

“Every day, as long as this ‘today’ lasts,
keep encouraging one another” (Heb 3:13)

February 26th 2023

1st Sunday of Lent

Prayers p. 151

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Genesis 2:7-9.3:1-7

The desire to be like gods leads to the fall of Adam and Eve.

Romans 5:12-19

We are made righteous by divine grace, brought to us by Jesus Christ as an abundant free gift.

St. Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus resists Satan’s tempting him to “behave like a god”.

“Be off,
Satan!
For
scripture says:
You must
worship the
Lord your God
and serve him
alone.”



I can resist everything except temptation: the often quoted words of Lord Darlington in Oscar Wilde’s play Lady Windermere’s Fan. Temptation is part of the human condition, a side effect of having free will. And as if to prove just how human Jesus was, the Gospel of Matthew sees him enticed with some very human temptations. It is a very human Jesus who fasts for 40 days and 40 nights, after which, naturally, ‘he was very hungry’.

There is something quite dramatic about the encounter between Jesus and the devil in today’s Gospel. It has always made me imagine how the scene would play out on the big screen as part of a movie, as the ultimate epic battle between God and the devil, good and evil.

There is the desperate hunger of Jesus after 40 days of fasting, the invitation to throw himself off the temple, the offer of unlimited power. Unusually for the Gospels, the devil himself appears as a character, with supporting roles from the angels who look after Jesus after the devil has left. The dialogue is sharp; it is a battle of wills, but also of wits, and we wonder who will win.

But the devil is no match for Jesus. He refuses to entertain the suggestions, and is equipped both with the relevant passages from scripture and a sense of his own purpose to see off the devil’s advances. Like Jesus we are all tempted by easy pleasures and powers. Are we armed to ward off the temptations that come our way?
Triona Doherty

**Today’s Psalm
Psalm 50**

On the Sundays of Lent, unlike the Sundays in Ordinary Time the first reading does not have a direct link with the gospel. This Lent these Old Testament readings recall the stages of salvation history, beginning with the fall of Adam and Eve. This simple story is an acute observation of the subtlety of temptation and fall. The *Miserere* psalm is David’s heartfelt prayer of repentance when the fog of passion dissipates and he sees the catalogue of his sins. His conscience was startled by Nathan’s story of the wealthy man who demanded the solitary lamb of a poor family. ‘You are the man!’ He recognised how wrong he had been in committing adultery, in plotting the death of Uriah and in causing many deaths in a contrived battle. But the deepest cut was the pain of having sinned against God. *Against you, you alone have I sinned.*

The essence of sin is the offence against God. David was the man who had been given so much, yet he wanted more. ‘Who could be more greedy,’ asked Augustine, ‘than the man for who God is not enough.’

Through crushed and bleeding in heart, David knows that God is full of kindness, compassion and mercy. He humbly prays for a pure heart and a steadfast spirit. He is confident that God will restore joy to his soul and will open his lips in praise.

The ashes of lent were a wake-up call to our consciences. Lent is a time of reflection, honest confession and the celebration of God’s mercy.
Fr. Silvester O’Flynn OFM Cap.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Euxton - Tel: (01257) 262665

Mass Intentions for w/c Sunday 26 February 2023

Sun: 1st Sunday of Lent

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Private Intention

Mon: Lenten Weekday

9.30.am. Peace

Tues: Lenten Weekday

9.30.am. Private Intention

Wed: St. David

11.00.am Requiem Briget Catherine Rooney

Thurs: Lenten Weekday

9.30.am. William & Ellen Haydock

Fri: Lenten Weekday

7.00.pm. Catherine Haydock

Sun: 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.30.am. Parishioners

10.30.am. Francis & Fiona Brute

0771 942 7926 (only for emergency use)

Email: stmary.euxton@rcaol.org.uk

Confessions

At your request

Stations of the Cross

Friday 6.40.pm.

On Admittance to Hospital or Nursing Home

Staff need to be made aware by you:
that you, or the member of your family,
or the person you accompany,
are Catholic, and require
the services of the Catholic Chaplaincy.

Mass Intentions received upto 25/02/2023

Francis & Fiona (Croston) Brute
Kevin Vincent Joseph Flanagan

-We pray for the Sick, especially the sick of the parish including Ryan Troop; Catherine Thompson; Maureen Beardsworth; JC; TThomas Halligan.

Beginning Lent "Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over, and over again, yet expecting different results." This definition can be a good beginning reflection as we examine the choices we will make in the days ahead. This is the time of year to ask some uncomfortable questions. How often do we fail to hear the cry of the poor? How often do we fail to forgive and how often do we fail to see our own failings? Today we pray for all those who genuinely desire a change of heart.

St David's Day 1st March 2023 David's most well-known saying was, 'Do the little things in life.' It's easy to think that only the big things count. If everyone did little acts of kindness every day we would leave the world a better place.

Women, men and children in more than 170 countries and regions will celebrate World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 3, 2023. This year the women of Taiwan call us to worship together considering the words from Ephesians 1:15-19, "I Have Heard About Your Faith."

Taiwan is an island rich in natural resources and culturally diverse. The women of Taiwan share the issues faced geographically, politically and socially and also their hopes for the future. Let us join with them as we give thanks for the beautiful island and people of Taiwan

and encourage one another in our faith just as Apostle Paul did in his letters.

Lent Talks BBC Radio 4 Six people well-known in their fields reflect on the story of Jesus' ministry and Passion. Listen on Wednesday evenings at 20.45

Fairtrade Fortnight 27th February – 12th March 2023. This Fairtrade Fortnight, join in spreading a simple message: making the small switch to Fairtrade, supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet

We continue our **Sacramental programme** for Year 4 on Wednesday, 6.00pm. - 7.00pm. March 1 in the parish hall.

"It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are". (Roy Disney)