

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

We are reminded every year of these forty days in our time of Lent - you would wonder how any human could last 40 days of fasting but, no matter, the number 40 represents a journey - a movement from one place to another. From where to where?

Jesus must enter the desert feeling pretty full of himself; an experience of God is never something to be taken lightly; ask any of the saints. To realise that you are the Beloved Son of God, after years of making the most of what you have, must have been extraordinary. Did the scales fall from his eyes? Was he overwhelmed with the possibilities that lay before him? Did it all seem so clear?

The devil is daring; telling God how to be God and then challenging him to act. Not realising that in his weakness and powerlessness Jesus now understands his freedom; in admitting that you cannot do it by yourself; in needing relationships and intimacy; in needing his Father; because God is not over us but within us; God is not Power but Love; as St Paul reminds us: 'if I do not have love, I am nothing.' And God knows, we are more than that.

TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

As we have said, to help, whatever you gave in last week's Offertory Collection will be sent to the DEC (Disasters Emergency Committee). In addition, we will match your donations from Parish Funds. If you still wish to make a donation, you can put in an envelope marked "Earthquake Appeal" and hand it in next weekend. Please make any cheques payable "to St. Josephs".

Sad news

We have been informed that Sister Noreen died last week.

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 10am 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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Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

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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

26th FEBRUARY 2023 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 25th February	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 26th February	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)
Monday 27th February	10:00am	Mass
Tuesday 28th February	10:00am	Mass
Wednesday 1st March	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 2nd March	10:00am	Mass
Friday 3rd March		
Saturday 4th March	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 5th March	10:00am	Mass (Livestreamed)

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 Colin Williams

WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB AND HELP THE PARISH?

An online course on Vatican II: In response to Synodal Submissions, the Diocese is offering a series of short podcasts throughout Lent. Accessible on the diocesan website at dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Norah Isherwood: It is with sadness that we have heard that Norah Isherwood has passed away. Her Requiem Mass is on Friday 10th March 1.30 pm at Larmenier Retirement Village Chapel in Blackburn. 3pm at Pleasington Cremington Crematorium. Refreshments at Larmenier afterwards.

St Monica’s School – Vacancies: Deputy Head Teacher - Required from September 2023 & School Administrative Assistant (Maternity Cover -Temporary Contract 9 -12 months). See website for full details
<https://www.stmonicasprimary.co.uk/page/vacancies/104464>

World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 – July 31st-August 7th
Age 18-35, Limited Places Available, £1200 - All inclusive. Price includes - Flights, Hotel, Food, T-shirts, day trip to Fatima, Full WYD registration, preparation events and mass with the Pope. Interested? Want to apply? Email: Youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org 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.

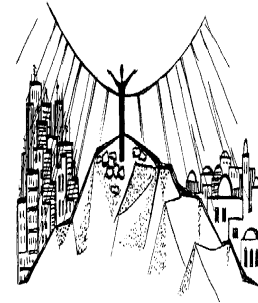
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St Joseph pray for us

Gospel 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

Coffee morning

The next coffee morning will be Tuesday 14th March at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.