



1st Sunday Lent, Yr B

Lectio Divina

Lectio: The readings of Lent are chosen to accompany the final preparations of adults preparing for baptism at Easter Vigil¹. The community journeys with them and supports them while renewing their commitment to their faith leading to their renewal of their Baptismal Vows at Easter. So, the readings of Lent take us through the basic tenants of our faith inviting shared reflection. Our Baptismal Vows have two parts, rejection of evil and profession of faith. So that is why this text from Mark is chosen which concludes with the proclamation: “*Repent, and believe the Good News.*” This text also recalls Jesus’ forty in the desert. This is a basis for the forty days of Lent. Again Mark presents things in his short and concise manner².

The context of our text is: Jesus has just been baptized and is soon to begin his public ministry. But before that, the Spirit directs him into the desert; he must be focused on what he is to do and to be steeled to face the challenges of his ministry. After the forty days in the desert his ministry begins as John the Baptist’s preparatory ministry ends³.

Read: Mark 1: 12 - 15

Meditatio: Am I open to the Holy Spirit leading me through the forty days of Lent? How can I make time alone to reflect on my life and faith during Lent? How ready am I to face temptations? Do I pray to my guarding angel? What opportunities do I have to share about my faith? What challenges to my faith have I faced? Is the Pandemic like a ‘wild beast’ in my life? Who have prepared me for my following of Jesus (i.e. who is my John the Baptist)? What ministry/vocation have I been called to live? On whose faith have I built mine? What is the Good News for me? Am I using the time for prayer, reflection and renewal of these forty days of Lent? Have I any opportunities to support adults preparing for Baptism? What things do I need to re-think (repent) in my life?

Oratio: Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance during Lent. Pray to your guardian angel for prompting and support each day and especially in the forty days of Lent. Pray for wisdom to see through the illusions of temptations. Pray for courage to live out the way of the Cross. Pray for vocations. Pray for young people in their choice of life decisions; may they know the will of God for them. Pray that we will use the opportunities of Lent; “the time has come”. Pray for a renewal in our prayer life. Pray that the practice of penance may remind us of all the good gifts we have in our lives. Pray that we will grow in ways of service and care especially as we support Project Compassion. Pray for the spread of the Good News. Pray that we will be able to celebrate Easter together.

Contemplatio – Dwell in stillness, simply aware of the boundless expanse of mercy that surrounds you.

After your prayer – Support Project Compassion: “Be More”.

✍ Fr Joe

Mark 1: 12 - 15

The spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the Good News.’

Notes:

1 If there are adults preparing for Baptism through the rites of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), there will be rites celebrated with them at Sunday Masses. These rites call the candidates to truly choose the basic tenants of our faith. So there are rites called Scrutinies which include a rejection of evil/false gods.

2 Mark's Gospel being short and concise, some recent Sunday readings surround and/or include part of this Sunday's text: Bapt of Lord Mk 1:7-11, our text Mk 1:12-15, 3rd Sun Ord Mk 14-20.

3 Consider Lectio Divina for overlapping verses of 3rd Sun Ord Time.