



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

Sunday 26th February 2023
First Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel sees Jesus on the threshold of his Ministry, he has recently been Baptised by John and anointed with the Spirit. Now the Spirit is leading/drawing Jesus to the wilderness where he would be tempted. Think about that word temptation and replace it with tested. This moment is in God's plan though it is not God who is the tempter/tester. Satan is the tempter.

But, it does beg the question why?

"Why was Jesus tested by the devil? Wasn't he the Son of God, of the same substance with the Father, God from God, light from light?

Why should Jesus have to struggle with the wiles of the evil one?"

Jesus was sinless/divine, but he was human, and he wanted to be seen and known as sharing the human experiences of ordinary people, insofar as it was possible for him, Jesus wanted to be just like everybody else.

Temptations come in many different forms and on many levels. What one person might overcome and cope with another might be crushed by. Many of us are tempted to overeat, while one half of the world starves the other half are slimming. People are tempted to indulge in drink and drugs, how is it that some people can resist while others are drawn into a murky world.

Some are tempted by money, power, greed and success. These things can be just as addictive. And as we see from some of the big businesses who avoid paying their taxes, Or profiteering from situations like the Pandemic or Wars. The more you have the more you want.

By giving us the narrative of Jesus' temptations at the beginning of each Lent, the Church is calling us to come to grips with the temptations that afflict each one of us.

Lent is supposed to be a kind of desert that we enter each year, a place where we face up to the temptations/ the tests of life that afflicts us from outside as well as the those that afflicts us from inside.

Unlike Jesus, we are sinners. We have given in, in great things or small, to the self-destructive attractions that the devil presented to Jesus.

Lent is a time to acknowledge that and do something about it.

So as we journey through Lent I offer you the prayer on the sheet. The Desert Waits, perhaps along with giving up something you might like to reflect on the Why question?

Next time you're arguing with a family member, eating that bit of chocolate, drinking that glass of wine, finding an excuse not to do something. You might ask yourself, why?

Perhaps in reflecting on the Why, we may come to know and understand more about ourselves, our motives, our feelings, our desires, our weaknesses. In knowing ourselves more fully we may come to know God more fully. During Lent the Church invites us to live with Jesus in his desert experience, to undergo trial with him and to come out of the desert at the end, ready to share a time of fulfilment with him in the Glory of God.

Romans 5.12-19

Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned – sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one person's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4.1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you",

and "On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him."'

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

TODAY

Lent 1: Rev'd Pauline Pearson presides and Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner preaches with readings from Romans 5.12-19 & Matthew 4.1-11 (Rev'd Rundell A/L)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
7:30pm: **The Chosen Series, at St Cuthbert's church**

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**
8:00pm, Northern Football Club: **Men's Club**

Fri 6:30pm: **Beetle Drive**

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

Sun 5th 8:00am: Said Holy Communion
9:30am **Lent 2:** Ordinand Claire Lewis presides, Rev'd Rundell preaches. Readings from Genesis 12.1-4a, Romans 4.1-5,13-17 & John 3.1-17
11:30am: **Baptism of Lauren James**
4.00pm: **Team Evensong at St Cuthbert's**

DATES FOR LENT LUNCHESES – 12pm start

Wed 1st March: **St John's URC**
Wed 8th March: **St Aidan's, Brunton Park**
Wed 15th March: **St Columba's, Wideopen**
Wed 22nd March: **Sacred Heart RC**
Wed 29th March: **St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 9th March 2:00pm: **Film Club – Brooklyn**
Sun 12th March 4:00pm: **Healing Service**
Sun 19th March 9:30am: **Mothering Sunday Family Service**
Sat 25th March 10:00am: **DCC/Church away day at Shepherds Dene**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/2023Lent1>

DCC/CHURCH AWAY DAY – Sat 25th Mar 10am-3pm at Shepherds Dene, to pray and plan together as we think about our priorities for the future. The DCC is particularly involved, but all who would like to be part of that process are welcome. It is £28 per person including a light lunch. There will be time for prayer, and to enjoy Shepherd's Dene, as well as time for discussion. If you can't make it, don't worry, there will be opportunities to offer your thoughts in the weeks to come. More details below.

LENT LUNCHESES – will be held on Wednesday's throughout Lent with the theme of Parables of Jesus. Please arrive at 12pm for a short service, followed by a soup lunch and collection for Christian Aid (dates and venues above).

NOTICEBOARD - you are invited to add something to the "Walking with Jesus" board - a Lenten commitment/prayer/phrase from a hymn or psalm/ or just a signature.

LENT COURSE – starts on Wednesday (1st March) at 7:30pm at St Cuthbert's church where we will watch The Chosen series.

PRIORITIES AND PLANS FOR ST AIDANS – over the weeks of Lent there will be a chance for everyone who is a part of St Aidan's to offer thoughts, ideas, prayers, and feedback as we spend some time, reflecting on our vision and priorities as a church for the coming years. More details next week, but please start praying and thinking about your hopes and dreams for St Aidan's.

BOOK TABLE – the table at the back of church is changing purpose. From the start of Lent it will become a Christian lending library. You're welcome to take a book home, but please remember to return it once finished for someone else to enjoy! If you have any Christian books that you have found particularly inspiring and would like to share with others, please let Gerard know, and we'll hope to put it in the rotation!

BEETLE DRIVE - this Fri 3rd March at 6:30pm, followed by an optional Fish & Chips Supper. Names by Wednesday please with your food choice, if you'd like to come along.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - resumes with a study of St Luke's gospel with a Lent series entitled JOURNEY TO THE CROSS IN LUKE - Jesus' parables on the way to Jerusalem. The first session on Monday 27th Feb at 7.30pm will look at the parable of the Great Feast in Luke 14.16-24. All welcome. Zoom link below, or contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details.

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

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 – Christ the King Team Parish, PCC members and officers. Moira and Kathryn, and all who enhance our services by their playing or singing. **For the**

community – West End Refugee Service **For the world** – for Turkey, Syria, Ukraine and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life. **For**

those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton. **For those**

who have died – and anniversaries: Cecil Talbot, Rennison Shiplay, Jeffrey Ball, Barbara Surtees, Winifred Richardson, Gladys McCardle, Audrey Dickinson, Isabella Fairburn, Muriel Gandy, Brian Flanagan, Emily Walker, Muriel Brown, Frances Wright

CONTACTS: Office: 0191 236 7952 Administrator/Newsletter : infostaidans@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com