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.cf.v3

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

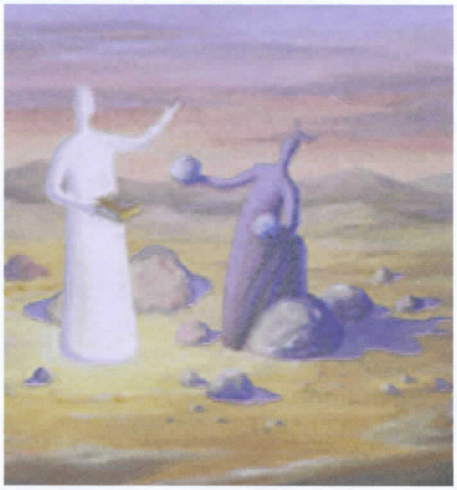
One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

VOCATION

Prayer For Marriage:

Lord God you call many of us
to be husbands and wives, parents,
and children, in youth and old age,
in sickness and in health.
You call us to love and holiness.
Help us be a living image of you,
and bring life to the world.
Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Jesus is very weak after his fast and consequently he is very vulnerable. The Devil clearly recognizes this and he starts his temptations – with food. He then moves on to false confidence in God's love, a confidence ignoring the privilege of human responsibility. Finally, he offers riches, success, power. Such temptations are familiar to all human beings, but are usually presented more subtly, so that many forget or ignore the reality of the evil one, consequently making themselves more open to attack. Scripture makes it clear that temporarily the Devil and his followers have a limited freedom of action in the world, always – as the book of Job shows, and in the New Testament Jesus' actions in driving out evil spirits – subject to the authority of God. God's mercy, it seems, tolerates their presence in the world. On one occasion, the spirits begged Jesus not to send them back into *"the abyss"*, but to send them into the nearby herd of pigs; and Jesus permitted it. Nevertheless, they are enemies of God and therefore enemies of those God loves and protects.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension of Evangelization

Unity prevails over conflict

226. Conflict cannot be ignored or concealed. It has to be faced. But if we remain trapped in conflict, we lose our perspective, our horizons shrink and reality itself begins to fall apart. In the midst of conflict, we lose our sense of the profound unity of reality.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

GOD IN THE ORDINARY

God is present even in our littleness and inadequacy. Intelligence and great deeds are not the heart of surrender. Wide horizons, sure ground and solid rock are only found in doing God's will in the midst of ordinary life. We do what has to be done and leave it at that. There is a sense of not knowing where we are going, or what we are doing, because we can often feel so helpless.

All we can do is to walk along one step at a time. Eternity is already with us because eternity consists in love, and love is embraced by us in the duties and sufferings of the present. Behind every cloud the sun is shining; so God is there behind the clouds of suffering even when we are not aware of the Divine presence.

We have to be light as a feather, fluid as water, innocent as a child, responding to each movement of grace as if we were a balloon floating along in the air currents, or like molten metal filling whatever vessel God pours us into. Everything turns out for the best when we give ourselves unreservedly to God. All things work together for good for those who love God.

*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1

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THE GOD WHO SPEAKS. — A YEAR OF THE WORD

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT – 1ST MARCH 2020

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	SHEILA SEDGELEY (INTS)
Sunday	9.00am	Parishioner's Intentions
Monday 2nd March	11.45am	Lent feria
Friday 6th March	11.45 am	Lent feria
Sunday 8th March	**Second Sunday in Lent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	Dr. John Luck (RIP Anniv)
Sunday	9.00am	Rachael Rimmer (Intentions)

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 6th March. There will be a retiring collection this weekend.

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin, Rachael Rimmer and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
Downedge, Bassett Close, Blackhorse Lane, Wheatlock Mead, Harding Close, Lynsey Close, Cell, Dunstable Road, High View, Park Close, Sursham Court, Cheverells Green, Little Wood End and Roe End Lane.

St. Albans Abbey Gateway Orchestra will be performing a charity concert at St. John Fisher Church, Redbourn, on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets, adults £10 and children under 16 £5, are available after all Masses.

Coffee Morning Rota for 2020. This is a once a month community gathering.
We need more volunteers, especially for July & August.
Please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the Church.

World Day of Prayer takes place on 6th March at 11.00am at the Methodist Church.
This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe.

Throughout the year 2020, the Catholic's Bishop Conference of England and Wales will be celebrating a Year of the Word called ***The God who Speaks.*** This special year marks not only the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini,* The Word of the Lord, but also the 1600th anniversary of the death of St. Jerome, known for translating the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal runs throughout the time of Lent.
Cardinal's Lenten Appeal – does your parish need funding?
Does your parish have a new or innovative project, which advances one of the three mission areas?
Funding is available, so please apply!
1. Marriage and Family Life – enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church.
2. Youth and Evangelisation – supporting young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith.
3. Social Outreach within Civil Society – projects that put our faith into action by serving the poor, the lonely and the marginalised, especially at a time of greater division and inequality in society