

Christ is tempted in the desert

Today's short Gospel sums up the whole of Christ's mission. The Jews expected a final battle in which God's goodness would triumph over evil. Jesus came to fulfil those expectations. Christ's conflict with every form of evil is one of the central themes in Mark's Gospel. This battle would reach its climax on the cross. Jesus first joined battle with evil when He was tempted in the desert. In this conflict Jesus and Satan are the protagonists for good and evil. Jesus, we are told, was tempted or tested.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark doesn't tell us the nature of Christ's temptations. But we can assume that His commitment to obeying His Father's will was sorely tested. He would have been offered plausible alternatives, soft options and easy escapes. Satan wanted to deflect Him from carrying out His painful, difficult mission. For Jesus, these temptations were very real. He was not play-acting. But as He resisted these seductive temptations Jesus won the first round in His battle against evil.

By confronting temptations Jesus identified with us in our struggle against sin. If sin didn't seem attractive, temptations would cause us no problem. It's only too easy for us to find plausible reasons for doing what deep down we know is wrong – what we would readily condemn in others. There's so much to deflect us from doing what is demanding but right, or to choose what is easy but wrong. Life can seem a constant battleground in which we are torn between good and evil.

The same was true for Christ. That's very reassuring, since it reminds us that being tempted is very different from sinning. As with Christ, temptations test our commitment to God's will. They help us to focus on what is really important and shun what would be a distraction. With each victory over temptation our wills are strengthened and we are better prepared for the next battle.

But sometimes we do fail the test and yield to the temptation to sin. So today's Gospel concludes by urging us to repent – to have a change of heart and behaviour as we seek God's forgiveness. Through the wonder of His mercy, He puts our sins behind Him and us. When we've fallen, He gets us back onto our feet. With His help we can make a fresh start – that's the wonder of the Good News Jesus has given us. With Him on our side there's hope for even the greatest sinner!

Lent is a special time of grace, in which we should be especially anxious to join Christ in His battle against evil. With Him we focus on what is really important in our lives, and try to eliminate whatever undermines our commitment to God. When the forces of evil seem to be overwhelming us let us remember that we are not fighting the battle alone. With Almighty God on our side Satan doesn't stand a chance – providing we seek God's help, and don't try to fight His battles without His support. But if we take unnecessary risks and play with fire we should expect to get burnt. Life is difficult enough without making it harder!

Isidore O.P.

First Sunday of Lent

Year B

22 February 2015

The Newsletter of **HOLY CROSS PRIORY CHURCH, LEICESTER**

www.holycrossleicester.org



Entrance Antiphon:	When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.
1st Reading:	Genesis 9:8-15 44-46
Psalm R:	<i>At 10.30: Your ways Lord are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant. Otherwise: All your paths, O Lord, are mercy and faithfulness, for those who keep your covenant. (Ps 25)</i>
2nd Reading:	1 Peter 3:18-22
Alleluia:	Glory and praise to you, O Christ.
Gospel:	Mark 1:12-15
Communion Antiphon:	<i>Either: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Or: The Lord will conceal you with his pinions, and under his wings you will trust.</i>

Baptism Preparation: the next session is on **1 March**; please come to the sacristy at the end of the 10.30am Mass. If you wish to have your child baptised at Holy Cross, you need to attend one of these sessions, usually held on the first Sunday of each month.

The demolition of New Walk Centre is scheduled for **TODAY, 22 February**. We are outside the exclusion zone, so it is business as usual at Holy Cross. We will have a number of police and sentries allied to us and our concerns. Billy Young, the Demolition Project Manager, has met with Fr David and devised a strategy to manage car parking: you can park in the Dover House car park (access from Dover Street), and there should be no problem parking sensibly on double yellow lines if roads in the area are still closed, providing you place a note in your windscreen to say that you are attending Holy Cross. If you do get a ticket for doing so, please see Fr David.

King Richard III. Normal service times are being retained whilst refurbishment of the church is being carried out. The ballot for places at the Requiem Mass on Monday 23 March at 5pm has now closed, and when the result has been finalised there will be more details of events that week. On the Tuesday, 24 March, the Dominican Fathers will sing the Office of Vespers in Leicester Cathedral. All are welcome to attend this service at 5.30pm.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to ensure that the first 10.30am Sunday Mass was a success.

During Lent this year, we are invited to work together on supporting a charity called 'Light for the Blind', which is a Catholic organisation running hospices for the destitute and poor in India. More information in the coming weeks.

Please pray for our RCIA group who travel to Nottingham this afternoon for the Rite of Election, thus beginning their final stage on the journey to becoming Catholics.

MONEY MATTERS: Last Weekend's collections – Offertory Collection £1219.64 (of which £396.00 was Gift Aided and £823.64 was not) and in addition the parish receives approximately £240 per week in donations made by standing order, nearly all of which are Gift Aided; SVP £4.45; Friends of Holy Cross £2.36; Holy Souls £22.16; Grenada Church Restoration £ - . The retiring collection for the heating of the hall came to £465.10 (of which £93.00 was Gift Aided and £372.10 was not).

Many thanks to all who contributed to the two retiring collections to pay for a new boiler for the hall. We have now raised the £1000 needed for this work.

Very many thanks for your continuing generosity.

News from the Parish Shop. We celebrate St Patrick's Day in just over three weeks. We now stock cards, rosettes, lapel pins, rosary bracelets, key rings, etc for the occasion. Hurry while stocks last!

The shop is open after the 12.30pm Masses during the week, on Saturdays from 11am until after the 12.30pm Mass, and after every Sunday Mass. The shop is in the room beyond the sacristy.

Rosmini Centre, Saturday 28 February, Afternoon Retreat 3.00-7.00pm; Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosary, reflection theme "Praying with the Psalms", Adoration, Confession and Sunday Vigil Mass. Friday 6 March, HEALING MASS 7.00pm. Please telephone 01509 813078 if you wish to attend on any occasion.

On-Street Car Parking. Charges have not been applied, and will not apply until the notices on the machines and roadside signs are altered. So, check the signs if parking in Wellington Street.

At long last a new telephone system has been installed in the priory, and is all operational. Thank you for bearing with us as we faced issues with the previous system, and thanks to the benefactors who made the installation possible.

Would you like to learn New Testament Greek? There is a course for beginners at the Adult Education Centre. It gives a taster of the Greek used by the Gospel Writers, and there are five weekly meetings starting **Tuesday 24th February** (please note revised date), 1pm - 2.30pm. Fee £37.50, or £11.25 for some concessions. Please contact the Adult Education Centre, Wellington St, LE1 6HL, tel 0116 454 1900.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 15-19 June, from Stansted, staying at the Agena Hotel. £425 per person sharing. Please contact Fr David.

Donations of Food for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. We are really grateful for the parish's magnificent response to the appeal, but do please note that **the only acceptable gifts of food are non perishables.** Do please check the list which is published in the Newsletter from time to time, and which also appears on noticeboards. Please don't give fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and bread &c, and please don't give cooked or frozen foods as they decompose and can be a health hazard. The amounts you give are most generous and really welcome, and we hope you can keep it up in this hard winter.

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 10.30am Sunday Mass for tea, coffee, fruit-juice etc. There is the opportunity for a chat with members of the Dominican Community and parishioners. We particularly welcome new students and other visitors.



Today's Gospel: The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan.

Year I	This week's calendar & Mass Intentions	Psalter Week 1
Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments.	
	Vigil 18.10 <i>Pro populo</i>	
	8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	Sung 10.30 Mary Martin (birthday)	
	OP Rite 12.30 ✕ Holy Souls	
	19.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	<i>Lent is ordered to preparing for the celebration of Easter, since the Lenten liturgy prepares for celebration of the Paschal Mystery by both catechumens, by the various stages of Christian Initiation, and the faithful, who recall their own Baptism and do penance.</i>	
	<i>Every day of Lent is a day of penance, on which Christ's faithful are in a special manner to devote themselves to prayer, to engage in works of piety and charity, and to deny themselves, by fulfilling their obligations more faithfully.</i>	
	<i>During Lent we are asked to pray for candidates for the sacraments; women; needy and hungry people of the world; and penitents and wanderers.</i>	
Monday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 Private intention	
	12.30 ✕ Elizabeth Creedon	
	18.10 Private intention	
Tuesday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Dead of the Order of Preachers	
	12.30 ✕ Peter Walter Pedersen	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Wednesday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 Christof's birthday (spiritual & temporal welfare)	
	12.30 ✕ Jimmy O'Rourke	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Thursday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 To console & in thanksgiving to the united Hearts of Jesus & Mary	
	12.30 ✕ Holy Souls	
	18.10	
Friday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Felicia Johnson (anniversary)	
	12.30 ✕ Jozef Lubek	
	18.10 ✕ Holy Souls	
Saturday	Feria	
	OP Rite 8.00 ✕ Holy Souls	
	10.00	
	12.30 ✕ Peter Woods	
Next Sunday – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT. Prayers are asked for candidates for the sacraments. Readings:		
Genesis 22:1-2.9-13.15-18	Romans 8:31-34	Mark 9:2-10

Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 6 March: Praying for the Bahamas. There will be a service at the Central Baptist Church, Charles Street, at 11am, and all are welcome. Refreshments will be served after the service. See noticeboard and www.wwdp.org.uk.

REGULAR SERVICE TIMES
SUNDAYS
8.00 Mass
9.00 Lauds
10.30 Sung Mass
12.30 Mass (Dominican Rite)
18.00 Exposition, Rosary, Compline & Benediction
19.00 Mass
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
11.00*Devotions & Exposition
12.15*Benediction
12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00)
18.10 Mass followed by Vespers
*WEDNESDAYS ONLY
SATURDAYS
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
9.00 Lauds
10.00 Mass
10.30 Devotions & Exposition
10.30 Confessions until 11.30
12.30 Mass (Rosary at 12.00)
17.00 Confessions until 18.00
17.45 Vespers
18.10 Vigil Mass for Sunday
HOLIDAYS OF OBLIGATION
18.10 (previous day) Vigil Mass followed by Vespers
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
12.30 Mass
18.10 Mass followed by Vespers
BANK HOLIDAYS
7.30 Lauds
8.00 Mass (Dominican Rite)
12.30 Mass, after which the church is closed
Royal Infirmary Chaplaincy: For urgent visits, ask ward staff to bleep the Roman Catholic Chaplain. For non-urgent visits, leave a message at the Priory or at the LRI Chaplains' Office. Messages may not be picked up until the end of the day.
Universities' Chaplain: Fr David Rocks: 0116 252 1512
Baptism Preparation: 1st Sunday of month after the 10.30 Mass.
Baptisms: Saturday afternoons.
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