



**St Margaret Mary,
Birmingham**

LENT 1

21ST February, 2021

Priest: ✠ In the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: **And with your Spirit.**

Confiteor: I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I
have failed to do, through my fault,
through my fault, through my most
grievous fault; therefore I ask
blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May Almighty God have
mercy upon us, forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

First reading: Genesis 9.8-15 *God's
covenant with Noah and the
rainbow is a sign of it.*

Psalm response: *Your ways, Lord,
are faithfulness and love for those
who keep your covenant.*

Second reading: 1 Peter 3.18-22
*Jesus preached to those imprisoned
spirits.*

Gospel acclamation: *Praise to you,
O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man
does not live on bread alone, but on
every word that comes from the
mouth of God. Praise to you, O
Christ, king of eternal glory!*

Gospel: Mark 1.12-15 *Jesus was
in the wilderness for 40 days,
tempted by Satan.*

Homily

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things, visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God, born
of the Father before all ages, God
from God, Light from Light, true God
from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial

with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory

Pray Brethren that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise

and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Sanctus: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of faith: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper of the Lamb.
All: Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Notices * We have just made **16 new voluntary appointments** of those working with children/vulnerable adults – who have been through the DBS checks. This helps us get ready for the re-launch of our work after the pandemic. There are three further appointments that are also nearly complete. Many thanks to our safeguarding representatives, Nicola

Brown and Virginia Okeke, and to all involved in preparing this work.

* Figures from 14/2/2021: Loose £80.22, Gift Aid: £50, 2nd Collection for 'Life': £74.20, Attendance: 101

* Covid update – we urge all to receive the **vaccination**, when invited. This is the sure way that we can bring this pandemic to its conclusion. On a separate note, we are also encouraged to use the '**Track and Trace**' App if you have a smart phone. The latest information received about Track and Trace suggests that the app. has prevented about 600,000 cases of COVID 19 over the period 7th October to 11th January when the study took place. If we assume a mortality rate of 1.2% this has prevented 7,200 deaths this winter.

* If you are self-isolating during this pandemic, and you give by envelopes, please could you hand them to church by the middle of March, so we can process them? Please let Treasurer Terry Brown (07969 978007) or Fr Simon know if you want them picking up from your house.

* We have been offering a 'tap and go' facility at weekend mass as part of an Archdiocese pilot scheme. Now that has come to an end, we have taken the decision not to

continue with 'tap and go' because the costs of rental and the cost per transaction are not worth the amount we collect. If you give regularly by 'tap and go' please talk to Treasurer, Terry Brown (07969 978007) for help with how to give.

*The servers mass for St Stephen at St Chad's Cathedral on 6th March at 10am has now had to be accessed as a livestream (and for the renewal of servers promise) through www.stchadscathedrsral.co.uk

Please would servers send a picture of them holding their medal to office@vocations.org.uk

* The Governing Body of St Margaret Mary School, Perry Common, Birmingham are currently seeking to recruit a new **Headteacher** for 1 September, 2021. We are keen to attract as wide a field of suitably qualified and experienced applicants as possible.

Closing date: 9am, Monday, 19th April, 2021

Interviews: Wednesday, 28th April, 2021. Details available from the school website:

<https://www.stmgmry.bham.sch.uk/>

* **Our foodbank is open again for donation.** Please remember, for those in need, our **foodbank** is open

when you need it. Please phone Carmel Dowdall on 07943 577638 if you have foodbank enquiries.

* www.portal.mag.uk is now out for February. There is now a weekly podcast available on: <https://soundcloud.com/user-666404058>

* If anyone needs a new 'iD' SIM card for their mobile, Fr Simon bought one which is now not needed. Contact for details. £10 credit.

* Pope Francis' prayer for February:

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

***Prayers for the departed:**

Anne Ellis, Mary Quinn, Ann Burns, Mary Winstanley, Monika Lenarczyk, Terrence McAnulty, Anthony Lysaght, Phillip Fisher, Patrick Joseph Kelly, Mother Mary Teresa SSM, Fr Pat Joyce, The Most Revd Philip Tartaglia, Mgr Mark Langham, Annie Teresa Walsh, Janet Miller, Fr Giles Goward, Patrick Fullerton, Paul Lewsley, Eileen Brenda Fennell, Daniel Kerr, Lucian Nethsingha RIP

SYCAMORE

Sycamore Virtual Lent discussion group

7pm-8pm

Tuesdays, starting on 23 February, 2021

Further details and to register and

receive the email invitation, speak to Fr Simon on 07985 753391

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD (23 Feb)

WHO IS JESUS? (2 Mar)

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH (9 Mar)

THE GIFT OF FAITH (16 Mar)

FINDING TRUE FREEDOM (23 Mar)

THE MEANING OF LOVE (30 Mar)

THIS WEEK Saturday, 20th 6.30pm Mass (Frances Crowe RIP). LENT 1.

Sun 21ST February **LENT 1** 9.30am Mass. 11am Mass.

Monday, 22nd February THE CHAIR OF ST PETER 7pm Mass (Fr Pat Joyce RIP).

Tuesday, 23rd Feb St Polycarp 8.55am Rosary. 9.15am Mass (Patrick Fullerton RIP). 7pm-8pm, Sycamore part 1 Zoom Lent course 1: the Existence of God.

Wednesday, 24th 8.35am Adoration. 9.15am Mass (Mariyamma Thomas RIP).

Friday, 26th 9.15am Mass (Doris Nolan). Family fast day for Cafod. 6.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, 27th 6.30pm Mass (James Nash). LENT II.

Sun 28th February **LENT II** 9.30am Mass. 11am Mass. 2nd Collection for Cafod.

St Margaret Mary Parish, Perry Common, Birmingham, B23 7AB
Tel (0121) 373 0069 and 079 857 53391
Parish Priests: Fr Simon Ellis
Fr Leonard Cox 07790 827184

Fr Thé-Quang Nguyen: Tel (0121) 373 0988
(Maryvale/Kingstanding)

Email: fr.simon.ellis@rcaob.org.uk

WEBSITE: www.stmargaretmary.uk

Twitter: @b23margaretmary

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of

Birmingham, Reg. Charity No. 234216

Working in collaboration with the Ordinariate

of Our Lady of Walsingham &

Our Lady of the Assumption, Maryvale and

Christ the King, Kingstanding.



*Message of His Holiness Pope Francis
for Lent 2021*

*“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem” (Mt 20:18)
Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father’s will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (*Phil* 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the “living water” of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (cf. *Mt* 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (*fasting*), concern and loving care for the poor (*almsgiving*), and childlike dialogue with the Father (*prayer*) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

1. *Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.*

In this Lenten season, *accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ* means, first of all, opening our hearts to God’s word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God’s gift and to recognize that, created in his

image and likeness, we find our fulfilment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbour, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 93).

Lent is a time for believing, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to “make his dwelling” among us (cf. *Jn* 14:23). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet “full of grace and truth” (*Jn* 1:14): the Son of God our Saviour.

2. *Hope as “living water” enabling us to continue our journey.*

The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her “living water” (*Jn* 4:10). Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the paschal mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint. Jesus had already spoken of this hope when, in telling of his passion and death, he said that he would “be raised on the third day” (*Mt* 20:19). Jesus was speaking of the future opened up by the Father’s mercy. Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father’s forgiveness.

In these times of trouble, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. *Laudato Si’*, 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: “Be reconciled to God” (*2 Cor* 5:20). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God’s forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with “speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be “willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference” (*ibid.*, 224).

Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. *Mt* 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.

To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is “making all things new” (cf. *Rev* 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross

and was raised by God on the third day, and always being “prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]” (1 Pet 3:15).

3. *Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.*

Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.

“‘Social love’ makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 183).

Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such was the case with the jar of meal and jug of oil of the widow of Zarephath, who offered a cake of bread to the prophet Elijah (cf. 1 Kings 17:7-16); it was also the case with the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd (cf. Mk 6:30-44). Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord’s word to his Servant, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you” (Is 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters.

“Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 187).

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Saviour, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November 2020, the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours

FRANCISCUS