



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence

39-41 West Street, Olney MK46 5HH

Diocese of Northampton

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26 th February 2023 Psalter Week 1	First Sunday of Lent (Year A) THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST	
First Reading	Genesis 2:7-9 3:1-7 <i>The creation and sin of our first parents</i>	
Responsorial Psalm	Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.	
Second Reading	St Paul to the Romans – 5:12-19 <i>However great the number of sins committed; grace was even greater.</i>	
Gospel Acclimatation	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	Matthew 4:1-11 <i>Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.</i>	
Saturday 25th February +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (For the Parish)
Sunday 26th February +	10.30am	Mass (McCarthy Family Ints)
Monday 27th February – Psalter Week 4 St Gregory Narek, Abbott & Doctor		No Parish Mass today
Tuesday 28th February <i>Feria</i>	10.00am	Mass – (Stephen & Adam Coleman RIP)
Wednesday 1st March ST DAVID, Bishop, Patron of Wales - feast	9.15am 10.00am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Throckmorton family)
Thursday 2nd March <i>Feria</i>		No Parish Mass today
Friday 3rd March <i>Feria</i>	9.15am 10.00am 3.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass – (Lynda Ferguson RIP) Stations of the Cross
Saturday 4th March St Casimir, Confessor	10.00am 10.30am	Mass – (Chas Harris RIP) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT		
Saturday 4th March +	6.30pm	Vigil Mass (Kathleen Mullen RIP)
Sunday 5th March +	10.30am	Mass (For the Parish)

EASTER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH PORCH



LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY – For four Thursdays of Lent, all are welcome to come to a **series of talks about prayer** – what prayer is and some different kinds of prayer, how we can learn to pray, and what we can use to help us to pray. Fr David will lead the talks but there will be time for questions and discussion as well. The dates for the next talk will be Thursday 9th March, and then the others on Thursday 16th March and Thursday 30th March. The talks will begin at **7.30pm** after 7.00pm Mass. Do come along!



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Stations of the Cross - Throughout Lent, we will be praying the ‘Stations of the Cross’ here at Our Lady’s each **Friday afternoon at 3pm** – everyone welcome.



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY PARISH SOUP LUNCH

Our parish CAFOD group will be hosting a **soup lunch** on **this coming Friday 3rd March at 12.00pm** to commemorate Family Fast Day in Lent. Any donations from the lunch will go towards CAFOD’s Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal.

Envelopes will be available this weekend for the **CAFOD Lenten Fast day**, please return 4th/5th March



SVP - PARISH LUNCH

The SVP, now energised by new members, invite you to a little get together over lunch on **Friday 17th March at 1.00pm in the Parish Room**. This is so that we can celebrate together all the good things that happen in the parish. In order to have an idea of numbers please add your name to the list at the back of the Church and let us know if you would like transport. We look forward to seeing you – and so does Fr David.



Thought for the Week - Our soul is like a garden in which the weeds are ever ready to choke the good plants and flowers that have been sown in it. If the gardener who has charge of this garden neglects it, if he is not continually using the spade and the hoe, the flowers and plants will soon disappear.”

St John Mary Vianney – Curé d’ Ars

RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITY: Headteacher, St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School, Luton (L18-L24)

St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust are recruiting for a Headteacher at St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School in Luton. The school is two-form entry and has a proud tradition of delivering excellence in Catholic Education, placing the child's needs at the centre of their teaching and ensuring that all children leave the school with the skills and spiritual qualities they will need for a happy and successful life.

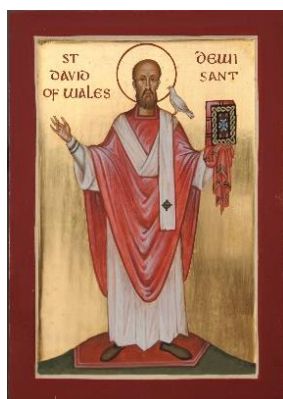
For further information, please contact Kerri Wiseman at Academicis on kwiseman@academicis.co.uk or 07733 628155/01223 907979; or go to www.mynewterm.com/jobs/142264/EDV-2022-SMDPCPS-19513

Fundraising Manager - 40 hours per week - Start date: April 2023

We are currently recruiting for an experienced Fundraising Manager to lead the development and delivery of the diocesan fundraising plan with the principle aim of proactively securing growth of income from charitable trusts, foundations and grant giving bodies.

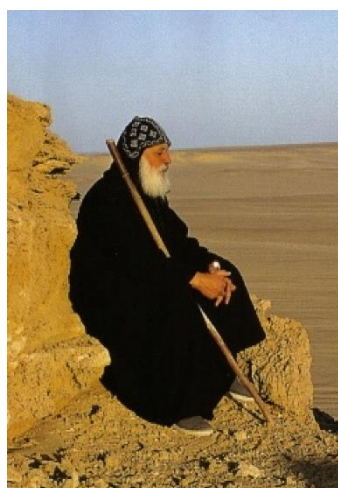
Full information for the position and an application form can be found by visiting <https://northamptondiocese.org/job/fundraising-manager/>

All candidates should complete an application form and email it to hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org



St David, Bishop – Patron of Wales – was probably born in Cardigan about the year 520, he received his early training from St Illtyd. He attracted many postulants to the monasteries he founded, all of which were remarkable for the austerity of their rule of life. Consecrated bishop, according to his biographer, in Jerusalem, he was recognised as primate of Wales and established his see at Mynyw (Menevia), the monastery of which he was Abbott and where he dies about the year 588.

Special thoughts & prayers today for both Bishop David & Fr David on this feast day of their namesake.



The Temptation of Christ

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 or should 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 Peace, St Lawrence, St Joseph, St Rita, St John Henry Newman, St Gregory Narek, St David, St Casimir pray for us all.

With our love and prayers to you all - Fr David, Fr Patrick & Deacon Peter