



St John Plessington Catholic College

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

Liturgical Theme for the week Week Commencing 2nd March 2020 “Being Tempted”

“Do not be embarrassed by your failures, learn from them and start again.”
Richard Branson



Pope Francis tells us:

“Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”



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Matthew 4: 1-11

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted for forty days and nights. After this, he was very hungry. The devil came to Jesus to tempt him, saying, "If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person lives not on bread alone, but by everything God says.'"

Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and put him on a high place of the Temple. The devil said, "If you are the Son of God, jump down, because it is written in the Scriptures: 'He has put his angels in charge of you.

They will catch you in their hands so that you will not hit your foot on a rock.'"

Jesus answered him, "It also says in the Scriptures, "Do not test the Lord your God."

Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and all their splendour. The devil said, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things."

Jesus said to the devil, "Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

So the devil left Jesus, and angels came and took care of him.



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Everyone, in the world today is tempted, it is as much a part of being human as eating or sleeping. In our gospel this week we hear about Jesus being tempted in the desert by the Devil.

The Devil wanted Jesus to trust in his power, rather than that of his Father. But Jesus resists everything that the Devil tries to tempt him with. He proves that good is a stronger force than evil.

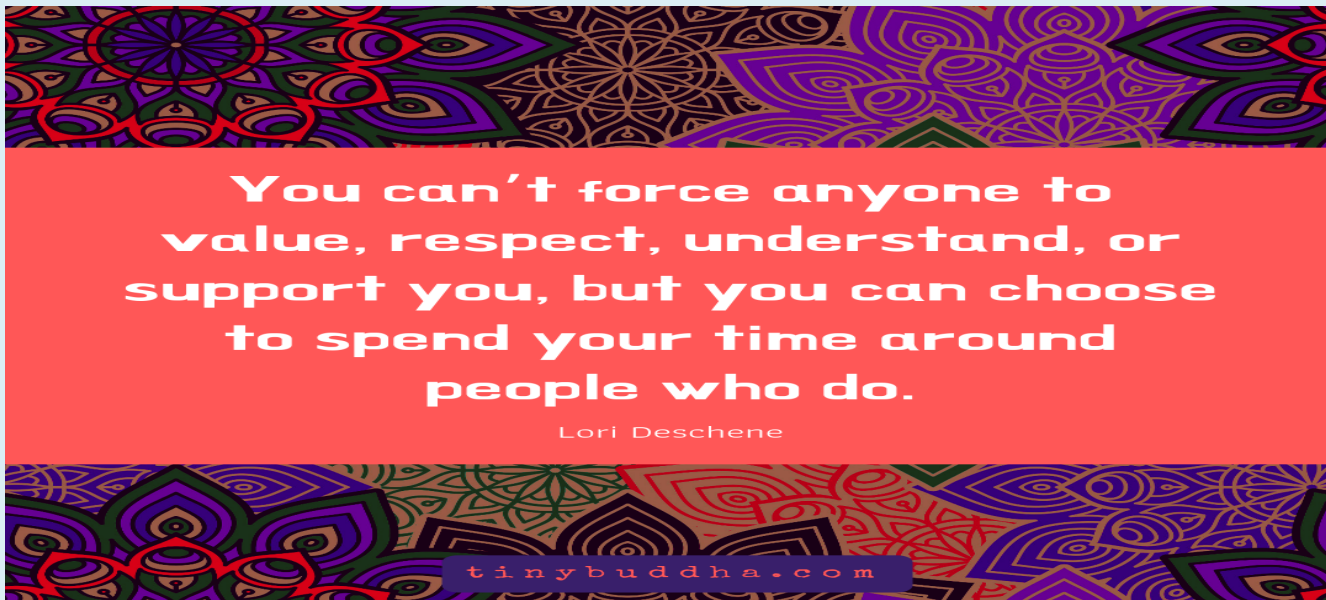
And like Jesus, we can fight the temptation to be bought by the world. There are many people who have sold their souls for wealth and power. The Devil tempts us to join those who do evil, who turn off their consciences and reap wealth beyond our imaginations from the drug industry for example. There is a lot of money to be made by cheating our way to the top of the business world, but we refuse to sell our souls to the Devil. As Christians we live for God and not for ourselves.



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At the end of the Gospel, Satan leaves Jesus, and the angels came to him, to look after him. There are angels sent by God into our world today, just think about the many angels you have met in your life who have helped and supported you?





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Father, your Son resisted the temptations of the devil, while fasting for forty days. May we too resist temptation more strongly during the forty days of Lent. We ask you to help us with your grace and strength.

Amen.

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Monday 2nd March 2020

During Lent the Church asks us to try to be a bit more forgiving. Let us listen to what Jesus has to say, Jesus said, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not blame and you will not be blamed. Forgive and you will be forgiven.”

- Let us take a few moments to reflect on this reading. What would our world be like, the places where we live, our college if everyone stopped blaming and judging others? What might life be like if, instead of bearing grudges and looking for revenge, we forgave those who hurt us?





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Monday 2nd March 2020

Today's Prayer

Lord, we ask your forgiveness for all our sins.
LORD HAVE MERCY

Christ, we turn our hearts towards you.
CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Lord, we ask your blessing on us during Lent.
LORD HAVE MERCY

Father, hear our prayer. May we become more like Christ your Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.
Amen.

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Tuesday 3rd March 2020

If you had to think of three words to describe your family – what would they be? The responses to this question, are of course, wide and varied, but also telling and revealing. Many would say words like: “loving”, “friendly” and “fun”; others would use words like “empty”, “lonely” and “difficult”. We all belong to a family in whatever form this may be. The family is the place in which we also learn to live holy lives. No matter what kind of home we belong to, we can each make our homes places of love: a place where we value each other and seek to follow Jesus.

Today's Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach me to be a prophet of love in my own home.

Amen.

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Wednesday 4th March 2020

Lent is a time for forgiveness. We can be sure that God wants to forgive us and help us make a new start. But we also have to look at the way we forgive others.

Let us listen to what Jesus says. He uses a parable to illustrate this point.

- Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a King who settled accounts with his workers. One owed him a million pounds. He pleaded with the King, “Have patience with me and I will pay you everything.” The King felt sorry for him and told the worker to forget all about the money. Later on, this worker saw a man who owed him one hundred pounds. He grabbed the man and said, “pay what you owe.” The people told the King about this. The King sent for the worker and said, “How wicked you are! I forgave you a huge debt. You too should have had mercy on your friend!” Then the King put the worker in prison. And Jesus said, “My heavenly Father will treat you in the same way if you do not forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart.”



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Wednesday 4th March 2020

Today's Prayer

Father, help us to forgive those who have hurt us.

Help us to look at them with new eyes and to forget all about how they have wounded us.

- Give us the strength and courage to let go of all our grudges and to start again, so that this Lent may be a time when we become more and more like your Son Jesus who is Lord, for ever and ever.

Amen

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Thursday 5th March 2020

Lent is the time when we try to change and become more like Jesus, so that we can make our world a better place, a world filled with love and peace.

Today's Prayer

Jesus, help me be more like you.

Help me never to speak an angry or a cruel word, and never to do a hurting or a wounding deed. Help me to be as careful of the feelings of others as I would wish them to be of mine. Make me specially gentle and thoughtful to those who are sick, sad, old, weak and easily hurt.

Jesus, may your love shine brightly in my life so that all those whom I meet today may be touched by it and feel your kindness and caring.

Amen

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Friday 6th March 2020

We remember in Lent that our faults can lead us away from God, and also make us selfish, forgetting about the needs of others.

We think for a moment about our own lives and we ask God's forgiveness.

For the times when we have thought only about ourselves and our own needs.

LORD HAVE MERCY

For the times we have neglected to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty and clothe the naked.

CHRIST HAVE MERCY

For the times we have been insensitive to the sorrows and sufferings of others.

LORD HAVE MERCY





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Friday 6th March 2020

Today's Prayer

Father in Heaven,
The light of your truth gives sight to the darkness of sin.
May this season of Lent bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and may we change our
ways and reach out more to others,
Grant this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.
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Pray for us

