PRAYERS FOR LENT 2021, NO. 1

GOSPEL PASSAGE: MK 1: 12–15 (ESV)

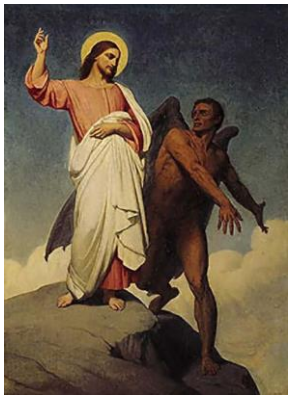
The Temptation of Jesus

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.
13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan.
And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying,
"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

QUESTIONS TO PONDER FROM THE GOSPEL …



1. How am I going to spend these 40 days of Lent in imitation of Jesus's 'retreat' in the wilderness?
2. What could I 'give up' in this sacred season in order to focus less on myself and more on my prayer and my God-given duty to care for my neighbour, near and far?
3. What good causes — especially for the poor — shall I look into so that they may benefit this year by my almsgiving?

EXTRACT FROM *PATRIS CORDE*

(Pope Francis's letter on the Year of St Joseph 2020/21)



One hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as *Patron of the Catholic Church* by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. … My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone… How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all." Each of us can discover in Joseph — the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence — an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all. (from the *Introduction*)

CaFOD Prayers for Lent

https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Lent-prayers

Fast Day prayer for Lent: *Come to the Water*



Loving God,
we hear your call to all who thirst
for a brighter future: "Come to the water."

Pour out your Spirit upon us
and lead us to walk alongside one another.

Let a desire for change well up within us.
May we overflow with compassion and love.

And as a stream wears away stone,
may we reshape our world together
to reflect your kingdom of hope for all.

Amen

Pope Francis's Prayer at this time of the Coronavirus outbreak.

O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus's pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus — who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows — to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of us who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

Our Lady, "Salus Populi Romani"

