

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity

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First Sunday in Lent

21st February 2021

THEME: Water that signifies new life.

Jesus' baptism was followed immediately by severe temptation, which he withstood and overcame by the power of the Holy Spirit. Noah put his faith in God's promises and survived with his family in spite of the devastating flood. When we in baptism, put our faith in the life-giving Christ, we shall also receive the strength and grace to resist temptation and overcome sin.

MASS TIMES: St Paul's: Vigil mass Saturday 6-00pm. Thursday 9-00am

St Mary's: Sunday 9-30am, 11-00am. Mon Tue, Wed, Friday 9-00am. Saturday 10-00am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: After mass on Saturday mornings.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Before the Saturday morning mass, the vigil mass on Saturday and Sunday morning masses.

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

If you are intending to come to mass please provide advance notification, preferably by email john.storey6@btopenworld.com or tel: 0161 330 2424.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Mark 1:12-15. Satan lost no time in attacking the greatest prize of all. If the Son of God, through human weakness he had chosen, could be persuaded to work in Satan's way, then every chance for us humans being saved from sin's destruction would be utterly lost forever. It is a bleak and terrifying prospect. Mark's Gospel emphasises the force and desolation of the harsh time in the barren wastes near the Jordan river, where Satan hoped to destroy Jesus' ministry even before it had fully begun. But Jesus lifting our humanity into the divinity of God, remained steadfast and strong, until Satan slunk away unsuccessful and the Angels looked after Jesus in his exhausted weariness.

Sometimes we excuse ourselves from giving in to sin on account of the temptation being too strong, and with a sigh of relief we enjoy not having to try any more. If only we could hang on a bit longer in God's strength instead of our own, we should find that, although genuinely exhausting the resistance would remain within our capability, and the temptation would recede before we succumb to it. Resisting Satan's attacks is a serious business and will stretch our wills almost to breaking point at times, but Jesus will never allow us to be tempted beyond what we can, in his strength, survive. And afterwards he ministers to us with immense tenderness.

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY: *Pope Francis' prayer to the Holy Family.* Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan.

DUKINFIELD WHIT WALKS AND SONGS OF PRAISE: The Dukinfield Songs of Praise and Whit Walks have been cancelled once again this year.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY MARCH 5th This year's World day of prayer has been prepared by the women of Vanuatu, but it is cancelled here in Dukinfield. Just over 1,100 miles to the east of Australia in the southwestern Pacific Ocean are the scattered islands of Vanuatu. This cluster of islands, stretching for about 400 miles, form a Y shape on the maps and charts. European contact began with the Portuguese explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros (1606) followed by French navigator Louis-Antoine de Bougainville (1768) and Captain James Cook (1774). Cook mapped the island group and named it the New Hebrides. European missionaries, traders and those who wanted to acquire cheap labour, began to come to the islands. These different groups began to change the way of life, for each island having its own tribal groups and organisation to a government administered in a European style. British missionaries and French planters were the two main European groups involved and by 1887 there was sharing of administration between France and England. This became more formal in 1906. Vanuatu became independent within the Commonwealth as the Republic of Vanuatu on July 30th 1980, it adopted a new flag and constitution, and elected its first Prime Minister Father Walter Lini. Vanuatu is one of the first countries to start to pray on the Day of Prayer, helping to set off the wave of prayer. The writing committee was formed from all the different denominations and islands and met together to prepare our service about building on a strong foundation. They all understand about the need of safe buildings as the islands are in the South Pacific tropical cyclone zone. Cyclone Pam caused great devastation in 2015 and the islands were just beginning to recover when in April 2020 Cyclone Harold destroyed everything in its path. Even cyclone-adapted coconut trees were broken and battered. Today we share in the prayers that these confident and purposeful women have written and pray also for Vanuatu.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE: Faith leaders have received the following letter from Lord Bethal, Nadhim Zahawi MP, Lord Greenhaigh, Minister of state for Building Safety, Fire and Communities. We wish to thank faith communities for all you have done throughout the pandemic. Our faith communities are essential to the lives of millions across the country. Your continued resilience, innovation, compassion and support to people of all faiths and none is recognised across our different ministerial responsibilities, and something we are all grateful for.

We know that you are continuing to look for ways to support the country in the weeks and months ahead. Anything that you and your communities can do is greatly appreciated. Many people from a wide range of faith communities have already volunteered as NHS Responders, are assisting with the vaccine roll out and undertaking countless tasks locally to ensure people are cared for.

We want to make the process of engaging and supporting the ongoing COVID response effort as simple as possible.

Finally we want to thank you for your continued support to keep communities safe by adapting your faith practices and implementing COVID Secure measures in your places of worship. It should not be understated how critical it is for us all to continue to comply with the COVID guidance, including the guidance for places of worship, to ensure the communities remain safe and we continue to reduce transmission of the virus while we roll out the vaccination programme across the country. With many thanks for your continued support.

FAMILY FAST DAY: Next Friday is family fast day. Envelopes are available for your donation as you leave church. Please bring the envelope back next Sunday. Your donation will help to end water poverty and provide other vital support for communities around the world.

POPE FRANCIS' TEACHING ON THE EUCHARIST: The Eucharist is not a prize for being good and holy but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak. *Apostolic Exhortation on the proclamation of The Gospel in today's world.*

COLLECTIONS JANUARY TO PRESENT: St Marys £1,247. 23. St Paul's £914.99. Thank you for your continued generosity.

BIDDING PRAYERS for the First Sunday of Lent

Priest: Like Jesus in the wilderness, let us pause to consider the way forward in our lives and bring to the Lord the needs of our faith communities and beyond .

We pray for Pope Francis and All who serve our church communities that they may help us to build the kingdom of God in justice , wisdom and love.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who use the media to bring the message of the Gospel to the world: that they will use their creativity with responsibility, honesty and integrity

Lord, hear us

We pray for catechists and youth leaders: that they may help children and young people to grow in their knowledge of the God who loves them so much.

Lord, hear us

We pray for all who are sick: that God may be their strength and their healing .

We pray for those who are preparing to enter the waters of Baptism this Easter: that they will emerge from the water joyfully as new creations of Christ.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our own special needs.

We ask Mary the Mother of God to join us in our prayers as we pray Hail Mary.

Priest: Heavenly Father, as we gather to celebrate the Good News of Jesus, help us, through your Holy Spirit, to make it a reality of our time. We make these prayers through Christ our Lord Amen.

The Readings for Sunday 21st February 2021

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.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis 9:8-15

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.'

Psalm 24

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. **Response**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **Response**

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. **Response**

A reading from the first Letter of St Peter 3:18-22

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.

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!**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 1:12-15

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.'

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

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

Credo:

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,
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.