



# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

THE PRESBYTERY, 4 LORDS CROFT, AMESBURY, WILTS., SP47EP

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## WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING

We welcome visitors, family and friends to our Mass today.  
We are glad you are joining us today.

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR- A-2023

**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI: HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TEMPTED?** I hope this column makes you laugh out loud. Who among us is not surrounded by temptations every day of our life? We know that the temptation is there, but only once a year do we focus on the temptations that Jesus faced. The first Sunday of Lent always features one of the gospels that talks about Jesus' temptations in the desert. We start the season of Lent with these gospels so that we are reminded that we are not alone when we face temptation. We have a Saviour who understands what it means to be tempted. Jesus is one who lived on this earth, just like we do, and faced the same circumstances that we do. How might that possibly help us? As in everything about Jesus, his life, he is setting us an example, or giving us a path to follow that might not be evident at first. When we try to provide for our physical needs, we sometimes think that these are the most important things. Yet we are reminded that we do not live by bread alone. Many times when we feel powerless in the circumstances of our lives, we are tempted to believe that if I could just make people do what I want them to do, life would be better and happier. We are reminded in the temptations of Jesus, that there's only one life that we control, and our own lives are the source of our happiness. How someone else acts or agrees or disagrees with us does not control our level of happiness, or at least it shouldn't. Sometimes life can be so boring that we decide to live a more risky, irresponsible life just for the thrill of it. We sometimes even test the love of God rather than trust the love of God. Our temptations are many and so are our sources of grace and mercy. I'm hoping that you will take advantage of the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation sometime during this Lenten season. This sacrament has the power to free us from the burden of the past and free us for living the gospel, more deeply and authentically. Once we experience God, as merciful and forgiving, that gift of love begets love in us and our hearts yearn to be the good persons that we are meant to be. Penance allows us to be freed and renewed and forgiven. I also hope that during this Lenten season, you might take advantage of the increased opportunities to celebrate daily Mass. Many of us have schedules that begin early in the morning, but Friday evening at 6 pm all through Lent, we will be celebrating the Eucharist and 6.30 Stations of the Cross. Won't you join us in hearing the Word of God, experiencing Jesus through the gathered community, and taking the Body and Blood of Christ as gift and food for the journey. It is an extra effort to come early in the morning or late on Friday evenings, but I assure you that God is never outdone in generosity. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the hallmark practices of Lent. Have you been thoughtful about how you're practising those? Have you fallen into some meaningless habit from the past or are you looking for creative ways to let these disciplines be meaningful and converting in your life? Don't wait till tomorrow what you can do today. Act now for the sake of the kingdom of God.

The scriptures for Sunday focus on the **Three Temptations of Jesus** from Matthew's Gospel. It is noteworthy to ponder which temptation of Jesus gives you much struggle in your life. How do you find inspiration in dealing with this struggle in your life? Have an uplifting Lent and permit God to work through you so that Lent eases you into a higher spirit of God's love that you bring to all creation. Have a great week! BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**EUCCHARIST ADORATION AND THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS** There will be Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction every day from Monday to Friday during Lent at 9:00 am prior to 10.00am Mass. The Stations of the Cross is held every Friday during Lent at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Note the schedule change for Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

**SYRIA AND TURKEY EARTHQUAKES AID**-Thank you! The total sum collected for the Turkey / Syria Earthquake Disaster humanitarian Aid raised by our Parish Church amounted to £1,263.74. Thank you very much for your incredible generosity towards those suffering brothers and sisters. God bless you!

**PARISH DONATIONS:** Generosity is at the heart of the Gospel and the Christian life. We really appreciate your weekly giving at Mass. Donating a regular amount of money is the best way of supporting your parish financially. It enables us to plan ahead knowing that we have a reliable source of income, especially in these uncertain times. Your giving allows us to do everything we do here in this Parish, including enabling our Masses to take place, sacramental preparation, work with children and youth and their families and much more. All of this is made possible by your prayers, serving and giving – we couldn't do it without you. If you would like to send in a cheque, please make it payable to "Catholic Parish of Christ the King. If you would like to give regularly but do not want to give online then please use the Standing Order Form, as well as the GiftAid declaration form, if you are a UK tax payer. You can collect the forms from Jeff Coy, our parish treasurer and please return the forms to him. Jeff will help you to process the Gift Aid Form and enlighten you more about it. A big thank you for all your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated. Should you wish to transfer to standing order or bank transfer, the Parish bank details are: Name: Christ the King Church Amesbury; Natwest Sort Code 52-10-03 Account Number 66286638. If you wish to remember the Parish in your Will, further information is available from the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless you.

**WELCOME TO CHRIST THE KING!** We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our parishioners and visitors attending public Mass. Whether you are just passing through or looking for a spiritual home, we pray you find Christ the King inviting and spiritually uplifting. If you are attending Mass on a regular basis, we encourage you to register with the parish. Please call our parish office and start the conversation! To our visitors, we hope you enjoy your stay here in Amesbury. Our church is always open to you, your family, and friends. *pax et bonum* (peace and all good)

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Children's Liturgy of the Word is an extension of the Liturgy that provides young children with a worship experience shared in ways understandable and engaging to them. The Children's Liturgy of the Word includes the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia, Gospel Reading, Gospel Reflection, Creed and Prayer of the Faithful. Children participate by joining the group as it gathers in the hall when invited by the celebrant after the Opening Prayer. They are sent forth with the team of volunteers and return during the Offertory. In order to continue this task on a regular basis we need committed volunteers. We are looking forward to recruiting new members who are able to lead children's liturgy. If you are interested, please contact Father Saji. Children's liturgy materials will be supplied for the programme.

**FLOWER COMMEMORATIONS** If you are looking for a way to help beautify our worship in our church, you may want to consider donating money to purchase a floral arrangement that may be placed in the sanctuary. This is a lovely way to remember a loved one who has died or to commemorate a special birthday or anniversary of a family member. If you are interested placing a floral arrangement, please contact Anne Larke at 07485423471 or please contact Father Saji.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** We would once again like to be able to hold our Children's Liturgy Program during the 11:00 Mass, each week. We're searching for 4 to 5 adults to rotate Sundays to work with the children, during Mass to explain the Sunday's liturgy to them in ways they can understand and participate. Interested adults should contact Father Saji Mathew.

**LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES** Mistakes happen from everyone, but only if you choose to improve you can learn from them. There are some people who never admit their mistakes. Instead, they try to blame others for their wrongdoings. When a person is aware that they are wrong, but they refuse to accept it because of their ego or pride, they neither learn from life nor

grow themselves. If you have made a mistake, don't feel ashamed or undeserving. You cannot undo what has happened, but you can always improve so that it doesn't happen again. A mistake only becomes a lesson when you choose to improve yourself.

**LIVE THE LITURGY** Can you believe Lent is here already? It seems like not that long ago I was decorating a Christmas tree! Time waits for no one and that is why it is important to make a mindful commitment now to not let this Lenten season pass you by. The temptations are always there to procrastinate or to give in to spiritual laziness, but the Church's observation of Lent offers us so many tools to help us get on track. Increased devotions such as Stations of the Cross, Adoration, or Lenten-focused reflections are all gifts that your parish may be offering to assist you in this season. With the Passion being the focus of Lent, it is easy to contemplate the value of true generosity. How could someone give more than Jesus? He gave until his life was spent on a cross. When contemplating how we can increase our generosity in all aspects of our life, we only need to look to the cross. Of course, this also brings home to us that more may be asked of us than we bargained. The temptation is to not give too much, out of fear that we might face persecution or worse. But we take solace in the fact that we are disciples of One who had the same temptations. He overcame those temptations. He rejected the easy way out. His love and generosity could not be contained. He gave it all so that you and I have the chance to do the same. This Lent, look to the greatest example that ever lived. Jesus will show us the way to observe a Lent that will soon bring forth great Easter fruit.

**MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 25TH FEBRUARY 2023**  
**SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM ALICIA LABORTE, RIP**

**SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 11.00AM MASS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH**

**MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10AM VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RELIGIOUS LIFE**

**TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM CAROL DRENNAN (INTENTIONS)**

**WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM PATRICK MONAGHAN (HEALING)**

**THURSDAY 2ND MARCH MASS ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS**

**FRIDAY 3RD MARCH ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM ALFRED RYAN, RIP STATIONS OF THE CROSS 10.30AM AND MASS AT 6.00PM HOLY SOULS AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 6.30PM**

**SATURDAY 4TH MARCH MASS AT 6.00PM VIGIL MASS GORDON BURT, RIP (SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY)**

**SUNDAY 5TH MARCH MASS AT 11.00AM**

Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the Evil One. Pope Benedict XVI

**DEANERY RETREAT:** 16 - 19 March 2023...Father Joseph leading a three-day residential retreat at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell, Godalming exclusively for parishioners of the Salisbury Deanery....

**LENT: CHANGE COMES FROM WITHIN** One area of life that many need to ponder during Lent stems from the virtue of tolerance. Matthew's Gospel for this Sunday points out the way Jesus demonstrates tolerance toward Satan through his resistance of three temptations that he experiences and overcomes. Temptations invite us to consider our human condition aware that intolerance toward the viewpoint of others often creeps into our lives over disagreeable principles or debatable matters. Lent welcomes us to assess all that our humanity encounters whenever faced with irritating dilemmas caused by diverse beliefs and behaviour of others. Lent is the opportune time to open our hearts to the graces of the Season so that we feel good about ourselves rather than fear God's rage or anger. Since it is difficult for some to get along with others who do not think, act, believe, or behave in the way that they experience life, tolerance is a challenge regardless of age, education, ethnicity, race or religion. To tolerate a person is to put another's perspective in high regard without attack over their values or code of ethics; hence lack of respect toward another de-values a person's image. The alternative to tolerance is misunderstanding, ignorance, and arrogance, which often leads to prejudice, injustice and sometimes even violence. Since Lent comes from the old English word "spring", it brings to Christians the springtime of their spiritual lives whereby human faults bloom into beautiful flowers. Jesus is the role model for Lent as the church calls us to imitate his love in the way that he illustrated respect toward all people, which generated building blocks of peace. In our society the battle between tolerance and intolerance comes across in countless ways such as in literature, religion, drama, family, employment, scholarship, and politics; however, lack of tolerance is not "toleration of social injustice or the abandonment of one's convictions. Tolerance means that one is free to adhere to one's own convictions and accepts that others adhere to theirs. It means accepting the fact that human beings, naturally diverse in their appearance, situation, speech, behaviour and values have the right to live in peace and to be as they are." – Declaration of Principles on Tolerance UNESCO, 1995. The First Sunday in Lent draws us into the wilderness to generate greater space for God; like Jesus, there will be temptations for power, selfishness, and manipulation of God at unanticipated moments. Open your heart to express unexercised ways of tolerance so that there is never desire to look down upon a person due to appearance, dress, political beliefs, sexual preference, or social media. Christ-like tolerance occurs if change comes from within.

**BE A MINDFUL STEWARD** What is it that tempts you the most? Is it an action, a person, or a place? It is something that seems innocent enough, like a food, a drink, or an event? When you really start reflecting, you find that there are many temptations all around. Even if you are strong and never succumb to a certain temptation, it is still there waiting for a weak moment in your life. One difficulty in the life of a disciple trying to live a stewardship way of life lies in the temptations we never actually see. We are too busy thinking about past failures or successes, or we are fixated on what possibilities the future holds that we miss the important things going on in the present. Jesus could be standing directly in front of us, but we miss him because we are looking everywhere except straight ahead. Being mindful means that we are looking out for how and when God will call us this very day. Our decisions this day will have a huge impact on the future. If we only look to the future, we will miss those important calls to action. We may even find ourselves in a desert of sorts, looking for any way out we can find. However, God may need us to give of ourselves for a reason we cannot yet discern while in that desert. We need to stay awake, be aware, and look for His hand in all things. If we don't, we may even miss the pathway out of that desert when it presents itself.

**BISHOP DECALAN'S PASTORAL VISIT TO CTK** Bishop Declan Lang will make his pastoral visit to Christ the King Parish on Sunday March 19th and will preside over the 11.00am Mass. The pastoral visit is an apostolic endeavour, an event of grace for the whole of the parish family. The Pastoral Visit is intended to meet with the priest, lay pastoral assistants, and lay people responsible for various areas of the pastoral life of the parish. Bishop will avail this momentous opportunity to become acquainted with the reality of the current pastoral programs, and the overall functioning of the parish. From a faith perspective, to look at the parish community in its main components: faith education at all ages, sacramental and liturgical life, the sense of community, co-responsibility and leadership, service to society, the relationship of the parish with the diocesan and universal Church; financial organization and the state of recordkeeping of sacramental registers and other archival material. It will also help the Bishop to bring encouragement and hope to those involved in pastoral work and to all the people of the parish. Also, to celebrate the Mass, to proclaim the Word of God and to preach with the parish community as well as to make known the pastoral priorities of the diocese and to foster a sense of belonging to the diocesan Church. The pastoral planning team/pastoral council will meet to discuss the special event in the life of parish and plan the strategy.

**BE KIND FOR LENT** What can we do for Lent to become better people, to become more loving, to become more like Jesus? One spiritual writer recommends doing something that is at the heart of following Jesus and it is: "Be kind." Here are three ways of being kind. Number one: Don't pass on our misery to others. By this, I mean we all have times when our moods are low. For example: we are tired, we are sick, someone at work did something that ticked us off, there are family challenges, we are running late, etc. That happens to all of us. That doesn't mean we have to impose our misery on others. Oh sure, it is OK to ask for support, but it is not helpful to be a chronic complainer. When we are miserable, let's not make others miserable. Instead, let us be gracious and kind, even when our mood is low. Number two: Don't gossip. Don't speak badly about others who are not there. Let's not talk about people behind their backs. Denigrating another person both hurts them, and it hurts our own effort to become more like Jesus. Gossip is mean. Finally, number three: give people the benefit of the doubt. St Ignatius is big on this. When there is a doubt about how someone means something they said, or about the intention behind something they did, give them the benefit of the doubt. We will change for the better if we habitually try to give people the benefit of the doubt and assume that they mean well. So let's try to do this for Lent – Be Kind. And three ways are: (1) Don't pass on our misery to others. (2) Don't gossip, and (3) Give people the benefit of the doubt. Jesus loves you as you are, and because he loves you, he wants you to make progress toward becoming the best version of yourself. "Human error" is a great thing to say to ourselves or another when we or they make a mistake. It is a gracious way to forgive ordinary human mistakes.

**CONFIRMATION 2023** Confirmation in the Salisbury Deanery will be on 27 June this year and our programme will begin on 7 March. The deadline for applications to join the programme is 28 February after which all applications will be deferred until 2024. If you know of anyone in school Year 9 or above who hopes to be confirmed this year

**APPLICATIONS PLEASE FOR CONFIRMATION IN 2023.** For young people in school Year 9 or above please apply NOW as we will soon be finalising the programme.

**HAVE MERCY ON ME** God, in accord with your merciful love; in your abundant compassion blot out my transgressions (Ps 51:3). During the season of Lent, we seek to grow closer to Jesus through the acts of penance. One of the ways we also grow in holiness is through the modelling of our lives after the saints. Many people have special devotion to St. Patrick, whose memorial takes place on March 17, which is a Friday this year. This feast day is of great importance to the faithful and especially for those who possess significant cultural and ethnic importance as well. As you prepare for March 17, keep in mind how your activities are honouring St. Patrick and will bear spiritual fruit in your life. A reminder that Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that began on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practise self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. In our Gospel this Sunday, we hear that Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights and the Lenten season is a forty-day period.

The number forty should certainly remind us of many events from the Old Testament, as this is not an insignificant detail. 1 We can recall during the time of Noah when the earth was cleansed and purified when God brought down rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights (ref. Gen 7:4). 2 - Then the earth was renewed during a forty-day period after the mountain tops appeared and the waters receded from the great flood (ref. Gen 8:5-6). 3 - Moses spent forty years as a shepherd in the desert before God called him to lead the Israelites out of slavery (ref. Acts 7:29-30). 4 - Moses fasted for forty days and nights on Mount Sinai before receiving the tablets of the covenant, the ten commandments (ref. Ex 34:28). 5 - The Israelites spent forty years wandering in the desert as a time of trial and purification before reaching the promised land (ref. Num 32:13). 6 - The prophet Elijah spent forty days in the desert before encountering God on Mount Horeb (ref. 1 Kgs 19:8). 7 - The Ninevites were given forty days before God would destroy the city, allowing them time for repentance and conversion (ref. Jon 3:4-5). We consistently see the time period of forty to allow for purification and conversion. God wants to bring new life for us, but that also means we have to let go of what keeps us from God. So, I encourage to persevere during this season of Lent, especially when the evil one will tempt you, to welcome the purification that God brings that you may have life with Him.

**FAITH IS FOR EVERYONE, AND SO IS FAITH FORMATION!** Do you have an older child who has never been baptised or never received their First Holy Communion? Do you have a child with a disability who would like to join our program? It's never too late, and your situation may not be as unusual as you may think! We accompany families with children of all ages, at all levels, in ways that are comfortable for them. Please contact the parish office for more details.

**THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is available on Saturdays from 5.00pm-5.40pm in the Church.** Reconciliation is also available by appointment. Contact Fr. Saji directly through email or by phone.

**EMAIL FOR CONTACTING ME:** My temporary email: joseph.sajimathew@gmail.com

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** Applications are now open to travel with The Society of our Lady Of Lourdes on its annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes at the end of May and we would love you to join us! We are a 'working pilgrimage' that has been taking pilgrims who need medical assistance and support to travel to Lourdes for over a hundred years. Our VIPs stay in the Accueil Notre Dame, inside the Sanctuary where we can provide 24hr medical and personal care and support as needed. SOLL exist to minimise the barriers of finance and illness in making a Lourdes pilgrimage. We rely on volunteer Doctors, Nurses, Carers and helpers and there is a warm welcome and a role for all. We ask you to cover a daily shift, in a friendly team, to enable our Assisted Pilgrims to have a fantastic week. We also welcome 'praying pilgrims' who join in all of the services and events. This year we have some flights from Bournemouth available (for those who do not require our medical team) so it's a great opportunity to come and see what Lourdes is all about and be of service for a week! For more details, please take a look at the SOLL website [www.soll-lourdes.com](http://www.soll-lourdes.com) or contact Sacha Blanchard on [sacha@soll-lourdes.com](mailto:sacha@soll-lourdes.com) or 07768 622880.

**THE QUIZ IS ON THE EVENING OF SATURDAY 4TH MARCH** 7.00 for 7.30. Entrance fee is £10.00 which includes a Ploughman's supper. The Charity is The Place of Mercy and Hope in Addo Eastern Cape South Africa. It is run by two Mercy nuns from our Diocese who are great friends of Canon Michael. He has spent many visits there bring the Sacraments to the many underprivileged people there. We hope to raise money to help their work especially with the children. If people are coming can they contact Steve Carrivick on 07887988123 or by email: [carrivick79@gmail.com](mailto:carrivick79@gmail.com) Thanks for supporting this.

**PARISH LENTEN MISSION 2023** The Parish Lenten Series will be held on Tuesday, February 28th, March 7th, March 21st, and March 28th after the 10:00AM Mass. Each talk will give a brief Lenten reflection. **All talks are focused on prayer, the season of Lent and learning more about the Lord through Scripture. Here are some of the topics:**+ Abiding in the Word of God+ Overcoming Our Temptations+ Believing Our Identity as "Beloved"+ Growing in Unshakeable Hope+ How to Handle Unanswered Prayers+ Overcoming Lies of the Devil+ Restorative Prayer+ Saints with a Devotion to the Passion of Jesus+ Jesus' Time in the Garden of Gethsemane+ Living out the Pattern of Life, Death and Resurrection: advice from St. Elizabeth of the Trinity.

**ADVANCE NOTICE - CHRISM MASS IN CLIFTON CATHEDRAL** on Wednesday 5 April. We have booked a small coach to travel to the Chrism Mass which will be picking up in Salisbury and Amesbury. If you would like to join us and be part of this Mass, please contact the office.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** This year's World Day of Prayer by the women of Taiwan, is being held at the Methodist Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7.00pm. Men, women and children are all welcome. Please join our fellow Christians in this ecumenical service.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Our First Communion children are now working hard to prepare for this beautiful sacrament, which they will receive in June. We can't believe First Communion is only a few months away! Please keep the children and their families in your prayers! Our next First Communion class will be on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February after the Mass at 12.30pm

**EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Fr Joseph is currently organising a day for all EMHCs on 11 March - those who were previously distributing Holy Communion at Mass AND those who were, or still are, taking Holy Communion to the housebound, care homes or to the hospital. The day is from 10am-3pm beginning at 10am with Mass at St Gregory and continuing in the hall. Please bring your own packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.