

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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Twinned with the Parish of Ermelo in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (A) **29th February / 1st March 2020** **Page 151 - Eucharistic Prayer 2**

The readings set before us for the Sundays of Lent are extraordinarily rich. On the first Sunday the Gospel is always that of the temptations of Jesus, read from one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke). This year it is Matthew's account which is read.

Jesus, filled with the Spirit received at his baptism, is now led by the same Spirit to the place of encounter with the devil. He who was willing to undergo the baptism usually reserved for sinners now submits to the challenge of evil. He who showed solidarity with sinners now confronts the power of sin.

There is a profound mystery here. The sinless one, who comes to save sinners, is nevertheless tempted, for Jesus in his humanity has the same power of choice that we have. While we frequently succumb to the lure of evil, Jesus never does. Three distinct temptations invite him to abuse his miraculous powers for selfish ends (turning stones into bread), to manipulate his relationship with the Father (leaping from the temple parapet), and to collude with evil to gain dominion over the world (worshipping the devil).

Jesus confounds the devil on each occasion by quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy. The Scriptures urge us to pursue what is good and to worship the one, true God. The behaviour of Jesus in the Gospel contrasts sharply with that of Adam and Eve in the reading from Genesis as they succumb to temptation. St Paul, writing to the Romans in the second reading, explains the effects of the disobedience of Adam and the obedience of Jesus.

From where does Jesus derive his strength in his battle with evil?

To what extent do the Scriptures inspire my decisions?

Pray for the courage to unmask the deceptive power of evil.

Pray for the wisdom to reject selfishness and the strength to confront evil.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous offerings. Envelopes: **£1,078.75**. Loose Plate: **£372.50**. Standing Orders: **£524.55**. Total: **£1,975.80**.

SICK PARISHIONERS: Those who receive Holy Communion at home or in hospital: Gwen Rushton, Val Harding, Cecilia Omoyinbo and Kathleen Haigh.

ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph Ellison, Vernon Rolls, John Coveney, Taysharn Baptiste, Adam Krzykowski, Genevieve Roles, Seamus O'Grady, Terry Dunne, Gerard Mooney, Stephen Grealish, Czeslaw Duzniak, Austin Ryan, John Linehan, Alexander Szerynski, Ernest Smoothy, Veronica Prosser, Patricia Smith, Lillian Lowe, Richard Rolfe and Alan Doleman. May they all rest in peace.

REFRESHMENTS: Will be available after the **9.00am** and the **11.00am** Masses, in the hall.

BAPTISM: This weekend we welcome **Carly Ann Beeching**, daughter of Rachel and Andy. into the family of the Church. May God bless her at this special time.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: **Friday 6th March**. Pray for the needs of our Parish - **10.00am - 1.00pm**. Please come for one hour if you can.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross, followed by Mass, will take place **every Friday** during Lent, at **7.30pm**.

CAFOD LENT FAMILY FAST DAY: **Friday 6th March** is the 60th anniversary of the first Family Fast Day led by our founding mothers and, as it has been for sixty years, is an opportunity to reach out and support highly-skilled local experts around the world who help the poorest members of our global family. Please give whatever you can to help experts like Sister Consilia - a nun and trained pharmacist who treats people in rural Zimbabwe - continue their vital work. If you can help support this work through volunteering your time, please contact Chris Driscoll at brentwood@cafod.org.uk or call 01263 551293. A Second Collection will be held next weekend - **7th/8th March**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The first workshop for children who are signed onto this year's FHC Programme, will take place on **Saturday 7th March, 9.15am-1.00pm**, in the Jubilee Hall. We welcome the children and their parents to our **9.00am** Mass on **Sunday 8th March**,

ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) UPDATE: Thank you to the 23 people who attend the information meeting. For those who couldn't make it, it's not too late to come and join us! The next meeting is this **Tuesday 3rd March, 8.00pm**, in the Jubilee Hall.

LENTEN LUNCHESES: This year's lunches are being held in the **Baptist Church**. **12noon to 1.15pm**, and will run weekly until **25th March**. Adults: **£3**. Children: **£1**. This year's charity is the Tabor Centre. Our church will provide the lunch on **11th March** (still at the Baptist Church though). Sadly, due to lack of helpers, this will be the last year for these Lenten Lunches.

BOOKS FOR SALE: Our bookcase (by the side door to the church) is rather overflowing! We have also had a lovely donation of children's books. Please take any you would like and pop a small donation into the 'Papers' Box in the wall. Thank you.

VACANCY: PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: Sue Howell (and Greg too!) will soon be leaving the Parish, to embark upon a new life in Derbyshire. We are recruiting for an experienced administrator to support all aspects of parish administration, to ensure the efficient running of the Parish Office and to provide a warm welcome and friendly face to the Parish. Further information and a full job description can be obtained by emailing braintree@dioceseofbrentwood.org or telephoning 01376 326779. Hours of work: **21 hours per week**. Days are negotiable but not Mondays. Hourly rate: **£10**. Employment will commence in March/April – actual date dependent upon the candidate's personal needs. 3-4 weeks training will be provided. The closing date for applications is **Sunday 8th March**. Interviews will be between **17th-19th March**. Please share these details with family and friends.

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE: I am pleased to offer the following sessions so that we can grow to understand how God speaks to us through the Readings of the Mass, through prayerful reflection of the Bible and through Bible Study. The programme will run on the following **Thursdays at 7.30pm** and **Saturdays at 10.30am**.

Session 2	Thursday 5th March	Saturday 14th March
Session 3	Thursday 19th March	Saturday 28th March
Session 4	Thursday 2nd April	Saturday 4th April

All these meetings will take place in the Jubilee Hall. Once we have seen the interest in this course, then we can work out how best to continue after Easter. Please contact me if you have any questions. All are welcome to attend. Fr David.

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL "GOD WHO SPEAKS" LENTEN LECTURES: These start on **Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm** in Cathedral parish hall. *The Bible: alive and active or dead and irrelevant? to be given* by Professor Anthony Towey, Director of Aquinas Centre, St Mary's University, Twickenham. Free Entry. All welcome. For more information go to www.cathedral-brentwood.org.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: On **Friday 6th March, 10.30am**, at the church in Great Notley, Bridge End Lane, CM77 7GN - praying with Zimbabwe.

ANGLIA SINGERS' CONCERT: Will take place on **Sunday 15th March, at 4.30pm**. They will be performing one of the great works of the choral repertoire - but not performed as often as it should be - Rossini's Petite Messe Solonnelle, Tickets: £8 (under 16s free) and are available from the Presbytery.

LENTEN RESOURCES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, TEACHERS AND CATECHISTS: The BCYS have gathered together a collection of links to Catholic resources from across the Internet, to help you on your Lenten journey. Visit: <https://bcys.net/lent-2020/>. The next **Youth Mass** is this Wednesday (**4th March**) – another way to go deeper into prayer and reflection for Lent, in the company of other young people aged approx. 14-23. The Mass is at **8.00pm**, at Brentwood Cathedral, followed by simple refreshments.

MARRIAGE MATTERS - First Sunday of Lent: Today, both Eve and Jesus are tempted to become independent, to turn away from the love of God. In marriage, we can think we have a right to fulfil our own desires without considering our partner, but we need to share these deepest hopes and dreams, and be prepared to hear the impact on our loved one and our relationship.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Saturday 29th February - Vigil Mass Sunday 1st March	6.00pm	Ann Gilmartin RIP (Gilmartin) In thanksgiving for the good health of Alphonsus Alakwe Ints Jeanette Abou Jaoudé
	9.00am	
	11.00am	
Monday 2nd March	9.30am	Communion Service
Tuesday 3rd March	9.30am	Ints Franciscan Sisters
Wednesday 4th March	9.30am	Ints Jo and Associates
Thursday 5th March	9.30am	Private Intention (Khatcherian)
Friday 6th March Lent Fast Day Stations of the Cross	9.30am 7.30pm	Ints Shirley MacGregor & Family Peter Breed RIP (A) (Breed)
Saturday 7th March	9.30am	Diana Farrell RIP (Cranmer)
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) Saturday 7th March - Vigil Mass Sunday 8th March	6.00pm	Alan Doleman RIP (A) (Doleman) Ints Bill & Anita Paul and Family Jim McCann RIP (Monaghan)
	9.00am	
	11.00am	

CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAYS, 10.00-10.30AM, IN THE CHURCH

Rosary	Church	Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	8.00pm
Ladies Group	Jubilee Hall	Thursday 5th March	2.00pm
Faith Group	Jubilee Hall	Tuesday 17th March	8.00pm
Youth Club	Jubilee Hall	Friday 6th March	7.30pm

St Francis Primary School Headteacher: Vicky Jackson Gilchrist Way, Braintree, CM7 2SY 01376 320440 www.stfrancisbraintree.co.uk	St John Payne Secondary School Headteacher: Tom Coen Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 4BS 01245 256030 www.sjp.essex.sch.uk
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