



# St John's Weekly News 21st February 2021

## A message from Alice's desk.

On this First Sunday of Lent, the Gospel reading is about the baptism of Christ, his temptation in the wilderness and the beginning of his ministry in Galilee. Unlike Matthew and Luke who elaborate further, Mark gives us a very brief account of 7 verses. For 40 days Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted by Satan.

Jesus lived with wild beasts and the angels waited on him. In the wilderness, Jesus prepared for his mission in the world.

Since last year, lots of us have lived in the wilderness of covid-19 pandemic. Some have lost their source of livelihood; others have lived alone shielding. Lots of people have succumbed to covid-19. We have seen frightening statistics across the world.

In the 40 days of Lent, we are encouraged to reflect on our fragile nature as human beings, repent, fast, pray and draw closer to God.

Following the temptations in the wilderness, Jesus proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom of God.

**Alice**

## GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

## Baptism

Baptism is an important sacrament because Jesus was baptised, and after his resurrection he told his disciples that they too should be baptised.

Jesus also commanded his disciples to use the act of baptism

to welcome new disciples into the Church.

This is known as the Great Commission.



God has created me to do Him some definite service.

He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place,  
while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.

He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers.

He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me.

Still, He knows what He is about.

John Henry Newman



Blessed are you, sovereign God of all, to you be glory and praise for ever.

You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit, may daily be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Please pray this week for:** Linda, Kay, Jean, Wayne, all those celebrating their birthday this week and everyone living on Whitefoot Lane.

T Y Y J K E W N U P D N O I D  
D Z J J V S E U G J Z X F X G  
V Q V O C X P Y I A E R J M I  
O A L I H W F I M S L S D W F  
I O M K F N U A R Z H I U P X  
C M X X B F L E T I U P L S X  
E H S O N Z F T J N T Z W E U  
A I K R Z X I J S Y B E L R E  
K U A D P S L O B Y A T T K P  
C O W S D K L R K C P W H F Q  
Y P D E G A G D W I T A E L M  
E E S O R P M A E M I T A B S  
B N K U V H D N B M Z E V P G  
S E W R L E Z O A H E R E A Z  
T D P L E A S E D O D L N N Z



"I thought it would make baptisms more fun!"

GALILEE	HEAVEN	VOICE	LOVE	JESUS
OPENED	DOVE	JOHN	PLEASED	SON
JORDAN	WATER	FULFILL	BAPTIZED	SPIRIT