

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH In NEW MILTON

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

15 Mount Ave, New Milton. BH25 6NT.

Parish priest: *Father George Ngwa*



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR "B" 28th FEBRUARY 2021

GOD TESTS – BUT THE DEVIL TEMPTS

Last Sunday our Gospel reading (first Sunday of Lent) presented for our meditation, the temptation of Jesus and subsequently what temptation is for us Christians. Our Lord Jesus, the “second Adam” was “led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan” (Mark 1:12 – 15), Satan tried to appeal to Jesus’ divinity and humanity in his trickery manner in these three ways. **Food, Wealth and Power, Worship a false god – (Idolatry)**

This Sunday (second Sunday of Lent), God is putting Abraham to the test, asking him to sacrifice his only son, from whom he has been promised descendants and a great nation. Abraham went out with a very heavy heart but with a resolve to obey God. In the end he is assured of this same promise of God on an oath.

Temptation is the intentional enticement of a person, by something call it a bait—usually pride, always self-gratifying to us or the senses and meant to disobey God’s commandments or revealed truth and Word. The predicate may be demonic or of the flesh, but the object is always the distortion of God’s word and the defiance of God’s mission in the world.

Temptation and Original Sin

Temptation is as old as the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. The devil, in the form of the serpent, tempted our first parents, Adam and Eve. They fell for the lie, which flattered them, and were led into the trap of death and loss. Where Adam and Eve failed, Jesus triumphed. And the victory in the wilderness is not only a sign of reversal of Eden, but of the failure by Israel in the wilderness, and the very fall of mankind. The tradition of the Church concerning Lent has been to address the meaning of temptation and Christ’s victory for our lives as Christians.

What Does the Bible Say about Temptation?

We can point to many Scriptures that discuss the concept of temptation, but 2 below are worth mentioning.

James 1:13: *"When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone."*

God doesn't tempt us. The devil does. It makes no sense for God to want to tempt us. Sin is antithetical to his very nature.

1 Corinthians 10:13: *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."*

When we face temptation, we need to rely on God. He can provide a way for us to escape its clutches and to continue down the paths of righteousness.

Testing and Temptation

It is important to address one important notion of the Bible's teaching on temptation. "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." But the Apostle James declared that God does not tempt us (**James 1:13**). Only the devil entices unto rebellion against God. Why even pray, "Lead us not into temptation" if God does not tempt? It can seem confusing. The confusion is settled by understanding that the Bible teaches that there is a difference between "temptation," which is of the devil, the flesh, and the world; and "testing" which is of God. God tests His people. God tested Abraham. God tested Job. The Lord even used Peter's test when he failed, to bring about spiritual clarity and inner strength to him. Peter would need the courage won from the forgiveness of Jesus to face the critical trials that lay ahead.

WAYS TO RESIST TEMPTATION

Each one of us has certain sins that are particularly troubling to us. Every Christian faces temptation, and the devil is very good at finding our weakest points and seducing us with them, whether that be amassing wealth, gluttony, a drink habit over the limit, sexual sin, sins of anger, jealousy, covetousness, laziness, pride, insecurity, worry, or any others. It's important to make a distinction between temptation and sin. Temptation can lead to sin. However, Jesus never sinned and yet experienced every temptation we do (Heb. 4:15). Therefore one of the ways to battle sin is to know how to resist temptation.

Pray as Jesus taught, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matt. 6:13). - When the disciples kept succumbing to sleep while Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told them to "watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation" (Matt. 26:41). Apart from God, we have no hope of resisting temptation. This is why humble prayer must be our constant companion. Praying as Jesus taught us in the Lord's prayer that God would "lead us not into temptation" is praying for our deliverance from even facing temptation. Praying with others is also a great way to help you keep in the practice of prayer. Another way is to ask good Christians for prayer for protection from specific habits that lead into sin.

Know yourself well. - As the phrase goes, "Know yourself and know your enemy." Knowing the enemy is a crucial aspect of any battle. In the Christian life, we have many enemies, one of which is our old corrupt nature that lingers within us (Rom. 7:21-23; Eph. 4:22). It may seem odd, but we must make a study of ourselves. Personality, circumstances, disposition, and life experiences are all factors that can make us more susceptible to certain kinds of temptations. How can we be on guard for something unless we know what we are looking for?

Learn to recognize temptation. - Temptation presents something to us as pleasant, true, or both. We want to give in because it presents something to us that pulls on our desires and presents us with something that seems good. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. (James 1:14-16) The problem is that in the moment of temptation, we might not at first recognize that what is before us leads to sin. We can combat this by learning to recognize temptation when it comes along. We can also prevent it by filling ourselves with the things God tells us in his Word are good and fruitful things (1 Tim. 6:11). We need to faithfully sit under the teaching of the Word so we can get better and better at discerning when we are being tempted.

Take preventative action. - If you know certain situations will bring you into temptation (going to a bar, going online by yourself, watching certain movies, being around certain people, etc) take preventative action and avoid those things. Like Joseph who fled from Potiphar's wife when she tried to seduce him, we must sometimes simply run away or avoid the things that tempt us.

Quote Scripture to yourself. - When Jesus was tempted by the devil, the devil quoted the Bible to Jesus hoping to trick him by sounding good and pious. Jesus' response was to quote Scripture right back at the devil, showing the devil's twisted and wrongful use of God's own words (Matt. 4:5-7). The Word is also called the "sword of the Spirit" by Paul (Eph. 6:17), and we can use it to battle those things that tempt us.

Rest - We are more susceptible to temptation when we are exhausted. When we are tired we are weakened and so more vulnerable to the deceptions of the devil. Rest is very important for our spirituality, and we must be extra vigilant when are tired, asking the Lord for extra strength to resist temptation.

Remember there is always a way of escape - God never allows us to be tempted beyond what we can take but always provides us with a way out. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. (1 Cor. 10:13). He also gives us himself without limit to call upon his strength for resistance and endurance. "God has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Josh. 1:5; Heb. 13:5). He also gives us his church, a community of fellow fighters, to help us in our battles. We need to take full advantage of these resources God provides so that we can effectively turn away from sin and be filled more and more with the goodness and grace of God.

Fr. George Ngwa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY MASS BOOKING ON LINE DURING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

As we are still in Lock Down it will be necessary to continue restricting the number of parishioners in Church for each Mass to approximately 45, which means that you will need to book your place in advance. We now have an "on-line" booking system in place, which you can find by going onto our website at

<https://www.nfwp.org.uk> - (scroll down left-hand column to CORONAVIRUS: Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes, New Milton and click on CORONAVIRUS: How to book a seat for Mass). Alternatively the Links for Sundays in March are as follows:-

7th March - <https://forms.gle/ha9YVWwYtaohZcPD8>

14th March - <https://forms.gle/72BeVS45GeZhZzA49>

21st March - <https://forms.gle/ZFq9W9Jgj3DUmYFZA>

28th March - <https://forms.gle/XRb7xtUwMyfCc5Gc9>

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

Abdul lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Donate online at cafod.org.uk/give or Text LENT 5 to 70460 to give £5 LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10

LENT 20 to 70460 to give £20. Jill Parsons is also walking alongside Abdulla this Lent by challenging herself to walk

10,000 steps, every day, for 40 days. You can sponsor her at: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walk-for-water1041>

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY 5TH MARCH – Because of the Pandemic, the service in the New Milton area has had to be cancelled. The theme from the South Pacific Island of Vanatu is “**Build on a strong Foundation**”. The Annual Service is the only income for the “**WDP**” and although the normal service will not be taking place, the funds are still needed for them to continue their work. Please pray for the work of the WDP.

Some services may be accessible on line (www.wwdp.org.uk) and there are some service booklets will be available in Church.

Donations can be made to WDP HQ – details on website, or by cheque directly to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT during the COVID PANDEMIC. Whether or not you are a Gift Aider and you would like to continue supporting your Church through this difficult time, you may wish to organise a Standing Order arrangement with your bank to pay your collection directly into our Church bank account. Details as follows: - Lloyds Bank - Sort Code 30-93-04, Account No: 00883116, Account Name – PRC DTR New Milton. Or you may prefer to give your donation directly to the Office. Thank you! If you do decide to pay money directly into our Bank Account, it would be very helpful for our Treasurer if you could write what it is for in the Reference Box when paying on line, i.e. Church donation, Intention, Cafod etc.

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B 28th FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday Vigil	27	2021 Feb.	Vigil Mass of the 2 nd Sunday of Lent Year B	18:00 Holy Mass - <i>Eamon Norton (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	28	Feb.	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year B	08:00 Holy Mass – <i>Abbie Soni (12th Birthday Blessings)</i> 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>John Lee Williams (5th Anniversary RIP)</i>	
Monday	01	Mar.	ST DAVID Year B	10:00 Holy Mass	17:00 Living Rosary
Tuesday	02	Mar.	Tuesday of the 2 nd Week of Lent Year B	18:00 Exposition 18:30 Rosary 18:50 Benediction 19:00 Holy Mass – <i>Holy Souls</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Wednesday	03	Mar.	Wednesday of the 2 nd Week of Lent Year B	09:25 Stations of the Cross 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass – <i>Helena Krupka (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Thursday	04	Mar.	Thursday of the 2 nd Week of Lent Year B	10:00 a.m. Holy Mass - <i>For All Souls in Purgatory (RIP)</i>	6:00-7:00 p.m. Rosary, Benediction
Friday	05	Mar.	Friday of the 2 nd Week of Lent Year B	09:25 Stations of the Cross 10:00 Holy Mass – <i>Cathy Pickles & Renee Pickles (RIP)</i>	6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Rosary and Benediction
Saturday	06	Mar.	Saturday of the 2 nd Week of Lent Year B	09:30 Divine Mercy Devotion 10:00 Holy Mass - <i>Margaret & Raymond Clamp (RIP)</i>	
Saturday Vigil			Vigil Mass of the 3 rd Sunday of Lent Year B	18:00 Holy Mass – <i>John Williams (RIP)</i>	
Sunday	07	Mar.	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B	8:00 - Holy Mass – <i>Jeanette Patching (9th Anniversary RIP)</i> 10:00 – Holy Mass - <i>For Control of the Covid-19 Virus</i>	

Next Special Collection – 13/14th March – (obligatory) for Clergy Assistance Fund

Your continued financial support during these very challenging times would be very much appreciated

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Parish office: 01425 614968 ololnewmilton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Hall Bookings suspended during the Pandemic.

Secretary: Lizzie Davies– Office Hours 12.00h to 15.00h Wednesday & 10.00h to 13.00h Friday

Our Parish Live Streaming: <http://churchservices.tv/newmilton> Website: www.nfwp.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Tony Harwood Tel: 01425 511 952 or email hughharwood314@hotmail.co.uk

PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE – (to be said at home even with Church closure).
O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for the Catholic Faith, for Mission, Outreach and Service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church. May Mary Immaculate help us. May St. Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel - St Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world seeking the ruin of souls - AMEN