

# NEWSLETTER

## Gospel Reflection

The season of Lent suffers from having what appear to be negative connotations. It speaks of restraint, of self denial, of penitence and self examination. This is a period of discipline, of abstinence. In our better moments, when we are prepared to engage in some reflection, we understand and accept that as in the physical aspects of our lives, so it is in the spiritual, there is no gain without pain. In the times when we are not so spiritually tuned, we find that any check or brake on our self-indulgence goes against the grain, more than we might care to admit.

Through our baptism we are drawn into Jesus' relationship with the Father and into the realising of his mission, the dream of the Kingdom. But in the circumstances of our daily living it is not always apparent what faithfulness entails, what love really demands.

We were invited on Ash Wednesday to deepen our life of prayer, to reach out to others in compassion and care, and to refrain from whatever harms people and the planet which we inhabit. (Prayer, almsgiving and fasting). There will be many challenges for us in this three dimensioned venture. We may feel disorientated by the noise and speed and stress of our world, disturbed by the individualism and greed around us, alarmed by the relentless march towards ecological disaster.

But we mustn't forget that we are God's beloved sons and daughters, and that it is the Spirit of Jesus who drives us forward, and who empowers us as we struggle with darkness in its myriad forms. The ministering angels assure us that God surrounds us on our journey each day with providential and saving love, inviting us to walk on in humble hope.

**Funny signs outside Churches** Thou shalt not lie – or use alternative facts.

### 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.

**St Joseph's RC Church**  
**Woodford Lane**  
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**CW7 2JS**

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

<b>1st MARCH 2020</b>		
<b>1st SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A)</b>		
<b>MASS &amp; SERVICE TIMES</b>		
Saturday 29th February	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Bridget Stewart RIP
Sunday 1st March	9:30am 11:00am	Dr John James Loftus RIP People of the Parish
Monday 2nd March	9:30am	Cathy Whiston RIP
Tuesday 3rd March	9:30am	Eddie Hall RIP
Wednesday 4th March	Noon	Noel McHugh RIP
Thursday 5th March	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion
Friday 6th March CAFOD Family Fast Day		No service
Saturday 7th March	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sunday 8th March	9:30am 11:00am	Kenneth Jones RIP Mr Patrick James Cowan

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 – Mrs Moira Rose  
**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB  
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

**SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS**

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases.

**St Joseph’s Feast Day** Come and join in the celebration of the feast of St Joseph on Sunday 15th March after 11am Mass. The celebration will include a shared table.

**Bingo Night** We are collecting prizes for our next bingo night. If you would like to donate prizes we would be really pleased to have them. You can leave the gifts in the Sacristy marked ‘Bingo’ or give them to Pat McQuillan or Ann Hayes.

**Coffee Morning** Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday 24th March at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.

**Parish Finances** So far we have had a very good response to the Planned Giving Appeal. Several people have joined the Offertory Envelope scheme - several others have decided to give by Banker’s Standing Orders – several have also joined the Gift Aid scheme. If you haven’t already seen the Leaflet which tells you about the financial crisis that the parish is facing please pick up one from the Porch. Supplies of Weekly Offertory Envelopes, Standing Orders and Gift Aid forms are available in the Porch.

**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** Matthew 4 1 – 11



Next Jesus was taken into the wild by the Spirit for the Test. The Devil was ready to give it. Jesus prepared for the Test by fasting forty days and forty nights. That left him, of course, in a state of extreme hunger, which the Devil took advantage of in the first test: “Since you are God’s Son, speak the word that will turn these stones into loaves of bread.”

Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to stay alive. It takes a steady stream of words from God’s mouth.”



For the second test the Devil took him to the Holy City. He sat him on top of the Temple and said, “Since you are God’s Son, jump.” The Devil goaded him by quoting Psalm 91: “He has placed you in the care of angels. They will catch you so that you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone.”

Jesus countered with another citation from Deuteronomy: “Don’t you dare test the Lord your God.”

For the third test, the Devil took him to the peak of a huge mountain. He gestured expansively, pointing out all the earth’s kingdoms, how glorious they all were. Then he said, “They’re yours -lock, stock, and barrel. Just go down on your knees and worship me, and they’re yours.”

Jesus’ refusal was curt: “Beat it, Satan!” He backed his rebuke with a third quotation from Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God, and only him. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

The Test was over. The Devil left. And in his place, angels! Angels came and took care of Jesus’ needs.

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** Friday 6th March is CAFOD Family Fast Day.