

St Lukes Parish

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT.MASS INTENTIONS.

6.00pm Sat. Ted Howell

9.00am Sun Tomas Kopec

11.00am Sun Frances Harrison

9.30am Mon. Richard Cunningham

6.15pm Tues. James Igoe

9.30am Wed. Jack Pennock

12noon Thu. Paddy Murphy

12noon Fri. Requiem Paddy Murphy

6.00pm Sat. Michael & Margaret Rice

9.00am Sun Tomas Kopec

11.00am Sun. St. Luke's Parish

Please pray for our people who have died recently Paddy Murphy (Requiem 12noon Fri. 14th Mar), James Christopher Igoe (Requiem 10am 19th March) and Jack Pennock. May they rest in peace.

Collection last week £680. Thank you all. FAMILY FAST DAY FRIDAY this week. Retiring Collection will be taken next weekend for the Hungry and Needy of the world.

My Computer is out of action so further items will be announced



# OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

## Liturgy

1st Sunday of Lent (A)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Cf. Ps 90:15-16

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.**

**FIRST READING:**

Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

*The creation and sin of our first parents.*

**PSALM:**

Ps 50:3-6.12-14.17. R.cfv3

**R) Have mercy on us, O Lord,  
for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.  
In your compassion blot out my offence.  
O wash me more and more from my guilt  
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R)**

My offences truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **(R)**

A pure heart create for me, O God,  
put a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R)**

Give me again the joy of your help;  
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall declare your praise. **(R)**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 5:12-19

*However great the number of sins committed,  
grace was even greater*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** Mt 4:4

**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:** Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Mt 4:4

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



## GOSPEL REFLECTION



Today it is not very fashionable to believe in the devil: which is dangerous. Scripture and the teaching Church are very clear about the existence of the fallen angels and their enmity towards ourselves. *“Satan, or the devil, and the other demons are fallen angels who have freely refused to serve God and his plan.... They try to associate man in their revolt against God,”* (Catechism no.414). Our Lord himself, when the disciples rejoiced that *“even the devils submit to us...”* replied: *“I watched Satan fall like lightning from Heaven. Yes, I have given you power to tread underfoot...the whole strength of the enemy.”* These spiritual beings made their irreversible choice at their creation, which seems to have been before

ours. As we are taught, it was through the malignity of Satan that Adam and Eve fell. In today's Gospel passage, Satan attempts to seduce Christ. It appears that the devils, while being aware of Jesus' role as Messiah, do not know that he is the Divine Son of God. *“I know who you are!”* they cry, but they do not know the whole truth. Christ is their Master and though evil may seem to get the upper hand, Christ's saving work has meant their utter and final confusion.

### Celebrating the Christian Mystery

A new series drawing on themes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (ccc).

The Church warmly recommends that the faithful receive Holy Communion each time they participate in the celebration of the Eucharist; she obliges them to do so at least once a year. Because Christ himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, he is to be honoured with the worship of adoration. “To visit the Blessed Sacrament is . . . a proof of gratitude, an expression of love, and a duty of adoration toward Christ our Lord” (Paul VI, MF 66).  
CCC 1417-18

## Monsignor Bruce Harbert – Thoughts on today's Mass

In today's Mass, the Preface (which begins the Eucharistic Prayer) borrows several thoughts from Scripture to help us get our bearings for Lent. It reminds us that as we deny ourselves for [roughly] 40 days, we are following the example of Jesus, who conquered the Devil, the 'ancient serpent', after 40 days in the desert. Before the feast of passover, Jewish housewives remove all yeast from their houses to begin a new batch of bread for the feast. Saint Paul uses this custom to help us prepare for Easter, or 'Paschal Time', by clearing out of our lives anything that spoils them. Our word 'paschal' is related to 'passion' and to 'pass'. By his Passion, Jesus passed over from death to life. As Easter nears, we pray that we may make the same journey and 'pass over at last to the eternal Paschal feast'.