



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

**Sunday 6th March 2022
First Sunday of Lent**

So this first Sunday of Lent we hear in our Gospel reading this story of Jesus entering into the wilderness to fast for 40 days and be tempted by the devil. And on this first Sunday of Lent we mark the beginning of taking that journey with him. In our daily lives, in our own ways, over these 40 days we're encouraged to make our own journey into the wilderness. Perhaps facing our own devils and temptations, as we meet Jesus and journey with him, through the wilderness.

And as we do, I think the passage leads us to explore the three classic disciplines of Lent: fasting, giving and prayer. So, first Jesus is tempted to turn a stone into bread, and end his fast, but he replies: 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' In the face of the temptation to put ourselves and our needs first, the discipline of fasting helps us to learn that there is a deeper and more foundational need by which we live and that's God and God alone.

Jesus' second temptation is to power, to 'all the kingdoms of the world.' And yet he replies: 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' The temptation of power is ultimately a form of idolatry, a worship of ourselves and our own egos, but perhaps the discipline of giving can break some of its hold. As we give away the gifts of our time and expertise, our money and possessions, or simply our presence and company, we loose our hold on the desire to use those things for our own gain, and we offer them to God in thanks and praise.

And finally Jesus is tempted to prestige, to throw himself from the pinnacle of the temple and prove his divinity. And yet he responds: 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' And here perhaps the discipline of prayer can teach us. If our temptation to be seen and noticed and praised is, at heart, a test of the claim that we are worthy of God and God's love, then prayer tells us otherwise. It roots us in the unconditional and unshakable love of God, and grounds us in that truth. We can never prove our worth to God by proving it to others, we are worthy as we are. And in prayer, as we discover that for ourselves, perhaps we can discover it of others too.

First Reading : Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Moses spoke to the people, saying: When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.' You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Gospel Reading: Luke 4.1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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| Mon | 7.30pm, Zoom: Bible Study Group |
| Wed | 7.30pm, St Cuthbert's : 'An Adventure with God' with Cynthia Bishop |
| Thurs | 12pm, St Columba's : Lent Lunch, St Columba's - Pontius Pilate |
| Fri | 5pm, Zoom (church code below): Food for Thought |
| Sun 13th | 9.30am, Church: Parish Eucharist Second Sunday of Lent Leading and Preaching Rev'd Rev'd Gerard Rundell Readings from Genesis 15.1-12,17-18 ; Philippians 3.17 - 4.1; Luke 13.31-35 |
| Sun 13th | 4pm, Church: Taize service |

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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| Wed 16 th Mar | 7:30pm: Lent Course with Brother Michael Jacob at St Cuthbert's |
| Thurs 17 th Mar | 12pm: Lent Lunch, Sacred Heart RC (venue TBC) - Barabbas |
| Sun 20 th Mar | 7:30pm: Fundraiser Concert in church |
| Wed 23 rd Mar | 7:30pm: Lent Course with Right Rev'd Mark Bryant at St Cuthbert's |
| Thurs 24 th Mar | 12pm: Lent Lunch, St Aidan's - Simon of Cyrene |
| Wed (NB) 30th Mar | 12pm: Lent Lunch, St John's URC - Mary Magdalene |
| Wed 30 th Mar | 7:30pm: Lent Course with Rev'd Dr Jennifer Moberly at St Cuthbert's |
| Thurs 7 th April | 12pm: Lent Lunch, St Cuthbert's Brunswick - The Two Thieves |
| Wed 6 th April | 7:30pm: Lent Course with Rev'd Ben Doolan, Master of St Thomas' |

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/1stLent22>

FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE – our collection on Sunday 13th will be donated to Ukraine. Saturday café on 12th March will act as a giving session where we will take cash and card donations or donations can be given via our bank account (see below)- using the word Ukraine as the reference. Church is open daily – we will be collecting items which will be taken to the Polish Centre next Saturday afternoon – please see our Facebook page or website for a full list of items, in brief - personal hygiene items, medical supplies & children's activities. No clothes please. Please leave items at the back of church.

FUND RAISING CONCERT - Newcastle University Wind Band Society present *A Musical Feast - with music from Stage, TV, Screen and Concert Hall on Sunday 20th March at 7:30pm. This is a fundraiser event for Ukraine, and ticket prices are £5 adults, £3 students. Drinks and nibbles will be available.*

THANK YOU - Ruth Hewett would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and kind wishes on the death of her mother Celia and their continued support for John in his illness.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - continues to be a weekly service/ discussion group running on Friday's at 5pm-6pm on Zoom using the St Aidan's code. There will be no online service on the 3rd Friday as we will be in church on that date.

MESSAGE OF THANKS – has been received from DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal for the £1000 raised.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP LENT SERIES The Bible study group will be continuing on Zoom during Lent with a video series *How to Eat Bread* presented by the Rev Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, based on her book exploring different ways of reading the Bible. Five sessions looking at how the Bible itself uses biblical texts, 7.30 Monday evenings starting on Monday 7th March. All welcome, whether or not you have been part of the group before. Zoom Meeting code: 884 3537 3515 Passcode: 831837 or link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435373515?wd=ODA3Q1dQbIRqZnNiaUNHK1UvTkZ1dz09>

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – face masks are optional, please sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – a little reminder that we still collect for the foodbank. There is a box at the back of church for donations.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Particularly for Gerard Rundell, Team Rector, Ruth Hewett, Church in the Park and The Ark in the Park

For the world – Particularly during the increasing conflict in Ukraine, for her people and the Ukrainian community in the UK, and our own national and political life. In our community for local schools, including Broadway East, Brunton and Gosforth Park First Schools

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston and Adrienne Tulip.

For those who have died and those who grieve – Jeffrey Ball, Barbara Surtees. On their anniversaries: Sheila Smith, Edna Stansbie, Dick Race, Edith Hindmarsh, Mary Sell

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 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)