggle we see in the Scriptures, foreshadowed in the desert journey of a chosen people through the trials of 40 years to a *"land flowing with milk and honey"*²; and a struggle seen in Christ's triumph over the Devil's deceptions in the wilderness so we may *"worship the Lord (our) God, and serve him alone"*³.

If the 40 days of Lent were once for adults preparing for Baptism, it was quickly recognised how we all need this time of renewed prayer, penance and generosity. Perhaps even more so as the years pass! Today, Pope Francis reminds us that God does not want any of us to settle for a mediocre existence, *"He wants us to be saints"*⁴. If becoming a saint is a high goal that we never fully attain on earth - for a saint is someone who has entered Heaven - then Scripture and the teaching of the Church tell us this is God's goal for everyone of our lives. The Second Vatican Council declared that *"All in the Church ... are called to holiness, according to the apostle's saying: 'For this is the will of God, your sanctification'"*⁵. During his memorable visit to Britain in 2010, Emeritus Pope Benedict told the young people of our country: *"God loves you more than you could ever begin to imagine, and He wants the very best for you. And by far the best thing ... is to grow in holiness"*⁶.

I fear that so many of the problems the Church faces today arise from losing sight of this goal. The Second Vatican Council taught emphatically that the *'Universal Call to Holiness'* is the Church's true renewal. This has inspired us in the *Year of Holiness* in Shrewsbury Diocese. However, Pope Francis reminds us that the path to holiness will always be a battle, warning that *"those who do not realize this will be prey to failure and mediocrity"*⁷. The Holy Father explains that we face not only a battle against the world and a worldly mentality; nor a struggle *"that can be reduced to a battle against our own weaknesses and evil tendencies (be they laziness, lust, envy, jealousy or any other)."* Pope Francis insists that it will also be a battle against the Devil who is *"a living, spiritual being, perverted and perverting ..."*⁸.

Were we not to recognise the gravity of this struggle, we would surely be in the greatest danger of deception. The Devil is not an imaginary figure. The Gospels show us a constant confrontation with this spiritual creature who is powerful and yet limited in seeking to lead us to reject God's call. It is surely one of the greatest deceptions of the Devil, to present Christ's Catholic Church as merely a human institution beset with the sins and failures of its members, rather than the Divine institution entrusted with all of the means of human salvation⁹.

Lent calls us to turn anew to these abundant means of grace. Pope Francis assures us that in our Christian struggle we are not left defenceless; rather, *"We can count on the powerful weapons that the Lord has given us"*¹⁰. Among these he specifies, *"Faith-filled prayer, meditation on the Word of God, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Sacramental Reconciliation, works of charity"*¹¹. Lent now invites us to advance toward our goal of holiness by means of grace; and to discover in our poverty that, in the words of Saint Paul, *"... the Lord is rich enough, however many may ask his help, for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"*¹².

United with you in our Christian struggle,
+ **Mark** Bishop of Shrewsbury

¹Cf. Blessed Columba Marmion, "Christ in His Mysteries"

²Dt. 24:10

³Luke 4: 1-13

⁴Gaudete et Exsultate n. 1

⁵I Thess. 4:3, Lumen Gentium n.39

⁶The Big Assembly, 18th September 2010

⁷Gaudete et Exsultate n. 162

⁸Cf. Gaudete et Exsultate n. 160, Saint Paul VI, General Audience, 15th November 1972

⁹Cf. Unitatis Redintegratio n. 3

¹⁰Gaudete et Exsultate n. 162

¹¹Gaudete et Exsultate n. 162

¹²Rom. 10:13