

# PARISH OF ST GEORGE

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: FATHER THADDEUS OPARA

Tel: 01948 662935 Email: parishprieststg@gmail.com

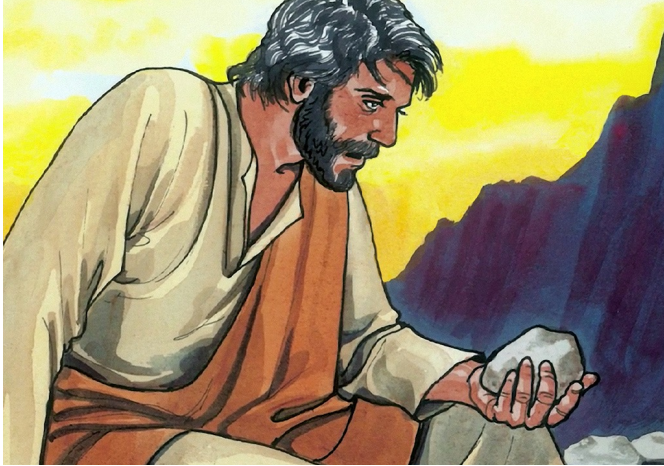
www.https://saintgeorgeswhitchurch.org.uk



**First Sunday of Lent February 18th**

**2024**

GOSPEL : Mark 1:12-15



In the Gospel, we are told that Jesus faced and defeated the tempter at the end of his forty days of prayer, penance, and communion with the Father in the desert immediately following his baptism. It also tells us how Jesus started preaching his Messianic mission: "The time is fulfilled. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent. Believe in the Gospel."

## **Why was Jesus tempted after his baptism?**

The author of Hebrews used the temptation narrative to show that the Incarnate Son of God wanted to experience human life to the full, except for sin. Since temptation and how we respond to it are integral parts of our lives, Jesus experienced them also. The Fathers of the Church explain that Jesus' temptations are described after his baptism to teach us why we are tempted and to show us how we should conquer temptations. Baptism and Confirmation give us the weapons we need to do battle with Satan. God never tempts people, and never permits them to be tempted beyond their strength. But He does allow them to be tempted. Why? Here are the five reasons given by the Fathers:

i) so that we can learn by experience that [with God] we are indeed stronger than the tempter; ii) to prevent us from becoming conceited over having God's gifts; iii) that the devil may receive proof that we have completely renounced him; iv) that by the struggle we may become even stronger; and v) that we may realize how precious is the grace we have received.

## **LIFE MESSAGE**

1) Let us conquer our temptations as Jesus did, using the methods Jesus employed: prayer, self-denial, and timely use of the word of God. During this Lent, let us confront our evil tendencies by talking to God, by listening to Him speaking to us though the Holy Bible, and by practicing self-control to subdue our evil tendencies.

2) Let us convert Lent into a time for spiritual growth and Christian maturity by: a) participating in the Mass each day, or at least a few days in the week; b) setting aside some part of our day for personal prayer; c) reading some Scripture, alone or, better still, with others. d) setting aside some money we might spend on ourselves for meals, entertainment, or clothes and giving it to an organization which takes care of the less fortunate in our society; e) abstaining from smoking, alcohol, and other evil addictions; f) receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Lent and participating in the "Stations of the Cross" on Fridays; g) visiting the sick and those in nursing homes, and h) doing some acts of charity, kindness, and mercy every day in the Lent.

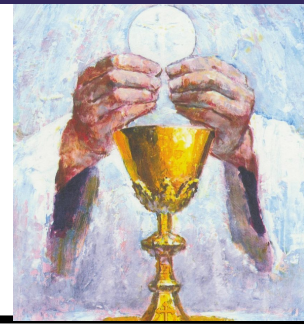
3) Let us use Lent to fight daily against the evil within us and around us by practicing self-control, relying on the power of prayer, and seeking the assistance and the daily anointing of the Holy Spirit.

**REMEMBER FRIDAYS STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
AFTER MASS 6PM**

**Anima Christi:**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, embolden me.  
Water from the side of Christ, Wash me.  
Passion of Christ, Strengthen me.  
O Good Jesus, hear me.  
Within your wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from you.  
From the wicked foe, defend me.  
At the hour of my death, call me and bid  
me come to you.  
That with your saints I may praise you  
For ever and ever.  
Amen



**Mass Times**

Saturday 17th February	6:30pm	For the departed Priests
Sunday 18th February	9:30 am 11:00pm	Rose Rich Intentions Tony Jones
Monday 19th February	10:00am	J .C Opara
Tuesday 20th February	10:00am	The Sick
<b>Wednesday 21st February</b>	Sacristy	Barbara Young
Thursday 22nd February <i>Chair of St. Peter</i>	10:00am	Sanctification of Priests
Friday 23rd February St. Polycarp	6:00pm	Vocations
Saturday 24th February	6:30pm	Mildred Miles
Sunday 25th February	9:30am 11am	Parishoners Parishioners

**lunch will be served throughout Lent at the Watergate Centre, Whitchurch, Wednesday 28th February will be hosted by St.George's. Any help on that day will be gratefully received.**

The Holy Family Prayer

JESUS, Son of God and Son of Mary, bless our family. Graciously inspire in us the unity, peace, and mutual love that you found in your own family in the little town of Nazareth.

MARY, Mother of Jesus and Our Mother, nourish our family with your faith and your love. Keep us close to your Son, Jesus, in all our sorrows and joys.

JOSEPH, Foster-father to Jesus, guardian and spouse of Mary, keep our family safe from harm. Help us in all times of discouragement or anxiety.  
Amen

**Say your daily rosary for peace in the world**



<b>Sat 6:30pm</b>	<b>Sun. 9:30am</b>	<b>Sun. 11:00am</b>
Roland Young	Richard Shrimplin	Maria Latty

Mass Offering for 21st January—£339.56

Standing orders—£118.25

**Confession is Saturdays 5-6pm, 30mins before and after mass and on request.**

Our Parish Safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke