

# Coloma Catholic Life.



## Liturgical Year

1st Week in Lent. Liturgical colour – Purple

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

## Pope Francis Tweet

"The Gospel of today shows how Jesus responds to the tempter who tries three times to ensnare him. May his experience also help us to be vigilant in the face of temptation and not to surrender to any idols of this world.."

## Gospel reflection for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March: Matthew 4: 1 - 11



This Gospel is, perhaps, the less familiar version of the temptations of Jesus in the desert. The number 40 recurs several times in the Old Testament; the time spent by Moses fasting before receiving the 10 commandments; the time he also spent in prayer and fasting after the people rebelled; the number

of days it took the scouts dispatched by Moses to return and the number of years the Israelites spent wandering in the desert. The prophet Elijah walked 40 days and 40 nights to the mountain of the Lord – Mount Horeb.

In this account the three temptations come at the end of a 40 day period of fasting by Jesus. In the first one, we can see that Satan is tempting Christ to affirm His divinity at the expense of His humanity—to use His divine power to convert stone into bread, thereby ending His all-too-human experience of hunger. This is reversed in the second. Having demonstrated His humanity, Satan now asks him to deny His divinity—to deny that His kingdom is not of this world by accepting all the earthly kingdoms. So, in the first and second temptations, Jesus refuses to deny His humanity and His divinity. Although a true understanding of the Incarnation—as the fullness of humanity and divinity, distinct yet united and centred in one person—probably eludes Satan, he has come to at least grasp this much: Jesus is likely the true Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament. In tempting Jesus to cast Himself off the temple, Satan is asking Him to reveal His true identity.

## Upcoming Events

**3rd March** – Periods 5 & 6  
Reconciliation for Year 7

**10th March** – Periods 5 & 6  
Reconciliation for Year 8

**17th March** – Periods 5 & 6  
Reconciliation for Year 9

**24th March** – Periods 5 & 6  
Reconciliation for Year 10

**1st April** - Periods 5 & 6  
Reconciliation for Year 11

Years 12 & 13 are warmly invited to attend any of the above to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**10th April** - Good Friday

**11th – 18th April** - Year 12  
Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The third temptation was on the roof of the Temple. In placing this one last it is a culmination of the previous two. In the first temptation and in the third Satan begins with this premise, "If you are the Son of God"—using what was then a term for the Messiah. The words of the third temptation itself are taken from Psalm 91 which speaks of trust in God when all the forces of evil seem arrayed against the individual. This final temptation would seem to be a fitting culmination to the temptations.

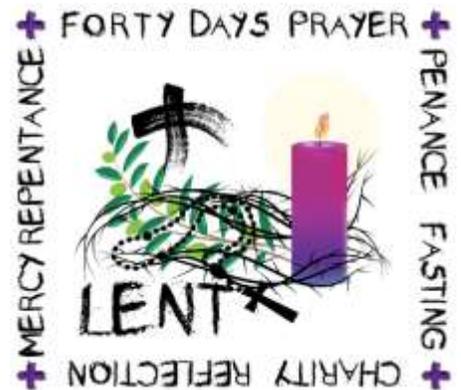
In the first Jesus, did not deny His humanity. In the second, He did not deny His divinity. Now, he is being asked to effectively affirm both. (In His humanity, there is a risk of bodily injury. But as divine Son, He presumably could also expect a miraculous rescue.) But Jesus does not do so.

Matthew does not include the line from Luke which states 'When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.' Many scholars consider this 'opportune time' to be the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

### Lent

Lent is a special time of prayer, penance, fasting and good works (almsgiving) in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The word **lent** is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words **lencfen** meaning 'Spring' and **lencfentid**, which literally means not only 'Springtide' but also the word for 'March'.

Present fasting and abstinence laws are very simple: On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the faithful fast and abstain from meat. We are still encouraged 'to give up something' for Lent as a sacrifice. On Sundays and solemnities like St Joseph's Day, March 19 and the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we can break the fast.



At least once a year, especially during Lent we are strongly encouraged to receive absolution in sacramental confession for any mortal sin and to receive the Eucharist during the Easter season.

### Cafod Family Fast Day

This day is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March. We are encouraged to go without a meal or something else and give the money saved to Cafod to support their work. This year the focus is on supporting local experts for example Sr. Consilia in Zimbabwe. Resources and information at <https://projects.cafod.org.uk/lent-local-experts/index.html>

### Prayer Resources for Lent

Some lovely prayer resources are available at the links below:  
<https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Lent-prayers>

<https://missio.org.uk/lent/>

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/lent/>

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

During Lent all girls will have the opportunity to receive absolution in sacramental confession. This week we welcome to Coloma Fr Saju, from St Dominic's, Waddon and Fr Tomasz from St Bartholomew's Norbury. They will be available in the Chapel for girls in Year 7 on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 1:10 – 2:50pm. Any girl wishing to take this opportunity must collect a ticket from her Form Tutor with a specific time to go to the Chapel to receive the sacrament.

## Tuesday Lunchtime Mass

This week 7Y & 7Z are preparing the lunchtime Mass. All are welcome.

## Saints of the Week

### St David - 1<sup>st</sup> March

David is said to have been born around the year 520. It was a time when Welsh kings ruled small kingdoms and their people made their living by farming. Most people in Wales were Christians, and monasteries were important centres of prayer and learning.

His birth is said to have taken place on the cliffs in a wild thunderstorm, near the city that's now named after him. Some believe that David was the son of Sanctus, king of Ceredigion and a nun called Nonnita (Non).



About the year 550, David is said to have founded a monastery close to the place where he was born. Here, he and his fellow monks lived a simple life, drinking only water and eating only bread and herbs. Meat and beer were forbidden, and David became known as Dewi Dyfrwr (David the water drinker). The monks farmed the land, but David insisted that they pull the plough and carry their tools without the help of animals. They spent the evenings in prayer, reading and writing, and were not allowed any personal possessions.

There are many stories of St David's miracles. They include bringing a dead boy back to life by splashing the child's face with tears and restoring a blind man's sight. David's best-known miracle allegedly took place in the village of Llanddewi Brefi. He was preaching to a large crowd, but some people had difficulty hearing him. Suddenly a white dove landed on David's shoulder, and as it did, the ground on which he stood rose up to form a hill, making it possible for everyone to see and hear him.