



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

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

PARISH PRIEST: Rev Saji Mathew
saji.mathew@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office Telephone: 01980 622177
Website: Amesbury.cliftondiocese.com
PARISH MOBILE 07412604880

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 IN LENT-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI: LENT IS A NECESSITY Although it may seem repetitive, it is necessary for us to enter into the season of Lent in the same way every year. We always begin with a gospel about Jesus being tempted in the desert. This year is from the gospel of Mark, since that is the gospel we will be reading all year long. Since the gospel of Mark is so short, so will the renditions of familiar stories be in his gospel. Notice how direct and to the point, he talks about the temptations of Jesus. It is necessary for us to enter the desert from time to time, either naturally through the events of life, as they come to us, or artificially, as we try to do in the season of Lent. We have ascetical practices that lead us to create desert like experiences as we move through these weeks. Will you try to fast, not just from meat or large meals but from other things, people or practices that clutter up our life and don't allow space for us to be empty. If you have a smart phone, every week it will tell you what your average daily use time is on the phone. Is there a chance you might cut that down or eliminate it almost completely so that there might be more space for God in your life? Can you choose to fast from the negative practices that have become habits for you? Can you examine the attitudes, prejudices, and hatred that you hold in your heart and see if you would like to retain them? During this desert experience, we are not meant to gripe and complain, but to increase our conversations with God along the way. This space that we create through fasting is to allow us to have more room to speak with God on a more regular basis. That may be the repetition of some familiar prayers that we have prayed all the time of our lives. It may be spontaneous conversation with Jesus, offering him our understanding of our days and asking if he would give us his wisdom as well. Our prayer during Lent ought to be enhanced through our fasting, through our doing without, through our creation of empty spaces that are normally filled by noise. Any of us who have ever spent time in a desert, or on a retreat know, that we are meant to take less with us into that experience rather than more. Our time in the desert should help us see what things of our lives are getting in the way and how we can get rid of them. Many of those things are our excess possessions. Lent is a great time through our practice of almsgiving, to get rid of, and be generous with all the stuff we don't need. We might even go beyond that and begin to do sacrificial giving, meaning we give not just from our want, but from our need as well. Thinking of the hungry, the lonely, the imprisoned, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the dying, and the sick we might find a place and away to be more generous than we are right now. Lent is a perfect time to do soul-searching and community searching. Come to know the presence state of your life, embracing it honestly and noticing where conversion and enlightenment is necessary. Come to know your experience of community. Have you become disassociated with others, giving into cynicism and hopelessness. What steps will you take to reconnect yourself in community and in faith? This Lenten experience can become habitual and unconscious. It would be a shame if we let this time pass by at a time in our world when we need to be more committed, to be better witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world! 1st Sunday of Lent "After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..." - Mark 1:14 Have you ever thought about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to go to Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that He was proclaiming. It took great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, living a stewardship lifestyle takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that He will always give us all that we need to fulfil His plan for us. Have a great weekend. Happy Lent! BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

PRAYER FOR LENT Dear Jesus, This is the first Sunday of Lent, and I want to commit myself more deeply to you this season. Inspire me with the Lenten penances you most desire, the ones that help me to grow ever nearer to you. Amen.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL 24/25 FEBRUARY Lent Second Collection at both Masses next weekend . This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give next weekend using the envelope if you are a UK tax payer and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. There will be a second collection next weekend in aid of CAFOD's Charity's overseas mission project. Your support for CAFOD this Fast Day helps hardworking people like James to return home safely and feed their families for good.

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 Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

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!

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

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)

PARISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND GENEROSITY A big thank you for all your generous donations, which are greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to transfer to standing order or bank transfer, this would help to simplify our banking procedure. The Parish bank details are: Name: Christ the King Church, Amesbury, Bank: NatWest Account number 66286638 and Sort code-52-10-03. If you wish to remember the Parish in your Will, further information is available from the

ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE MERCY AND TRUTH TOWARD THOSE WHO HONOUR HIS COVENANT AND DECREES" (Ps 25:10). During the season of Lent, as we seek to grow closer to Jesus through the acts of penance, we abstain from eating meat on all Fridays in Lent. This is obligatory to those who have attained the age of 14 according to the Code of Canon Law (§1252). A reminder that Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at the Mass of the Lord's Supper 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. To help enter into Lent and turn away from sin, allow me to share words with you from Pope Francis in his message for Lent this year, 2024: "[Lent] entails a struggle, as the book of Exodus and the temptations of Jesus in the desert make clear to us. The voice of God, who says, "You are my Son, the Beloved" (Mk 1:11), and "You shall have no other gods before me" (Ex 20:3) is opposed by the enemy and his lies. Even more to be feared than Pharaoh are the idols that we set up for ourselves; we can consider them as his voice speaking within us. To be all-powerful, to be looked up to by all, to domineer over others: every human being is aware of how deeply seductive that lie can be. It is a road well-travelled. We can become attached to money, to certain projects, ideas or goals, to our position, to a tradition, even to certain individuals. Instead of making us move forward, they paralyze us. Instead of encounter, they create conflict. Yet there is also a new humanity, a people of the little ones and of the humble who have not yielded to the allure of the lie. Whereas those who serve idols become like them, mute, blind, deaf and immobile (cf. Ps 114:4), the poor of spirit are open and ready: a silent force of good that heals and sustains the world." As Lent gives you this time to focus on your conversion, seize those opportunities to help you embrace God and increase your trust in Him. Praying the stations can help you welcome the treasure that no one else can give, the certainty of the faithful love which God has for you. A reminder that during the Lenten season, we have the Stations of the Cross prayed each Friday both at 10.30am and 7:00pm during Lent. The Stations of the Cross commemorate Jesus' passion and death on the cross. There are 14 stations that each depict a moment on His journey to Calvary. Jesus came down to from heaven to draw you to heavenly life. I encourage you to take part in the devotional practice to pray the Stations of the Cross as you pay attention to

God's work for your salvation. Doing this as a community also bears greater fruit as you join the body of Christ, uniting your heart with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!

"In difficult moments, I will fix my gaze upon the silent Heart of Jesus stretched on the Cross, and from the exploding flames of His merciful Heart, will flow down upon me power and strength to keep fighting." – St. Faustina

IN MEMORIAM Please remember in your prayers those who recently died and for all the deceased members of our family and parish, the souls in purgatory and those who died in service of our country. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. Amen. Please pray for God's grace for those who are ill: Please also pray for an increase in vocations, especially in our diocese and our country.

CONFESSIONS/SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION In the Sacrament of Penance, the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus is made manifest in the forgiveness of sins, thereby reconciling the penitent with God and with his Church. Confession is every Saturday from 5.00pm-5.40pm or by appointment.

REST IN PEACE May those who have died enter into the mercy of God and the joy of the Kingdom.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 17TH FEBRUARY 2024

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM MARY CHAPPELL, RIP (DONOR DOT SIMKINS)

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 11.00AM MARY CHAPPELL, RIP (DONOR MARIE KEMP)

MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM HOLY SOULS

TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM EILEEN HADFIELD (INTENTIONS)

WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM MASS AT 10.00AM ANN LARKE (INTENTIONS)

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS

FRIDAY 23TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS STATIONS OF THE CROSS, MASS AT 10.30AM AND 7.00PM

SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 11.00AM JAMES CHAMBERS (BIRTHDAY INTENTIONS (DONOR JO CHAMBERS)

MORE FOR LENT-Stations of the Cross- Every Friday during Lent 10.30 AM AND 7.00PM starting this Friday 16 February. **The Lent Encounter-**Stuart Ford, who spent a year in Salisbury parish as a seminarian, and who now works for the Bible Society, has edited and contributed to a series of Lenten devotions called: **The Lent Encounter: where is Jesus in the Old Testament?** Take a journey through the Old Testament this Lent to find the answer. Sign up for free at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-lent-encounter-sign-up/> and you'll receive a free daily devotion from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

"As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst. He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." (St. Teresa of Calcutta)

ON THE WAY-THE SEVEN LAST WORDS: FATHER, FORGIVE... This wasn't what they expected. When he was in the peaceful hills and plains of Galilee, Jesus spoke beautifully about the Father, about his mercy and forgiveness. And always to the detriment of the scribes and Pharisees. But what would he say when crucified? A crucified man typically cried out in regret, anger, and even hatred. Surely, the carpenter from Galilee wouldn't be any different. Surely, he couldn't maintain the façade of forgiveness when he met that fate. What would he say? Would he still insist on God as his Father? Would he still speak of mercy, of loving one's enemy, of doing good to those who persecute you? So reasoned the chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, and the rabble they recruited. At Jesus' crucifixion, they "reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!...He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" It was the same taunt Jesus had heard at the beginning of his ministry, when the devil whispered, "If you are the Son of God..." At least his tempter and persecutors got it right: his being the Son of the Father of mercies was everything. It was the purpose of his entire life and ministry to reveal this. Now it's the first thing that he proclaims from his greatest pulpit, the Cross: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:24). Father, forgive... His attention and energy are strained, as always, toward the Father and his mercy. For Jesus, there is nothing more important.

This phrase summarizes his entire life and mission. It is one of his "last words" not only because it comes at the end of his life but also because it summarizes his life. He came into the world to reconcile us to the Father, to give his life for this reconciliation, and to cry out to the Father for forgiveness. These words don't interrupt but complete his life and message. For they know not what they do. This is a curious appeal to the Father. It's as if Jesus is making excuses for them. But they did know what they were doing. They sought his life from the very start. And they did so precisely because he claimed to be the Son of the eternal Father. They did know. And we know. That's what makes sin so horrible, that we know it's wrong and do it anyway. But in another sense, we don't know. How could we? How can a creature understand its rebellion against the Creator? How can our finite minds grasp an infinite offence? No, we don't appreciate the full meaning of sin, of what it does to God's creation, to God's image in us, and to his own Sacred Heart. Even what we call "perfect" contrition doesn't grasp the full import of sin. It's perfect only according to our limited human nature. They know not what they do. But he knows. Jesus knows the fullness of our sins – our No to the Creator, our repudiation of the Father, our renunciation of his gifts. He sees clearly into the depth of our sinfulness and knows the full effects of our rebellion. Knowing this, on the Cross his Sacred Heart offers perfect human sorrow for all sins and for every sin. And in the Sacrament of Confession he opens for us the way to share that perfect sorrow. In the confessional, our sorrow is united with his and thus brought to perfection.

PASTORAL AREA PENITENTIAL SERVICE WITH BISHOP DECLAN AT CHRIST THE KING Our pastoral area Lenten Penitential Service with Bishop Declan Lang will be on Wednesday 20th March starts at 7.00pm in our Church. It will be a wonderful opportunity for us to join the Bishop and other priests, and people of the deanery to celebrate God's mercy through the Sacrament of Penance. Bishop Declan will be the principal celebrant.

LENT- A TIME OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND SELF-MASTERY Today the church celebrates the First Sunday in Lent as it thrusts forth an image of Jesus that makes clear his humanity as he relives the Exodus experience of Israel by going out into the desert among the hostile powers to achieve victory over temptation. The desert is known as a place of trial in the scriptures. Each year the church initiates the Lenten Season with one of the three Gospels that pertain to the temptations of Jesus. I believe that one of the greatest temptations that we are faced with during Lent is the incentive to do nothing. Although there is a starting and ending point for Lent, a genuine Lent marked with conversion has no end. The temptations of Jesus are found in the synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew, Luke). In Luke's version there is an emphasis on the Holy Spirit and Prayer. Luke also reverses the order of the second and third temptations found in Matthew's Gospel. Surprisingly, temptations may be positive if discipline is attained anytime the attraction of an unethical or immoral activity is overcome. The temptations of Jesus lead us to believe that in his humanity he experienced the same temptations that we do, which evolve around food, drink, sex, and power. The objective of Lent is to become enriched with self-improvement through prayer, penance, fasting, and good deeds so that the celebration of Jesus' resurrection brings forth new life. The word origin of "Lent" comes from the old English word, "Lente", meaning springtime; therefore, Lent refers to the springtime of the soul that generates beautiful flowers. Historically, Lent began as a time of fasting and preparation for those preparing to be baptized at Easter; today it calls us to overcome the temptation to use our gifts and blessings for our personal benefit. Jesus' temptations remind us that we are responsible for our lives, and that whenever we succumb to temptation, we are not to blame others for our downfall (as Adam blamed Eve); but, to take ownership of our lives. Perseverance is an important factor throughout Lent since there will be ample opportunities to bend or resign from the promises that we undertake in this holy season aware that it is easy to revert back to former ways of life. Paul J Wharton's Parables for the Preacher provides one of my favourite stories for Lent pertaining to the inability to connect Lenten actions with everyday life. "One day an elderly priest living left his presbytery to purchase a morning newspaper and was accosted by a stranger coming out of a dark alley. The stranger demanded that the priest hand over his wallet. As the priest opened his coat to fetch his wallet, the would-be mugger began to apologise saying, "Forget it Father; keep your money. I did not know you were a priest until you opened your coat and I noticed your Roman collar. I was once an altar boy and would never rob a priest." Both nervous and relieved, the priest took out a pack of cigarettes and offered one to the mugger who replied, "No thank you Father, I gave up smoking for Lent." Some Christians rob God and self during Lent due to the inability to blend religious observances and Lenten activities into everyday lifestyles. Like the robber in the story, we fool ourselves into thinking that particular actions in themselves (i.e. giving up smoking, television, snacks, etc.) make us better people without questioning the way they get integrated into the total picture of our lives. Most of us have sacrificed countless ice cream cones, chocolate, donuts, cans of beer, and good times as well as practised a multitude of charitable acts without connecting these deeds to everyday life. If the greater portion of our lives is a mess, it does not benefit us to perform singular sacrifices that do not make us better people.

Lent is an invitation to live your faith rather than instilling energy into the technicalities of Lenten regulations. Mohandas K. Gandhi writing in an opinion journal in 1930 stated, "It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart." This Lent seek to incorporate the good you do into your daily routines so that you overcome the temptation to "look good" during Lent. **"Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving." Saint Augustine:**

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Society of Our Lady of Lourdes (SOLL) are pleased to announce that their annual pilgrimage of the sick to Lourdes will be on the 24th to the 31st May 2024. SOLL seeks to ensure that sick pilgrims are offered an opportunity to travel to Lourdes, minimising the barriers of disability and finance. Applications are now open. Please think if there is someone in the parish who SOLL can help. Applications are also welcomed for volunteer helpers, carers, nurses, doctors and priests! For further information, please contact SOLL on [0208 8489833](tel:02088489833) or www.soll-lourdes.com or call your parish contact, Sacha Blanchard on [07768 622880](tel:07768622880)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This year's Word Day of Prayer, prepared by the women of Palestine, is being held at Christ The King, Amesbury on Friday 1st of March at 7.00pm. Everyone is welcome, women, men and children. Please come and join our fellow Christians in this ecumenical service. It is all the more important particularly this year with all the trouble in this region of the world. Please keep the people of Palestine and Israel in your special prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Holy Communion is a wonderful moment in a child's life and represents a sign of growth in the knowledge and love of God for each and every child. Parents who bring their child or children for First Holy Communion are fulfilling the vow they made publicly at their child's baptism some years before to be the "first and best teachers of their child in the ways of faith". Now they are more actively fulfilling this vow. The celebration of First Holy Communion each year is primarily a Parish Community Celebration. There is great expectation that the family are full practising members of the community and that they regularly come to Mass. On this understanding, the parish will provide all the necessary help to parents and children, particularly those children not attending Catholic schools. The support from parents for this and other elements of the course cannot be emphasized enough. No child will be denied First Holy Communion; however, children who miss two or at most three sessions will have missed key catechesis. In such cases and after discussion with catechists and parents, the parish priest may remove a child from the course and invite parents to reapply for the following year. Sports events, parties and other such competing attractions must come second to First Holy Communion preparation and the regular attendance of Mass during the First Holy Communion year. **First Holy Communion Class Schedule-** 3rd March at 12.15pm Sunday 10th March at 12.15pm Sunday 17th March at 12.15pm Sunday 14th April at 12.15pm Sunday 21st April, Sunday 28th April at 12.15pm Sunday 5th May at 12.15pm and Sunday 12th May at 12.15pm **First Holy Communion Mass on Sunday 19th May at 12.30pm.**

200 CLUB WINNERS FOR JANUARY The winners for January are 1st Angela Fenwick £25, 2nd Wyndham Mortimer £15, 3rd Seth Ryan £10. Many congratulations to the winners. Our sincere gratitude and appreciation go to Carol Crossland for her hard work. New members always welcome. Thank you and God bless you!

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY. For the terminally ill. We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.

"Lent is a journey, accompanying Jesus as He travels to Jerusalem, the place where the mystery of His Passion, Death and Resurrection is to be fulfilled. The Christian life is a 'road' to be travelled, consisting not so much in a law to be observed as in the person of Christ Himself, Who must be encountered, welcomed and followed." Pope Benedict XVI

SAINT OF THE WEEK ST. PIUS X (1835 – 1914), born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was from the Austrian Empire in what is now modern-day Veneto, Italy. He was the 257th Pope and served from 1903 until his death in 1914. St. Pius X's love for the Eucharist was evident from a young age and he carried this devotion throughout his life. As Pope, he emphasized the importance of fostering a personal relationship with Jesus through the Sacrament, advocating for its accessibility to all Catholics, regardless of social status. One of St. Pius X's most significant contributions to the Church was the role he played in lowering the age of eligibility for First Communion. Recognising the significance of early spiritual formation, he sought to enable children to receive the Eucharist as soon as they reached seven years old. He believed that children could experience the profound graces of the Eucharist, grow in their faith at an early age, and that the reception of Holy Communion regularly in a child's life would set the foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth. His papacy was also marked by his efforts to combat the rising tide of modernism — a movement that challenged traditional Catholic teachings. He wrote an encyclical entitled "Pascendi Dominici Gregis," subtitled "On the Doctrines of the Modernists," condemning modernist errors and safeguarding the integrity of Church doctrine. His commitment to preserving the traditional scope of Catholicism, especially the teachings of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, earned him the epithet "Pope of the Eucharist." Despite his rejection of modernism, St. Pius X was the first Pope to use a typewriter for his encyclicals, signalling an embrace of modern technology during his time as Pope. St. Pius X, Pope of the Eucharist, pray for us!

CHRIST THE KING 200 CLUB- NEW MEMBERS ARE VERY WELCOME! The 200 Club was set up over ten years ago, to raise funds for our Church and School, with half the money raised given out in three cash prizes each month, and the other half divided equally between the Church and School each December. During 2023 we had 93 members, with more members, monthly prizes will increase, but more importantly we will raise more funds for the church and the school. The cost is £12 per year for one number in the draw each month. Carol Crossland will be collecting money after masses throughout January, alternatively this can be placed in an envelope, clearly marked 200 Club, with your full name and telephone number, and left with Father Saji at Church, posted, or handed in to the school office, clearly marked in an envelope. We also will accept bank transfers (please state Name, and Church or School when making your payment) Sort Code 52-10-03 Account No 66287715 Please note this IS NOT the same as the account used by Fr Saji for donations each week. Thank you to every one for taking part. Carol Crossland.

DEAR FRIENDS- We are in a 40 day period of Lent. This is the time for the Church's annual retreat characterized by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as paths of ongoing conversion to Christ. We do this in concrete ways as prayer becomes more and more a part of the rhythm of our life, as fasting leads us to consider our motivations for doing things, and as almsgiving leads us to consider how God is the source of all gifts. May we draw closer to Christ through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May our speech and actions and attitudes be edifying to those around us and in imitation of Christ. Yesterday with the celebration of Ash Wednesday the church began the Season of Lent. This is a special time in the church year, which renders new opportunities to grow closer to Christ in our spiritual lives. There are always new things to learn about ourselves at every stage and age of life that leads to maturation in Christ which enhances our spiritual lives. Use the season to discover an uncharted path to follow that generates contentment to your life and makes Lent a worthwhile venture for you. Tomorrow the parish begins our weekly Lenten Stations of the Cross both at 10:30 a.m. and 7.00pm, which is a traditional Lenten devotion. Each week during Lent these special prayers will heighten our Lenten experience. The Gospel reading for the First Sunday in Lent provide us with Mark's version of the temptations of Jesus. Unlike Matthew and Luke's Gospels, Mark's Gospel does not describe in detail the precise ways in which Jesus was tempted. Mark simply notes that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. Like Jesus, Lent is a time for us to journey into the wilderness of our lives, which navigates us to deep introspection more than at any other time of year. Like Jesus, strive to make Lent a season to set aside some of the distracting aspects of ordinary life that prevents you from greater closeness with God unaware of where the Spirit will guide you.