



*Parish of Our Lay Help of Christians &
St Lawrence*

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Diocese of Northampton

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6 th March 2022 Psalter Week 1	First Sunday of Lent THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST	
First Reading	Deuteronomy 26:4-10 <i>The creed of the chosen people</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans 10:8-13 <i>The creed of the Christian</i>	
Gospel Acclamation	Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!	
Gospel	Luke 4:1-13 <i>Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.</i>	
Saturday 5th March +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 6th March +	10.30am	Mass – ((Edward Follows RIP)
Monday 7th March Ss Perpetua & Felicity – as a Commemoration	10.00am	Mass – (Josephine East RIP)
Tuesday 8th March St John of God - as a Commemoration	10.00am	Mass - (Frances O'Hanlon RIP)
Wednesday 9th March St Frances of Rome - as a Commemoration		No Parish Mass today
Thursday 10th March <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Fr David's Int.)
Friday 11th March <i>Feria</i> CAFOD – LENT FAST DAY	9.15am 10.00am 2.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Fran O'Hanlon RIP) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 12th March <i>Feria</i>	10.00am 10.30am	Mass (Samantha Int.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT		
Saturday 12th March +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass – (For the Parish)
Sunday 13th March +	10.30am	Mass – (Bill & Mary Senior RIP)

*"God never tires of forgiving us;
we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy." - Pope Francis*



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Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent we will be praying the 'Stations of the Cross' each Friday afternoon at 2.30pm finishing with Exposition at 3pm for 15 minutes of quiet prayer and reflection.

CAFOD Family Fast Day - Friday 11th March



This Family Fast Day, we remember that there are many people who need our love and support all around the world. Children experiencing malnutrition or as we are seeing now in Ukraine, families affected by conflict. Your

small act of love can make big things happen. Donations to CAFOD this Lent will reach families around the world, enabling local experts to provide support to families in times of need or conflict. You can donate using a CAFOD envelope, the digital collection plate or the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/> - Thank you.

When St. John Paul II visited Ukraine in 2001, he began his apostolic pilgrimage with a prayer to Our Lady of Zarvaniza, asking for her intercession over all of Ukraine. He prayed the prayer at the Greek-Catholic Church of St. Nicholas in Kyiv asking for the icon to be brought there for the occasion. Here is the prayer in which he invoked Our Lady's help in covering Ukraine in her mantle:



"O Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, I thank you for the gift of my visit to the Kyivan Rus' from where the light of the Gospel spread through this whole region.

Here before your miraculous icon, kept in this church of Saint Nicholas, I entrust to you, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, my apostolic journey to Ukraine.

Holy Mother of God, spread your maternal mantle over all Christians and over all people of good will who live in this great nation.

Lead them to your Son, Jesus, who is for everyone the way, the truth and the life. Amen."

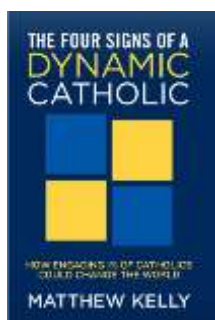
NOVENA FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE – If you would like join in praying a Novena for Peace in Ukraine, please follow this link: <https://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-for-peace-in-ukraine>

PARISH DONATIONS: We have **£127.01** left from the donations we received back in 2020 to help with the purchase of the original camera to enable us to live stream the Mass. Similarly, the statue appeal, we have £30.00 left as someone paid the full amount but we also received an additional **£30.00**. In order for us to be able to reallocate the money a notice must appear in the newsletter over a 4-week period in case anyone has any objections. If you do have any concerns about this please speak to Fr David or Denise.



Parish Synod Reflections

As part of the Diocesan Synodal process, Fr David recently held a series of meetings to gather together the thoughts and reflections of parishioners. Fr David remains extremely grateful for the contributions made & has pulled together these reflections which will form the parish submission to the Diocese. These parish reflections can be viewed on the parish website under the 'Newsletter' tab.



THE FOUR SIGNS OF A DYNAMIC CATHOLIC

We continue to be very grateful to Connie & her family for providing us with spiritual readings during Advent & Lent. For Lent this year, we have a book written by Matthew Kelly titled '*The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic*'

Copies are available in the Narthex for you to take if you wish. Many thanks to Connie for donating these to the parish.



ST JOHN OF GOD

St John of God was born in Portugal in 1495. After leading a dangerous life as a soldier, and wishing to devote the rest of his life to good works, he gave himself up completely to looking after the sick. He founded a hospital at Grenada in Spain and with his followers set up the Order of Hospitallers of St John of God. He was outstanding in his love for the sick and needy. He died at Grenada in 1550.



ST FRANCES OF ROME

St Frances of Rome was born in Rome in 1384. She was married when very young and gave birth to three children. She lived in troubled times and gave her goods to the poor and tendered the sick. She was outstanding in virtue especially in humility, patience and devotion to the needy. In 1425 she founded a Congregation of Oblates following the Rule of St Benedict and she died in 1440

From Deacon Peter's desk...

To remind us that that Lent is a time when we are tested out, the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent is always about the testing of Jesus. Of course, Lent is not a matter of testing out how far we can push ourselves, (some sort of self-torture), but rather it should be a period of preparation for the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In each of the three Synoptic Gospels, after his baptism, Jesus is reported to have spent forty days in the desert, fasting and praying.

In **Luke and Matthew**, the devil presents three temptations to Jesus.
The devil tempts Jesus

- **to use his power to appease his hunger.**
- **he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him.**
- **he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test.**

In each case, Jesus resists, citing words from Scripture to rebuke the devil's temptation. Each temptation that Jesus faces offers us an insight into the spirituality that we might hope to develop as we keep the forty days of Lent. That is to say:

- **We can trust God to provide for our material needs.**
- **We worship God because God alone has dominion over us and our world.**
- **We can trust God to be faithful to his promises.**

Jesus' rejection of the devil's temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the Word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil by his confidence in God's protection and faithfulness. As we begin this season of Lent, today's Gospel highlights for us one of the central themes of the Season of Lent - we are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we are. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or to distrust its sufficiency, is a temptation from the devil.

Perhaps one question we can ask ourselves as we begin our Lenten journey is whether our faith is something only external or does it touch our hearts and minds? What is important about Lent is that we have a change of heart – we try to put right the things in our lives which we know to be wrong – to turn away from those things that separate us from God and to allow Him to touch our hearts and minds. Lent is a period of grace and preparation for the great feast of Easter and we need to be fully prepared to receive the graces that God will want to give us at that time.

Luke ends his account of Jesus' temptation in the desert by noting that the devil departs for a time – *'the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.'* The implication is that the devil will return - Jesus knows that he will be tempted again in the Garden of Gethsemane. The depth of Jesus' trust in God is shown most fully when Jesus rejects the temptation to turn away from the task God has given to him. Jesus' final rebuke of the devil is his sacrifice on the Cross.

Jesus' responses to the temptations of the devil teach us how we too can respond to temptation. As we start our journey through Lent, this Sunday's Gospel calls us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice, God's promise of protection can be trusted, and God alone is God.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, Our Lady of Zarvaniza, St Joseph, St Lawrence, St John Henry Newman, St Rita, St Edmund, Ss Perpetua & Felicity, St John of God, St Frances of Rome, pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter