



OUR LADY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CASTLEKNOCK, DUBLIN 15

1st Sunday of Lent 21st February 2021

On the 1st Sunday of Lent we read about the 40 days that Jesus spent out in the desert prior to starting his preaching of the Good News. Mark's account of this event, which we read in the Gospel today, is very brief. It mentions that Jesus was tempted during those desert days but does not give any details.

Temptation is something we are all familiar with. It is part of our human nature. We all face temptations in daily life which seek to distract us and lure our attention away from what we should be about. Sometimes the temptations overwhelm us and we are not able to resist. We give in to these temptations. Afterwards there is often regret and disappointment at our weakness. We resolve to be stronger and do better in future.

During this season of Lent we try to become more aware of the particular temptations that we are vulnerable to. What strategies can we put in place for dealing with them? What can we do to prevent us giving in to them?

The example of Jesus in the desert, and elsewhere in the Gospels, shows us that we can overcome temptations. With God's help and our own determination, we can withstand the onslaught of temptation and remain faithful. It is not easy at times and not something we can do alone.

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer we ask for God's help to deal with temptation and deliver us from evil. May his grace be with us in these Lenten days as we seek to live life at our very best.

Fr. Kieran Coghlan

Lenten Talks

A series of Lenten Talks will be available on the Parish Webcam during Lent. A new talk will be uploaded from 7pm on each Monday of Lent.

22nd February: *The Lenten Journey - Fr. Brendan Walsh*

1st March: *My Journey of Hope - Simon Marriott*

8th March: *Listening to the Cry of the Earth - Jane Mellett*

15th March: *Women Witnesses: The challenges of proclaiming the Reign of God today - Sr. Sheila Curran*

22nd March: *A Journey of Hope through Grief - Olive Foley*

29th March: *How to Discern God's Will - Fr. Patrick Cahill*

To listen to the talks click on the Webcam link on the Parish Website. Across the top, above the image of our church, there are four headings. Click on the 4th heading entitled "Featured Videos". You will see a list of available videos. Click on a video to begin the talk.

Trócaire

Trócaire's Lenten campaign for 2021 tells the stories of two families in South Sudan whose lives have been impacted by conflict. Awut and Ajak are shining examples of resilience, friendship and solidarity. This Lent we hear not only about the enormous challenges they have faced, but also about how they support each other through these challenges.

Trócaire was established by the Irish Catholic Bishops in 1973 as a response to poverty and injustice in the developing world. Since then Trócaire has supported projects in many countries with the help of Irish people. The annual Lenten appeal is the major fund-raising effort to support the work of Trócaire.

If you wish to have a Trócaire box in your home this Lent, please pick one up in the Church. Keep it in your home during Lent and return it to the Church at Easter time. You can also request a Trócaire box by post directly from Trócaire or make a donation online on the Trócaire website – www.trocaire.org