



# St John Plessington Catholic College

**Aspire**  
have not to **more**  
but to **be**  
**more**  
Archbishop Rattini

## Liturgical Theme for the week Week Commencing 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 “Try to be perfect”

“If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.”  
Desmond Tutu



### **Pope Francis tells us:**

“A love that fails to grow is at risk. Growth can only occur if we respond to God's grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful.”



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*Matthew 5:38-48*

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

*You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.*



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Our Gospel this week contains some very comforting words. There are times when each of us is overcome by worry, we fear that we have been forgotten. A crisis hits our family or that of a friend, or we try our best at some task or exam and fail, or perhaps a friendship falls apart, and we ask ourselves, “Where is God in all this?” The prophets in the Old Testament tell us, “God is here. He loves each one of us more than we can begin to imagine, even more than the love of a mother for her new born baby.

God loves each one of us, here and now. He is not putting his love off until tomorrow. He loves us now. When we are worried we need to stop and think about that. God is loving me with a love that is deeper than we can begin to fathom. So when we worry about fear of the unknown, what will tomorrow bring? Will I survive the next crisis? Will I get all the work done that I need to be successful? What if this happens? What if that happens? We need to hear Jesus telling us to calm down, and trust him. Yes we have to prepare for the future. But fearing the unknown gets us nowhere and it is also a failure of our trust in God that he will care for us. Each day is filled with God's love for us.

Today will not come around again, ever. God expects us to fill today with acts of love for him and for his presence in other people.



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Loving Father, in faith and love, we ask you to watch over your family.

May we learn to place our trust in you, even when the going gets tough. Help us to remember that you love us and accompany us at each stage of our journey through life.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us



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**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

On Wednesday this week we begin our journey together as a community through Lent. In these last two days of “Ordinary time” in the church’s calendar we begin to think about what we can do to make Lent mean something different to us this year. This means we may have to give some serious thought about the person that we think we are. “Would I choose myself as a friend?” is perhaps a good starting point for us to think about this. What are the things we would like about ourselves and what are the things that would put us off choosing our self as a friend?

## **Today’s Prayer**

Teach us Lord to serve you as you deserve.  
To give and not to count the cost.  
To fight and not to heed the wounds.  
To work and not to seek rest.  
To labour and not to ask for any reward.  
Save that of doing your will.  
Amen. St John Plessington. Pray for us







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**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Today we celebrate Mardi Gras. Today is also known by different names, “Pancake Tuesday”, “Fat Tuesday” Today we traditionally are asked to eat up all the good food that we have before we begin the season of Lent, during which we try to do without some of the luxuries of life.

## **Today’s Prayer**

Loving Lord, we thank you for the abundance of gifts that you shower upon us.

We thank you especially for one another.

As we give you thanks, we remember those who have so much less than we do.

As we share these wonderful gifts together, we commit ourselves to be more generous towards those who need our support.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us





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**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

## **Ash Wednesday**

During Lent the Church asks us to think about our lives and try to become more loving, more thoughtful, more compassionate. Sometimes we think about giving up things, like sweets, chocolate or biscuits. We call this kind of “giving up” FASTING. Let us now listen to what the Prophet Isaiah has to say about this:

### **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:**

This is the fast I want, says the Lord. Untie the ropes of injustice.  
Free those who are oppressed. Share your bread with the hungry.  
Shelter the homeless. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear.  
Be loyal to members of your family. Then your light will shine like the dawn.  
Then you will call and the Lord will answer. You will call for help and the Lord will say,  
“Here I am.”





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**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

## **Ash Wednesday**

Let us pause and think for a few moments about what we could do for Lent to make in our homes and our college community more loving.

## **Today's Prayer**

Father, your love for us is new and strong every day in our lives.

Help us to receive this love into our lives.

May your love grow within us this Lent so that we may give time to prayer and to helping other people.

We make this prayer to Christ our Lord.

Amen .

St John Plessington







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**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

During Lent the Church asks us to pray. Praying is simply talking to God and spending time with him. When his disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, this was his reply, "In your prayers, do not babble as the pagans do, for they think that by using many words they will make themselves heard. Do not be like them; your Father knows what you need before you ask him. So pray like this:

Our Father in heaven,  
May your name be held holy,  
Your Kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we have forgiven those who are in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test,  
But save us from the evil one."

A graphic for Lent 2020. It features a teal background. On the left is a white ladder icon. To its right, the text 'LENT 2020' is written in white, with 'LENT' in a larger font. Below this, the text 'God in this Place' is written in a smaller white font.

LENT 2020  
God in this Place



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**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

In this prayer we ask God to be with us so that we can make wise choices, we ask him to take care of our daily needs, to forgive us when we have been selfish and to make us strong to choose the right thing so that our lives will be good and holy.

## **Today's Prayer**

Lord, remind us to pray the Our Father often. Be with us this Lent.

Show us how to walk in your light and to always follow you.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

St John Plessington

Pray for us





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**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

In this first week of Lent, let us turn our thoughts to other people, especially those in need, and ask the Lord to help them.

The response is; HEAR OUR PRAYER

We pray for our families, our parents, brothers and sisters. May God bless them, especially any who are in trouble at the moment,  
We pray to the Lord,

We pray for people who have very little confidence in themselves, especially those who turn to drugs to find their self worth.  
We pray to the Lord,

 **LENT 2020**  
God in this Place