

ENGLISH MARTYRS, Alvaston. Tel: 01332 574474 and St GEORGE's Derby . Tel: 01332 767038

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9th March 2025

THE JUBILEE OF EVANGELISATION IN OUR DIOCESE

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE LENT

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sat 08 Mar	5.30 pm	SG	Annie McCandless RIP
Sun 09 Mar	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	11.15 am	HS	Jim Murphy RIP
Mon 10 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Sp. Intention for Maura, Trevor and Matthew Litchfield
Tues 11 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Kate Toolan RIP
Wed 12 Mar	9.30 am	SG	In thanksgiving to St Anthony, Donor's intention
Thu 13 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Alan Evans RIP
Fri 14 Mar	9.30 am	SG	For the poor of the world. Day of special prayer for the needy and the hungry.
Sat 15 Mar	9.30 am	SG	People of the Parish
	5.30 pm	SG	Margaret Ellis RIP
Sun 16 Mar	9.30 am	SG	Peter Judson RIP 13 th anniversary
	11.15 am	HS	Geraldine Maughan RIP, 8 th anniversary
SG St George's		HS	Holy Spirit

GOSPEL REFLECTION:

Lent is a sacred moment in the Church's year because we are invited to have some share in the mystery of Jesus' temptations in the desert. How elegantly and beautifully the Catechism of the Catholic Church expresses this: ' By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert', (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 540). We too can expect to be tested and tempted, by whom?

St Mark says quite simply that Jesus was 'tempted by Satan' (v.12). The name Satan means 'adversary'. In Job we are given a vivid picture of Satan in God's heavenly court, along with all the other angels, where he has the role of accuser or prosecutor (see 1:6ff.). The Scriptures identify Satan as the serpent in the Garden of Eden who tempted Adam and Eve (Gen.3) and, therefore, as the origin of sin and temptation. What the Scriptures and tradition make clear is that we have a mortal enemy who, although a finite being created by God, is in a desperate struggle to overthrow God's reign, usurp his lordship and lead us away from God into darkness and death.

At the Easter vigil or on Easter Sunday we renew our baptismal promises when we reject Satan and all his empty promises. Lent is also a time for us to discover anew and afresh the gospel, the 'good news', which Jesus proclaimed immediately after his time of testing. The bad news is we are fallen and wounded and need to repent, and the second part, the Good News, is that God loves us and sent Jesus to save us. Stand firm, resist the devil, he will flee.

As Pope Leo the Great once said: 'The tempter ever on the lookout, wages war most violently against those whom he sees most careful to avoid sin.'

'He did not say: You will not be troubled – you will not be tempted – you will not be distressed. But he did say: You will overcome.'
(Julian of Norwich).

CONFESIONS: SATURDAY ONLY: 10:15 – 10:45

ADORATION before the Blessed Sacrament daily before the 9.30 am Mass and then other times as announced.

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for CAFOD Family Fast Day donations.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR MARCH – FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness and rediscovering each other's gifts even in their differences.

Trust, Not Tests

You shall not put the Lord, our God, to the test. Luke 4:12

I remember times when I certainly put God to the test. When I was fighting my way through cancer and chemotherapy I tried to make some bargains: "Get me through this, God, and I'll serve you the rest of my life!" Such if-then "trench prayers," uttered when we are under attack, have been prayed throughout the ages, and no doubt many lives have been transformed by them.

But God asks more of us than that. The kind of faith to which we are called might be described as "even-if" faith. Even if we don't get well, even if God doesn't give us what we think we need and deserve, even if our lives can seem like drudgeries or failures, we will serve you, Lord. We will love you, O God. We will place you at the centre of our lives until our dying breaths, no matter the pain, the suffering and the loss.
Only you, O God. Even if.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY envelopes will be available this weekend. Friday, 14th March is CAFOD Lent Fast Day. We are encouraged in the Lenten season to practice some self-denial. On Lent Fast Day what we deny ourselves, in the way of food or other things, can enable the saving to be placed in the CAFOD envelope and given in at the second collection next Sunday. CAFOD will make good use of our donations in their mission to the poor and needy of the developing world.

Bishop Patrick is busy in Lent with Deanery Station Masses in various churches. He will be at the cathedral for the Jubilee of Evangelisation of the diocese of Nottingham. He will celebrate the Rite of Election this Sunday, 9th March, at 3 pm, for those who are preparing to join the Church at Easter. We pray that more and more people will know the joy of becoming disciples of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The Bishop will celebrate a Deanery Station Mass at St Joseph's Church at Matlock at 7 pm on Tuesday, 11th March. There will be opportunity for confessions from 6 pm together with a time of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Bishop will celebrate the Jubilee of Leicester Deanery on Thursday, 13th March, at 7 pm, in Holy Cross Church, Leicester.

POPE FRANCIS: Please keep Pope Francis in your daily prayers as he continues to battle with serious illness. May God bless him and be with him in his courageous battle to get back to good health. *Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for him.*