

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT B

Please note that the reflections sometimes use examples that come from an American context



February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 | 1 Pt 3:18-22 | Mk 1:12-15

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Even amid the forced slowdown of a pandemic, distractions abound: Netflix bingeing, online shopping, even positive pursuits like home organizing and personal fitness. I confess I indulge in all of these (except for home organizing). Lent challenges me to let go of the unnecessary distractions and dare to make friends with solitude, which can be a daunting proposition because it means keeping company with my own thoughts. Jesus, our human and divine Savior, faced the desert and was tempted by Satan. But he also emerged *from* the desert, and announced himself and the Gospel to the people of Galilee. He goes on to accept his death on a cross for the sake of our salvation, the fulfillment of the covenant between God and his people. As we enter Lent, as we enter *our* desert, we pray for the fortitude to forego temptation, opening our hearts to God's will for us, and ready to proclaim it to the world.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What are you doing for Lent this year? I ask our kids that every Ash Wednesday around the dinner table, and one or more of us often scramble for a plan. "Umm ... candy! I'll give up candy except Snickers." "No Netflix!" Or we take the "do good" route: "I'll pray more." "I'll help with chores." "I'll volunteer or donate to charity." All good things. Whatever "the plan," however, today's Gospel challenges me to be quiet and listen. While a plan gives us accountability and can lead to growth, sometimes less truly can be more. This year, I'd like to spend less time planning and more time listening for God's voice in the silence, which I find personally challenging. For others, the desert may look quite different. However we decide to approach Lent, let us pray that these 40 days bring us closer to God and our lives more in line with his will for us.

PRAY "One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God." The verse before today's Gospel caught my attention. What can I pare away from my daily life to make room for the word of God? For those of us whose minds tend to wander when praying silently, perhaps listening to the daily readings can be a good way to start or end the day.

Online Services

During the lockdown, please continue to join together in our celebration of Mass each day.

Sunday Mass at 10am

Weekdays (ex Thur) at 10am

Thursday at 7pm

Saturday at 10am

Devotions this week:

5pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Friday;

6.30pm on Thursday

Virtual Coffee Morning



After Sunday Mass, beginning at 11am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4355897940?pwd=NnVuYmpjc2kySnZOcjA5Q2l0Z05QQT09>

Thank You

For your continuing donations to support the parish over these past months. While these are essential for us, for many people this is a difficult time and everything that you give is very, very gratefully received and much appreciated

While the building closed, donations can be made in various ways -

- many people have started using Standing Orders, the forms are available on our website and should be returned to Fr. Jim.
- Online donations can be made through online offertory button on our website.
- If you are legitimately out of the house for exercise or some other reason, then envelopes can be posted through the Church House letterbox.

Online Lecture

'Leadership as Witness' by
Cardinal Joseph W Tobin CSsR.
Tue 23 February 7.00-8.00pm

The University of Glasgow St Andrew's Foundation invites you to this online lecture. Cardinal Tobin is the Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey. He was Superior General of the Redemptorists from 1997 until 2009. In 2010 he was appointed as Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. He has participated in five Synods of Bishops. This lecture is part of the Catholic School Leadership Expert Seminar Series. We encourage Catholic school leaders, aspiring leaders, researchers and those that support our Catholic school leaders to join us for this final seminar in the series To register, please email:

education-st-andrews-foundation@glasgow.ac.uk

Vocations

Think Vocation: Jesus heals a leper because of his compassion and his desire to heal him. Could your compassion for people and desire to share Christ's healing love with them lead you to give yourself to them as a priest, deacon or in a religious community? Speak to Fr. John Morrison on 01418895056 or e-mail vocations@rcdop.org.uk

Give yourself time. Try Alpha

#TryAlpha



Our Alpha course started last week but there is still time to join! Wednesdays at 7.15pm

Alpha is a great opportunity to explore consider the heart of our faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Each week there will be a combination of a video and a Zoom chat. . Gathering once a week over a ten-week period, each Alpha brings together people from every walk of life. These are strange times but also a good opportunity to reflect again about what is important to us.

Sign up using this link: <https://stcharlespaisley.flocknote.com/AlphaOnline2021>

Online Marriage Counselling available during Covid 19 Crisis

Our diocese has a Counselling Service for Catholics Married in the Catholic Church with our dedicated Catholic Marriage Counsellor. If you are concerned about your relationship and feel you are both unable to reach a conclusion alone, it is likely that you will benefit from marriage counselling. The counsellor is there to maintain a neutral, non-judgmental position. For information or advice please email in confidence counselling@rcdop.org.uk

Craig Lodge, Dalmally, Mission House for Young Adults

Craig Lodge Community is offering a new opportunity to young Catholics on how to live a life of mission. Craig Lodge Mission House is a nine-month residential

programme for any young adult between the ages of 18-30 who desires to become a passionate lover of Jesus and become *Spirit-filled evangelisers for the renewal of the Church,*” (Pope Francis). *Community, prayer and studying of the Catholic faith and learning to proclaim the Good News to others*”. The mission house will begin in September 2021 and applications are now being accepted. Visit the Craig Lodge website for more details.

www.craiglodge.org/missionhouse 200 Club

Online Theology Thursdays! Monthly, 5.00-6.00pm

25 February ‘Will the Sacraments change my life?’ integrating the sacramental and moral dimensions of Christian living. Fr Martin Delaney: 25 March: Forming intentional disciples in our Catholic

schools. Mary O'Duffin: 9 April: Reading St Mark: The Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Fr Andrew Garden: 20 May: Holy Disobedience: Catholic Political Witness and Resistance: Anna Blackman. Theology Thursdays is a programme of seminars aimed at non-experts and beginners. Each seminar has a theological focus, lasts for one hour and is taught by an expert in the field. It may be of interest to teacher educators, teachers, parents, catechists, students and senior school pupils. To book your place and receive the ZOOM link, please email: education-st-andrews-foundation@glasgow.ac.uk Circle of Prayer