

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

## The First Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel reading:



Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

**In today's Gospel, we hear about Jesus's baptism by his cousin, John, in the river Jordan. Is there any part of this story which reminds you of last week's Gospel reading? Think about what Jesus and those around him heard.**

**At his Baptism, God confirmed who Jesus was, but Jesus needed time and space to reflect on his ministry and just how he should go about it.**

It was so important for Jesus to prepare, before choosing his disciples and beginning to teach people about his kingdom, that he wanted to make sure there weren't any distractions. He went into the wilderness to spend some time alone with God and to prepare himself - just Jesus and God talking to each other. No food. No drink. No friends. No distractions.

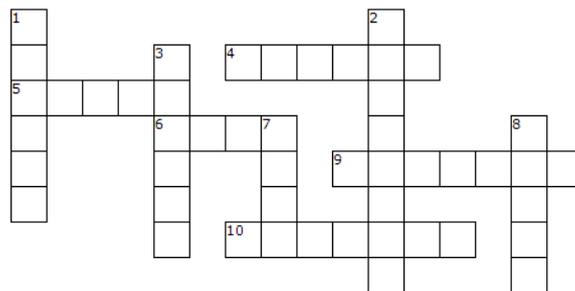
The Holy season of Lent began last Wednesday, Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time when we, too, can try and spend time with God – as far as possible without distractions. This is why many people give something up during Lent. Like Jesus, we need to find space and time and take nothing with us, so that we can open up our hearts to God. It's not easy, but can you give it a try?

Even Jesus found that he was tempted in various ways to take the wrong route – to go the way of celebrity, of testing God and of the "quick fix". Jesus knew that, ultimately, he had to choose the way of love, the way of service... putting others' needs before his own and always serving God. St Mark tells us that, when things got difficult, angels came to help him. Angels will come and help us too!

### Carrying the Message

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" Mark 1:15 (NIV)  
Based on Mark 1:9-15 (NIV)



**ACROSS**

- 4. Jesus was baptized in the \_\_\_\_\_ River. (vs.9)
- 5. Jesus was tempted by \_\_\_\_\_. (vs.13)
- 6. Jesus proclaimed the \_\_\_\_\_ news of God. (vs.14)
- 9. Jesus said, "The \_\_\_\_\_ of God is near." (vs.15)
- 10. Jesus asked people to repent and \_\_\_\_\_. (vs.15)

**DOWN**

- 1. The Spirit led Jesus into the \_\_\_\_\_. (vs.12)
- 2. Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ by John. (vs.9)
- 3. Jesus was tended to by \_\_\_\_\_. (vs.13)
- 7. The Spirit descended on Jesus like a \_\_\_\_\_. (vs.10)
- 8. Jesus was in the desert for \_\_\_\_\_ days. (vs.13)

JORDAN	KINGDOM	FORTY	DOVE	ANGELS
BELIEVE	DESERT	SATAN	BAPTIZED	GOOD

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



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If there are any words here that you don't know, ask an adult or search online or in an encyclopaedia (you may have to look that word up too!)

To find out for next week: what colour does the Church use in its vestments during Lent?

A picture for you to print and colour:



What did Jesus hear the voice from heaven saying?

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## A Lent Prayer reminder

If you can print this page, can you write your own Lent prayer, then cut around the hands and fold them, as if in prayer?

