



**St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE**



**First Sunday of LENT  
February 26, 2023**

“To warn us that no man, however holy he be, should think himself safe and free from temptation. Whence again His choosing to be tempted after His baptism, about which St. Hilary says, "The devil's wiles are especially directed to trap us at times when we have recently been made holy, because the devil desires no victory so much as a victory over the world of grace." Whence too, the scripture warns us, My child, *thou come to the service of God, stand in justice and in fear, and prepare thy soul for temptation*” **St. Thomas Aquinas**

**READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** **Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** **Rom 5:12-19**

**Gospel** **Mt 4:1-11**

**SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

Introduction: Lent is a time to look at our temptations, sin and the consequences. During Lent, we are challenged to die to sin so that we may rise again to the new life in the Risen Christ. Today's readings give us the notion that testing comes to us by an outside agency – the devil. However, the Good News is that, though we are tempted and often succumb, God's grace provides the way of salvation for us. Prayer, penance and acts of charity enable us to defeat our temptations.

**Scripture lessons:** The first reading, taken from the book of Genesis describes the “Original Temptation” – “*You will be like gods, knowing what is good and*

*what is evil.*" Adam and Eve were given the possibility of making a choice to live for God, dependent upon and obedient to His will, or to say no to God. The temptation to evil led Adam and Eve to an act of faithlessness and sin. In contrast, today's Gospel from St. Matthew shows us how Jesus Christ conquered temptation by relying on faith in God's Word and authority. In the second reading, St. Paul describes how the disobedience of Adam who fell to Satan's Original temptation brought him and us death and a broken relationship with God. Paul explains that just as sin and death came through Adam, salvation and life come through Christ.

Christ regained for us the right relationship with God which Paul calls justification and which comes to us as undeserved grace. Today's Gospel teaches us how the "desert experience" of fasting, praying, and soul-strengthening enabled Jesus to confront his temptations successfully and then to preach the Good News of salvation. The Gospel also prescribes a dual action plan for Lent: (1) We should confront our temptations and conquer them as Jesus did, by fasting, prayer and the Word of God. (2) We should renew our lives by true repentance and live the Good News of God's love, mercy and forgiveness.

## **LENT-Pope Benedict XVI-2013**

### **"Believing in charity calls forth charity"**

***"We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us" (1 Jn 4:16)***

The celebration of Lent, in the context of the Year of Faith, offers us a valuable opportunity to meditate on the relationship between faith and charity: between believing in God – the God of Jesus Christ – and love, which is the fruit of the Holy Spirit and which guides us on the path of devotion to God and others.

#### 1. Faith as a response to the love of God

In my first Encyclical, I offered some thoughts on the close relationship between the theological virtues of faith and charity. Setting out from Saint John's fundamental assertion: "We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us" (

*1 Jn 4:16*), I observed that "being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice

or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction ... Since God has first loved us (cf. *1 Jn* 4:10), love is now no longer a mere ‘command’; it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 1). Faith is this personal adherence – which involves all our faculties – to the revelation of God’s gratuitous and “passionate” love for us, fully revealed in Jesus Christ. The encounter with God who is Love engages not only the heart but also the intellect: “Acknowledgement of the living God is one path towards love, and the ‘yes’ of our will to his will unites our intellect, will and sentiments in the all-embracing act of love. But this process is always open-ended; love is never ‘finished’ and complete” (*ibid.*, 17).

Hence, for all Christians, and especially for “charity workers”, there is a need for faith, for “that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others. As a result, love of neighbour will no longer be for them a commandment imposed, so to speak, from without, but a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love” (*ibid.*, 31a). Christians are people who have been conquered by Christ’s love and accordingly, under the influence of that love – “*Caritas Christi urget nos*” (*2 Cor* 5:14) – they are profoundly open to loving their neighbour in concrete ways (cf. *ibid.*, 33). This attitude arises primarily from the consciousness of being loved, forgiven, and even served by the Lord, who bends down to wash the feet of the Apostles and offers himself on the Cross to draw humanity into God’s love.

“Faith tells us that God has given his Son for our sakes and gives us the victorious certainty that it is really true: God is love! ... Faith, which sees the love of God revealed in the pierced heart of Jesus on the Cross, gives rise to love. Love is the light – and in the end, the only light – that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working” (

*ibid.*, 39). All this helps us to understand that the principal distinguishing mark of Christians is precisely “love grounded in and shaped by faith” (*ibid.*, 7).

(will Continue)

## **FEB 18/19 COLLECTIONS**

<b>Gift Aid collection</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>Loose cash</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>313</b>

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

### **Please Pray for our Sick**

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

### **ANNIVERSARIES (Feb 26-March-4)**

Emma Cochran, '82, Peter James Mummery, '95:, Margaret Healey, '86:  
Michael Tolkein, '84:, Sharon Pemberton, '12., Margret Ann Crossley,  
2020, Eileen Oare, '75: Margaret Toumaine, '75: Alwyn Jones, '89, John  
Saunders, Mrs. Parry, '82: Bridget Sweeting, 2000:, Michadel Antony  
Springgay, 2020, Mrs Wilson, Annie Williams, Alice Cliffe, '83: Fr. Peter,  
'86: Joseph Reed, '01: Margaret Higgins, '01: Michael Wall, 2012, Rita  
Williams, 04.

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***Wish you a fruitful season of LENT!!***