

DEAR PARISHIONERS, Jesus’ ministry of healing continues in today’s gospel as it will next week as well. Last week – he spoke with authority. His words were powerful to cast out the demon. That is the power of Truth – to confront, to challenge, to cast out evil – personal evil and social evil. Today, we see the power of Empathy, communicated and effective in his compassionate touch. There are two glimpses into the human condition in today’s scripture: Job and Jesus. We can identify with Job’s lament; we’ve all been there and seen others there. Job’s sufferings are many. They are physical (he’s afflicted with boils and running sores); they are economic (his herds and property have been destroyed); they are social (he is scorned and held in contempt by his friends and neighbours); they are personal (his entire family, all his children have been killed.) Suffering afflicts us on many levels. Job’s condition seems to bring it all together – physical, financial, social, and personal. He wonders if the Almighty cares about him at all. Jesus’ life and ministry tell us that God does indeed care – and that he cares in a very personal way. Jesus’ response to suffering is more than just the usual response of sympathy and words of encouragement. Again and again, it is personal involvement. Throughout his ministry Jesus identified with the sick and afflicted, often connecting with them literally in a touch. Today: Peter’s mother-in-law: “He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her.” Next Sunday, the leper: “Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’” Other occasions include the blind man at Bethsaida: “They brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. . . he laid his hands on him. . . Then he laid hands on his eyes a second time and he saw clearly. . . . Jairus’ daughter: He took the child by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha koum,’ which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” Just a few examples of Jesus’ curing touch.

If we are disciples of Christ, we too must personally involve ourselves. Our response must be more than just an internal disposition, more than a feeling. We must extend ourselves. Sometimes we can do that with hands-on experience. Our parish Christmas outreach and Christmas sponsor programmes and other outreach ministries are opportunities. But the need for assistance for food is far from seasonal. The needs that exist in December are with families throughout the year. The Church has always accompanied the preaching of the gospel with social ministry – education and medical attention. What a tragedy if the Catholic Church were to lose the ability to care for the suffering because government directives would compel us to violate our moral beliefs, our consciences, by supplying services or medications that are contrary to God’s Natural Law that all human life is sacred, that the human person has eternal, infinite value. But we are facing such threats at this very time. We need to be aware, we need to read and respond as we can. We have collections like the second collection a few weeks ago: White Flower Appeal, Aid to the Church in Need and CAFOD in March: Catholic Relief Services a bit later. Our prayers are the most important, but they must be accompanied by our reaching out to those in need. It’s not about money – it’s about ministry. As is also true for the Catholic charities Campaign for Human Development, in the liturgical year –along with other Catholic Ministries Appeal. When we stop encouraging our Catholic people to support those services, we have stopped preaching and practising the Gospel of healing and compassion. Again – not for money but for ministry. The healing ministry of Jesus’ is our legacy by virtue of our Baptism. The Lord who feeds us at this altar in the Eucharist asks us to be the Eucharist to feed the hungry – those who hunger for their daily bread, who hunger for medical attention, who hunger for opportunity, for shelter, for justice. Their sufferings, like Job’s are many – physical, economic, social, and personal. Our response must address all. We are asked to be a Eucharistic people for those in need. We are asked to be, not just give, but be their daily bread.

MARY CHAPPELL, RIP: It is with great sadness that I pass on the news that Mary Chappell died peacefully on Wednesday. Mary’s death has been described as peaceful and it is also said that she died with a smile on her face. Mary was a much loved parishioner at Christ the King for many years whose loyalty and dedication are exemplified in all the works she undertook and accomplished with meticulous precision on behalf of the parish. It is comforting to know that she was accompanied by the members of her family praying at her side. We send our sincere and heartfelt condolences to her family of whom she was very fond and proud. Our Parish community is greatly indebted to her for the many years of her devoted service at Christ the King School and our Parish. Our Parish has cherished memories of Mary who worked tirelessly to maintain our parish in every way possible often sacrificing her own comforts. She served with great sense of commitment and utmost care coupled with inculcating Gospel values. There are many of you who will have personal recollections to bring a smile to your faces and warmth to your hearts as we commend her to God’s eternal love with great trust and deep gratitude. Some of you will recall her energy, enthusiasm, determination, and kindness shown in so many ways. Her attention to detail in preparing children for the sacraments and the support she offered parents was especially appreciated. The Requiem Mass for Mary will be celebrated at Christ the King on Thursday 8th February at 1.00pm. Mary’s body will be received into the Church on Wednesday at 6.00pm Our deepest condolences go out to Mary’s family. May God’s love surround you and bring you hope and strength during this difficult time. Requiescat in pace!

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.

CHRISM MASS – CLIFTON CATHEDRAL – WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH Since some of you attended the Chrism Mass at Clifton Cathedral last year, I am writing you to ask whether you would like to join our priests and deacons at this year’s Mass on Wednesday, 27 March. We are considering whether to book a coach again; therefore, it goes without saying that we need enough people to make the booking work. Please can you consider whether you’ll be attending the Mass, and let us know if you plan to do so by Monday, February 12th . The cost will be £15 per person. Salisbury and Amesbury will be the pick-up locations, and the following times (TBC) will apply: 07:55 Coach arrives at Central Library, Amesbury SP4 7AN 08:00am Coach departs Central Library, Amesbury travels to Clifton Cathedral. 13:00 - 14:00 (dependant upon length of Mass) Coach departs and returns dropping off at all pick up points.

WEEKLY SAINT SPOTLIGHT Saint Scholastica 480 - 547 AD Saint Scholastica was the twin sister of Saint Benedict. Together, they established religious communities within a few miles of each other. To visit each other, they would meet once a year in a farmhouse because Scholastica was not allowed inside the monastery Benedict governed. Toward the end of her life, she begged Benedict to remain with her, but he refused. Scholastica asked God to let her brother stay for one more day, and her prayer was answered because a severe thunderstorm broke out and prevented Benedict from leaving her side. In response to Benedict’s frustration for not being able to go back to the monastery, Scholastica replied, “I asked a favour of you, and you refused. I asked it of God and he granted it.” Three days later, St. Benedict saw his sister’s soul rise to heaven in the form of a dove.

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 2019. 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)

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 everyone for taking part. Carol Crossland

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 emphasised 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 Communion Class Schedule-Sunday 4th February at 12.15pm Sunday 11th February at 12.15pm Sunday 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**

CHURCH FLOWERS: THANK YOU-For the past couple of weeks, flowers for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Lectern were kindly donated by D’ Rozario James Francis in thanksgiving to God and Our Lady for the blessings Francis’s family received.

CTK PRIMARY SCHOOL. The 200 Club of this parish presented to our school a cheque for £250 this week. The Head Girl and Head Boy from Year 6 accepted the money with assurance that it will be used to support the Catholic ethos of the school. Already this past year the school has invested in new crucifixes for every classroom and there is a plan to add statues of Our Lady. Subscriptions to the 200 Club produce enough money to award monthly prizes to the participants with the remaining money shared equally between the school and our church (Michael Fitzspatrick)

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.

LENT –A TIME OF SPRING CLEANING FOR OUR SOULS: This weekend invites us to take a “time out” to ponder a game plan for the holy Season of Lent starting on 14th February. A “time out” renders an opportunity to embrace the Season with a desire for victory. A time out takes us to the sidelines to ponder personal and communal objectives for Lent aware that points are never scored if an ineffective game plan is implemented. Lent is not a one day event, but an entire season that leaves us with personal and spiritual growth, which continues in the aftermath of the season; hence, it is not a scorecard of activities that evaporates upon conclusion of the Season. Lent begins next Wednesday, February 14, with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. This engenders the opportunity to review personal strengths and weaknesses; and, set goals for the Season. Some mistake the purpose of Lent as self-congratulations that stem from accomplishments or sacrifice involved with extra effort in prayer or works, but the main thrust of Lent is to disarm ourselves from complacency. Lent is also not a time to look down on oneself with self inflicted criticisms, but in the words of Oscar Wilde, “Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.” or St Francis de Sales says “ Be what you are and be at its best.”Therefore, Lent is an opportunity to ready oneself to enter the desert through the discovery of areas in life that make you proud of who you are. This is the foundation for a desire to come of age in portions of life that necessitate time and attention. Sometimes there is an expectation that God does all the work if we live out a commitment for the correct recitation of prayers and devotions throughout Lent; however, Lent is not dropping to our knees in hope for God to work miracles; God provides strength for us to follow through with a game plan. Ash Wednesday is the way the church invites us away from spiritual complacency, and informs us that our Catholic desert experience is forty days long. Ashes, which are a powerful symbol of humility and repentance, and known as a sacramental in the church, get placed on our foreheads as a reminder that we and the world are different than a year ago; therefore, repeating past Lenten observances often generates an activity that holds little value for us today since we have ripened through history. The challenge of Lent is to work on both offence and defence aware that our offence consists of countless opportunities for spiritual and corporal touchdowns, while a good defence protects us from actions/habits that are not beneficial since they harm our lives. In an article titled, Enter the Desert of Lent, Celebration, Erin Ryan states, “We Christians are asked each Lent to “retreat into the desert” in our own way, to face our temptations and to listen to the voice of God telling us who we are. Over and over in our lives we will need to do it again, to go back and wander and clarify our identities again, before we find the land of milk and honey.” Lent is to be seen as a moment of rest and refuge.

For those overwhelmed by life, Lent can be a sanctuary. The liturgical season’s slowness and gentleness are welcome experiences for individuals impacted by stress and anxiety, mental or physical health concerns, economic uncertainty, incessant polarization and many other factors. Lent offers people a chance to slow down and regroup. When experiences of Lent are streamlined, calm and quiet, many people find the peace and refuge they so desperately crave amid the craziness of life. Today we will journey with the Lord to seek victory through hard work, planning, strategy, and dedication. Let us seek to deepen your relationship with God throughout this Season of Lent, and in the words of the Gospel, “be merciful as your heavenly father is merciful.”



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING

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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.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR-B-2024

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER SAJI: IS LIFE BORING AND APATHETIC? Are you tired and worn out? Are you bored and uninterested in life as it goes by day by day? Do you feel like you're just a small little piece of a bigger movement that you have no control over and that wears you out? If that is true, then you ought to feel some company with Job, as we listen to his emotional expression of how life is for him at this very moment. It is quite an expression of despair! Some of us might have been taught that it is not OK if you claim to be a Catholic Christian, to feel despair or boredom with life. We might've been taught that it's not OK to feel overwhelmed by all the service that stands before you and the expectations that people have that you would do good for them. We must give ourselves permission to feel that part of our life. It is absolutely normal to be bored in life sometimes. It is absolutely normal to lose hope sometimes. It is absolutely normal to feel overwhelmed and drowning in other people's expectations. Those are clear and authentic experiences that each of us as human beings have. To deny that, or to act like it is a mark against our holiness to feel this way is simply to act in contradiction to honesty. Imagine the feeling Jesus had when he entered Simon and Andrew's house and found the mother-in-law sick with a fever. He lays hands on her and heals her and then she's expected to cook and clean up after everybody. Imagine how overwhelmed she must have felt. It seems that Jesus would have gone to Simon and Andrew's house to rest and yet everybody knows he's there and they show up with all their sick relatives and friends. Imagine the overwhelming tiredness that Jesus must have felt at constantly being confronted with people in need. Jesus understands how we feel and wishes to bless those moments. Blessing those moments doesn't mean they go away, it means that he is our companion in the midst of those. He is not absent from us in the midst of our own despair or boredom, but is sincerely and completely with us in that experience. I'm hoping that we all know we have a choice about what to do with those various experiences of boredom or despair. Instead of giving into the temptation of isolating ourselves, this should be the trigger that allows us to move toward other people. Each of us has at least one person in our life who would be willing to listen to us even though they've heard the story 1000 times. We don't need them to understand every detail, we just need them to be our companion in the midst of that circumstance. They are the flesh and blood of Jesus with us there in that moment. We can also direct ourselves beyond the current experience and emotional reaction toward the things we know that give us life. That could include going to someone who is willing to hug us or offer us love and not take advantage of our brokenness or vulnerability. It might mean simply sitting down quietly for a few moments and acknowledging the emotional experience without letting the emotional experience overwhelm every other part of our lives. I can be sad and still choose to live faithfully. I can be bored and still choose to do the boring acts of love. It might sound ridiculous, but let's celebrate the boredom in our lives. Let's celebrate the ordinary tasks that we seem to do without anybody noticing how much energy it takes. Let's celebrate all the loving things we do that are never acknowledged by others. Let us take the opportunity to be proud of ourselves, instead of waiting for somebody else to acknowledge us. Let's take a moment to anchor ourselves in God's love for us in every moment, especially in those moments that are most difficult. God will never walk away from us, never abandon us, and always love us.

Welcome to February, the shortest month of the year even though this year we get 29 days as it is a leap year. I often think of people born on February 29 in that every four years their birthday must become a thrill to celebrate as it is the actual day of their birth. If you have a February 29 birthday, please let me know as you are a unique member of the parish. The Chinese New Year occurs on the 10th of February which welcomes in the Year of the Dragon. The Dragon is a majestic and lucky creature in Chinese folklore, symbolising bravery, creativity, and innovation. Tomorrow the church celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple where Jesus is consecrated to the Lord forty days after his birth. Here Jesus receives special attention from an older couple, Simeon and Anna. In that it is the First Friday of the month, our mass is at 10:00 am as usual. This weekend's scriptures open up with a passage from Job who speaks with brutal and refreshing honesty as he struggles to find purpose in everyday life but generates the value of bringing these emotions to prayer. Mark's gospel points to Jesus' ministry of prayer, healing, and preaching, yet unlike Simon's mother-in-law in the Gospel many of us have prayed for healing and did not experience a cure. Ponder times in your life when prayers appeared to go unanswered with awareness that Jesus is not a Santa Claus or fairy godmother in that he does not make all our dreams come true exactly as we hope or imagine. Have a terrific weekend. BE BLESSED AND BE A BLESSING

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON O come, let us worship God and bow down low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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 Parish Office or from Jeff Coy, our parish treasurer.

ON THE WAY-CATECHESIS ON THE EUCHARIST: The Effects of Holy Communion- What material food produces in our bodily life, Holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life (CCC 1392). This line from the Catechism is a great summary of the effects of Holy Communion. The Eucharist is nourishment. As we expect food to bring us physical health, so we expect the Eucharist to bring us spiritual health. Which also means that, just as we cooperate with the nourishment of material food by physical exercise, so we must cooperate with this spiritual nourishment by corresponding spiritual exercises. Many people treat the Eucharist as if it were a drug or vitamin that produces its effects just by its reception, without our cooperation. But Communion brings us no benefit at all unless we respond properly. Indeed, it's tragic how many people fail to receive the blessings of Communion Sunday after Sunday. So, as we review the effects of Communion, let's also consider how we ought to respond. Communion increases our union with Christ. The risen Christ is as present to you in Communion as he was to the Apostles in the Upper Room or on the road to Emmaus. Only the mode of his presence is different. He was present to them in his physical body. Now he is fully present within you under the form of bread. As the physical presence of Christ strengthened his disciples, so now his Eucharistic presence strengthens you. What would you say to Jesus if he suddenly stood before you? Well, you should say that after receiving Communion. At that moment, he's not standing before you but dwelling within you. He desires to hear from you. So, speak to him directly and candidly. Confide in him your fears, anxieties, hopes, sorrows, joy, and gratitude. This side of heaven, you are never more united to Christ than when you've received Communion. This union with Christ in the Eucharist separates us from sin. It frees us from venial sins, from our minor faults and failures. It also strengthens our souls against future sin. As a good diet and exercise strengthen the body against illness, so the Eucharist and prayer strengthen the soul against the fatal sickness of sin. In short, the Eucharist strengthens us in virtue. So, after receiving Communion, ask for the virtues you need. As he dwells within you, pray especially for the increase of faith, hope, and love. The Eucharist commits us to the poor. Christ comes to us under the poor form of bread. And we receive him because we are spiritually poor. Thus the Eucharist is the continuation of Saint Paul's words: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). Our poverty has been enriched by his. This intersection of his poverty and ours should make us attentive to the poor in our midst. This is the secret of Mother Teresa's heroic service. She understood that her service of the poorest of the poor was the fruit of her devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati had the same intuition: "Jesus comes to me every day in Holy Communion," he said. "I repay him in my miserable way by visiting

the poor." Finally, the Eucharist builds up the Church. The Body of Christ makes us the Body of Christ. We do not have sanctification or salvation individually, as atomized individuals, but only together, as members of the Body of Christ. The Eucharist incorporates us more fully, more deeply, into his Body where alone we find holiness.

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.

VISITS TO THE SICK If you cannot come to church because of illness, please be sure that we are notified so that we might minister to you either at home, hospital, or nursing home or in any care facility. Because of confidentiality issues, we cannot come to you unless requested to do so by you or your family.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: Receiving the Eucharist is the greatest gift imaginable. Before receiving Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, we are asked to make an act of reverence. After the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion says, "The Body of Christ," each communicant responds, "Amen," before receiving the Sacred Host. This response is a sign of our belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Please consume the Host in front of the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister. If you are receiving the Host in your hand, please be careful to ensure that no particles remain on your hands.

MASS SCHEDULE STARTING FROM 3RD FEBRUARY 2024

SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM ANN COCKRELL, RIP

SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 11.00AM MARY CHAPPELL, RIP (Donor KATH RUSHBY)

MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM FOR THE SOULS OF MAX AND MASON (TEENAGERS MURDERED IN Bristol) (Donor JO CHAMBERS)

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM THE WELL-BEING OF BABY XAVIER (Donor JO CHAMBERS)

WEDNESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PRIVATE INTENTIONS

THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM JUNE AND HUGH OAKFORD (INTENTIONS) REQUIEM MASS FOR MARY CHAPPELL AT 1.00PM

FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY ADORATION AT 9.00AM AND MASS AT 10.00AM PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN NIGERIA (Donor JO CHAMBERS)

SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY MASS AT 6.00PM PRO POPULO

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 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. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which we must experience alongside Jesus, not with pride and presumption, but using the arms of faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of our Baptism." Pope Benedict XVI