

focus on sunday

As Jesus was ever faithful to his father's will and to his vocation to bring the Good News, we too are promised the strength to resist temptation and be true to our faith.



No matter how our goodness is tempted we are never alone.



Imagine you are in a dark room and you know there is light switch somewhere but you can't find it. Like confusion in the night when you wake in a new room. Where is it? Lent is a bit like finding the light switch of our souls. Linked with springtime in this part of the world. A new shoot of life, new colours of flowers. Lent like the spring is a time of joy. The light is Jesus.

The big invitation of Lent is to believe the good news, about the three big messages of Jesus:

- God loves you.**
- We are all brothers and sisters.**
- Good will overcome evil.**

That was his life – his words and how he lived. Watch him Sunday by Sunday in the gospel. Bringing love – compassion – welcome to all sorts of people. The oddballs and the ordinary, the saint and the sinner.

He saw everyone as a child of his Father, and a brother and sister of himself. Watch him healing, consoling, comforting, challenging well.

He showed on Calvary that the terrible cruelty, injustice, and evil was not the end.

So, what we do for Lent is to give us the joy of these three statements of Jesus. Joy is a deep down, not the same always as laughter or humour. A constant from our friendship with God. Let this light switch on for us for Lent!

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.

Jesus' Story Fr. Liam Hickey

Lent is a time when we can look at Jesus everyday, and learn that God Our Father is full of Love. Jesus' "Great News" is that God loves every single person, and me too, in a special way. God can never be angry. Jesus helps us to grow in love, because God is Love. We grow in love when we put others first, like giving a seat up on the bus, respect people on footpaths, and in shops, offering to help at home, and share with others that we meet in school and sport, and with neighbours.



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.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 You bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Christ, have mercy.
 You bring light to those in darkness: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observances of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8 - 15

A reading from the book of Genesis.
 God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'
 God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 24:4-9

R. Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

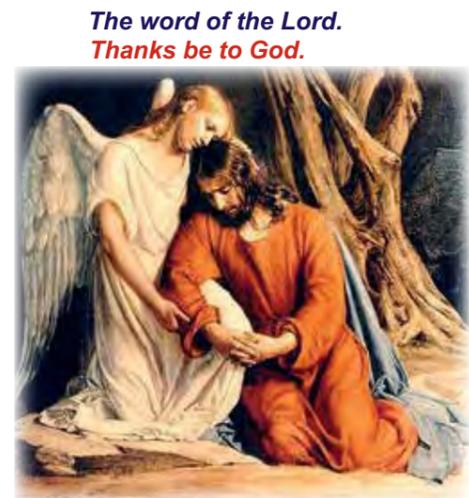
- Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **(R)**

- Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R)**
- The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **(R)**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL Mark 1:12-15

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**
 A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan.

He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:
 and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters,
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray, to make these offerings, for with them we celebrate the beginning of this venerable and sacred time. Through Christ our Lord.