

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.**

COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred. 'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18

Response: **You, Lord,
have the message of eternal life.**

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)

4. They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb. (R)

SECOND READING 1:22-25

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,

whoever believes in me will never die.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

GOSPEL 2:13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings, and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins, may take care to forgive our neighbour.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young, by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge of things yet hidden in heaven and are nourished while still on earth with the Bread that comes from on high, we humbly entreat you, O Lord, that what is being brought about in us in mystery may come to true completion.

Through Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

What comes first: your daily activities or your faith life? Why? How can you make your faith life more important in your day-to-day life?

Do you know people who put their faith lives before other concerns? Do these people seem to have a sense of serenity and peace about them? Why do you suppose they seem so contented?

When we give generously our gift is returned to us many times over. Do you think our gift is actually returned in a material sense? Or might we realize we don't need as much as we thought we did?

What kind of ethics should be practiced by Christians involved in the business world?

Do business and industry have an obligation to minister to the needs of the poor and disadvantaged? Should corporations devote a portion of their resources to making the world a better place?

Do faith communities have a responsibility to use available resources to meet the needs of the poor and disadvantaged? Why is it especially important that a faith community be generous with its resources?

How can businesses and the church work together to help alleviate social ills?

GOSPEL ACTION

Look carefully at your life. Do you generally satisfy material needs before the needs of your faith life? How do you use your resources to help the poor, needy, marginalized, and disadvantaged? Find out if your faith community uses its resources to reach out to the poor.

Readings – 4th Sunday in Lent Year B

First Reading: 2Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Homily

7th March 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

Dear friends, in 3 weeks-time we will be celebrating Palm Sunday as we begin Holy Week and I can't believe how quickly time seems to be going at the moment. I wonder how Lent is going for you? On Tuesday I was asking myself the same question and I had to admit, that when I reflected on the three disciplines of Lent; **Prayer – Fasting – Almsgiving**, nothing much had changed for me over the first couple of Lenten weeks, other than doing the daily CAFOD Walk for Water, which I am thoroughly enjoying. Hopefully though, since Tuesday I have managed to change! It's easy to get caught up in the business of everyday life, it's never too late to start again, like I did on Tuesday. Lent is an important time for us as we get ready to celebrate Holy Week and the great joy and glory of Easter.

The great news for us is that the Church doors will be open again for us this year and we will be able to celebrate the beautiful Holy Week and Easter liturgies in our Church albeit in a slightly reduced and somewhat scaled-down way in view of the current restrictions. Because we have restricted numbers permitted in Church at any one time, we will be operating a booking system from this weekend onwards, to reserve places at all the Holy Week and Easter Masses and services like we did at Christmas time. It is important to book places asap as the booking system will be on a first come, first served basis.

In today's First Reading we hear how Moses, after leading the people out of captivity in Egypt, meets God on Mount Sinai and is given the Ten Commandments. The first three of these commandments explore what we are called to in our relationship with God, while the following seven lay out how we are to interact with each other. To God, we are called to give fidelity, reverence and also time. One day of the week in particular is set apart for worship and rest, the Sabbath day. In ancient Israel the temple was the privileged place of encounter with God and worship of God and in his cleansing of it, Jesus claims it once again as a place of fidelity and reverence where commerce, wealth and greed have no place.

As Christians we are called to set aside time for God in our week, so that we can draw near to him in reverence and love. I wonder how well we keep the sabbath day holy, with all the different pressures that society places on us today?

Reflecting on the Gospel, we know that Jesus will suffer the same fate of many of the prophets before him, rejection, persecution and even death. When the

Homily

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Jews ask him for a sign, Jesus dares to name himself as the new and living temple in which the divine presence dwells. Ultimately, the sanctuary of his body will be destroyed in his passion and death, only to be raised again three days later. It is only after these events have happened that the disciples will remember these words and come to understand their real and true meaning.

For us, who are the living stones in the temple of Christ's body, Lent is also a time for cleansing our hearts and lives, for driving out anything that clutters our relationship with God, anything that blocks our ears to the word of God and distracts us from discipleship and lovingly using the gifts and talents that have been given to us for the service of others.

I hope this week is a good one for you, please take time to spend with the Lord.

Sending love, take care and God bless, **Fr Phil x**

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

7th March 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

We bring all our prayers to God our Father:

We pray for the Church: that she may be a beacon of hope throughout the world, reminding us of our responsibility to care for and protect Our Common Home and God's precious gift of Creation. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for Pope Francis as he makes his historic visit to Iraq: that it may be a fruitful pilgrimage of peace and reconciliation bringing people together in unity and love. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all in our school communities as they return this week: that God may inspire them as they begin face-to-face learning once again.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish and our local community: that through the grace of God we may hear the urgent cry of the earth and of the poor and be inspired to respond at this crucial time. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for world leaders: that God may grant them wisdom to make just decisions which respect the earth and all that lives in it, especially those who are poorest and most vulnerable. **Lord, in your mercy...**

We pray for all the faithful departed especially **Ellen Moore, Yvonne Craven**, those who have died from Covid-19 and all those who have died recently: **"Eternal rest grant unto them..."**

We pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones; may Christ's message of hope in eternal life bring them comfort and consolation.

Lord, in your mercy.....

We ask Our Lady and all the Saints to join their prayers with ours as we say: **"Hail Mary..."**

God our loving Father,
we offer these and all our prayers
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Bidding Prayers and Spiritual Communion

7th March 2021 – 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of St Alphonsus

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and
I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.
Amen.

CAFOD Prayer for Glasgow

Creator God,
We cry out to you
The earth is damaged and in chaos
People in poverty are suffering the most
Greed and consumerism are a disease
And your Church is too often asleep

Merciful Lord,
Protect your people and restore your earth,
Embolden governments to take action,
Awaken Church leaders
Give the youth influence
And guide businesses to change

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord
May we unite and be bold
Take heart and find hope in you,
Worship you with our lifestyles
Walk in your truth
and see justice and renewal in the earth

Amen