

## Homily 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A 2023

We have with us this evening families preparing for the Baptism of their children. In the Gospel we meet Jesus just after his baptism in which he is told that the Father's favour rests on him. In other words that he is special. When we were baptised, the Father said exactly the same words to us. The Father's favour rests on us. Like Jesus we, too, are special. In seeking baptism for our children, we want them to experience and receive the special graces of God and grow up knowing that they are filled with God's blessing and with the favour of the Father.

Jesus then went into the desert to find out what this would mean for him. What did his specialness mean? Lent offers us the opportunity to ask the same questions. What does my specialness for God mean? How I am going to live my specialness? Can I live my life better? Lent suggests that a way you do this is to curb our appetites across the board not just with food (Fasting). We reach out to others through friendship, support, caring and offering charitable support (Almsgiving). And as the Cardinal stressed last week through prayer and reflection of the Word of God, listening to the Father in order to understand better his will for us (Prayer). **Baptism . . . . .**