



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



February 18, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

“Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself.” *St. Peter Chrysologus*

Mass Timings

Saturday Vigil Mass	4.00 Pm
Sunday Mass	10.00am
Weekdays	9.00 am In Denbigh House

READINGS

First Reading **Gn 9:8-15**

Second Reading **1 Pt 3:18-22**

GOSPEL **Mk 1:12-15**

Introduction: The primary purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the celebration of Jesus' death and Resurrection. The second purpose is to bring us to renew our Baptismal promises

of rejecting Satan and accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior, allowing him to rule our lives. Both these aims demand purification of minds and hearts. The Church tries to achieve this goal by leading her children to a *metanoia* or true “*repentance*,” and by renewal of life through fasting, prayer, almsgiving, self-control, and practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

During Lent, we talk to God through personal, family, and liturgical prayers; we listen to Him by meditative Bible reading. We serve the Lord by giving alms, and we practice self-control through fasting. Since by Baptism we share the death and Resurrection of Jesus, today’s readings refer to Baptism directly or indirectly.

The Scripture lessons: The **first reading** tells us that, although man irrevocably broke the *original covenant* God had made with Adam and Eve, the merciful God selected Noah and his family to renew that covenant. Noah’s rescue from the flood waters symbolizes our being saved through the water of Baptism which cleanses us of sin and makes us one with Christ.

Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 25) is an exquisite penitential prayer, humbly acknowledging our human insufficiency and radical dependence upon God, His mercy, and His forgiveness. The psalmist lists some of God’s Own characteristics that will shape the life of the forgiven penitent:

Truth, Compassion, Love, Kindness, Goodness, Uprightness, Humility, and Justice.

In the **second reading**, St. Peter shows us how Noah's episode prefigured Baptism. He reminds us that, as Noah and his family were saved from the waters of the deluge, so we are saved through the waters of Baptism. Baptism is an outward sign of the New Covenant that God has made with His people. It makes us adopted children of God, heirs of Heaven, and temples of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel, we are told that Jesus faced and defeated the tempter at the end of his forty days of prayer, penance, and communion with the Father in the desert immediately following his baptism. It also tells us how Jesus started preaching his Messianic mission: *"The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent. Believe in the Gospel."*

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS- Feb 10, 11

Loose cash 128.25

Gift Aid 95

Total 223. 25

ANNIVERSARIES Feb-17-23

Hilda Mongan, William Spillane, Elizabeth Kennedy, '13., Peter Murphy, Michael Lynch, '92: Peter McLaughlin, '99:, Br. Augustine Oddy, '77: Leonard Evans, Patrick Lynch, Bernard Ryan-2022, Rose Anne Corkhill, Margaret Brown, '86: Mary Doyle, '87:

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

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

Let us Remember the Sick in Prayer

Patrick Ngale, Philip McGreavy, Antony Parry

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH

**Account Name: Wrexham Diocesan Trust
Account Number: 08190771, Sort Code: 55-81-42**

**Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org>,
Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com
Phone: 0741-749-4277, 01352 711053,
Registered Charity No. 70042**

WAY OF THE CROSS

**Being the season of Lent you are invited to join the
Way of the Cross on every Sunday before Mass
during this season of Lent**

Wish you all a fruitful Season of Lent !!