OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

Liturgy
1st Sunday of Lent (C)

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: Deuteronomy 26:4-10
The creed of the chosen people

PSALM: Ps. 90:1-2.10-15.R.v15
R) Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **(R)**

Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. **(R)**

They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. **(R)**

His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8-13
The creed of the Christian.

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: Luke 4:1-13
Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness and was tempted there.

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



How nobly Jesus stands out in this account of his retreat into the desert! We find him weak with hunger after 40 days of fasting and lack of sleep. Yet he stands up firmly, strongly and with authority against the Devil's wiles. Later on, we will see this same authority driving devils out of the possessed. Jesus is our only protection against the Devil – there is no other. If Our Lady is seen with her foot on the serpent's head, it is in virtue of her Son's authority and because she is 'one thing' with him. The human race, at its beginning succumbed to the Devil's wiles and put itself in his power; consequently, it suffers his depredations: war, perversity, hatred, immorality (imagine what the devils' 'home', Hell, must be like!) The Son of God became man to be the human race's challenge to the Devil. Union with Jesus, through Baptism and the sacraments, is to share, like Our Lady, in Christ's holiness and authority. The more profound the union (through Holy Communion especially) the greater the protection against and authority over, the Evil One.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension Of Evangelization

The kingdom and its challenge

181. The kingdom, already present and growing in our midst, engages us at every level of our being and reminds us of the principle of discernment which Pope Paul VI applied to true development: it must be directed to "all men and the whole man".145 We know that "evangelization would not be complete if it did not take account of the unceasing interplay of the Gospel and of man's concrete life, both personal and social".146 This is the principle of universality intrinsic to the Gospel, for the Father desires the salvation of every man and woman, and his saving plan consists in "gathering up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth" (Eph 1:10).

145 Encyclical Letter Populorum Progressio (16 March 1967), 14: AAS 59 (1967), 264.

146 Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi (8 December 1975), 29: AAS 68 (1976), 25.

Day by Day with St Francis*

THE SONG OF THE FALCON

When he went to the hermitage of La Verna to observe a forty-day fast in honour of the Archangel Michael, birds of different kinds flew around his cell, with melodious singing and joyful movements, as if rejoicing at his arrival. They seemed to be inviting and enticing the devoted father to stay. When he saw this, he said to his companion: 'I see, brother, that it is God's will that we stay here for some time, for our sisters the birds seem so delighted at our presence.'

When he extended his stay there, a falcon nesting there bound itself to him in a great covenant of friendship with him. For at the hour of the night when the holy man usually rose for the divine office, it anticipated him with its noise and song. This pleased God's servant very much because such great concern for him shook out of him all sluggish laziness. But when Christ's servant was more than usually burdened with illness, the falcon would spare him and would not announce such early vigils. As if instructed by God, at about dawn it would ring the bell of its voice with a light touch.

In the joy of the different kinds of birds and in the song of the falcon, there certainly seems to have been a divine premonition of when this praiser and worshiper of God would be lifted up on the wings of contemplation and then would be exalted with a seraphic vision.

Bonaventure, The Major Legend of Saint Francis

***Excerpts from Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary Published by New City** ISBN: 9781905039166
These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.

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FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – 10TH MARCH

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Dr. John Luck (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	Deceased Members of the Carr Family
Monday 11th March	11.45am	lent feria
Friday 15th March	11.45am	lent feria – Norah King (RIP)
Sunday 17th March	**Second Sunday in Lent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Richard (Titch) Doyle (RIP Anniv.)
Sunday	9.00am	

Please remember in your prayers: Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, Breda Iommi, Marie Bolam, Baby David Ruth, Mike Rimmer , Natalie Aldridge and Louis Kayum.

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:
East Common, Ver Road, Dunstable Road, Rickyard Meadow, Cumberland Drive, Linden Road, Cell Park Farm, Farrer Top, King Street, Park View Drive, The Close, Church Road, London Road and Singlets Lane.

Cafod Family Fast Day is Friday 15th March. The Cafod message is 'Have a simple meal and give to save lives'. There will be a retiring collection next weekend.

Giving in Faith; With the money coming back to the parish from the Giving in Faith initiative, the project work for our parish is beginning with new lighting in the main body of the Church. The work begins 11th March. The plan for the work on the kitchen is continuing.

The Churches Together in Redbourn Lent Programme.
Wednesdays 10.00am at New Forge Place.
Thursdays 8.00pm at St. Mary's Transept.
Fridays 12.15pm Lent Charity Lunches in the Garden Room of the Methodist Church.
This week the lunch is prepared by the ladies of St John Fisher.
See Redbourn Common Round for more details or collect a programme from the back of the Church.

Special Note. On Thursday 28th March, this session requires quite a few people who will help to read the **Passion of Christ** out loud as an informal drama. Anybody can join in this particular reading.
It is not necessary to be a reader of any kind, it is an informal reading of the drama of the Passion.
We do need some men to read with us. Please let Fr. Michael know if you are able to help.

Redbourn Methodist Church Women's Fellowship are holding their Anniversary Service on Thursday 14th March at 2.30pm. followed by light refreshments.
An invitation is extended to the ladies of St, John Fisher.

In the porch there are many kinds of books that need new homes. Any donation will be given to CAFOD.

Children's Liturgy. The Children's liturgy classes on Sunday are currently running with just three volunteers. We would love at least three more volunteers to explore the Word of God. Its not at all difficult, no previous experience is required, and with more people, we can ensure that all our children benefit. Please let Fr. Michael know if you can help. We are also looking for people to have CRB clearance. We should always have two CRB clearance volunteers in the classes. Therefore one CRB cleared person could be present but not necessarily active with the children. This would greatly help the volunteers. This CRB clearance is the very basic one. Please speak to Vicky Carr if you can help.