

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

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1st Sunday of Lent - (Year C)

9th March 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ORGANIST

You may have noticed some horrible sounds coming from the organ lately. Whilst I do sometimes play wrong notes it's NOT ALL ME! Our organ is now extremely old (I think it came second hand from Brentwood Cathedral a long time ago.) Some of the notes are not playing properly and the sound is sometimes cutting out. I have been exploring some options, and I'm delighted to say that, with Fr Jon's approval, a new organ is on order. In fact, it is another second-hand organ, but it comes with new software installed to produce the sound.

This is the latest thing, and a way of getting a new instrument at a distinctly second-hand price! We have had a great response with substantial pledges made, but as always, further donations are gratefully received! – Donations should be placed in an envelope marked 'Organ Fund' and may be placed in the Sunday collection bag, or given directly to Fr Jon.

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website www.whatgoodnews.org

The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025:

Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Friday 18 to Friday 25 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#) Of course, you may wish to make your own travel and hotel arrangements for your parish. You are most welcome to do this and still participate fully in the program of the diocesan pilgrimage. If so, please tell me and I shall make sure you are able to join as much of the diocesan program as you would like.

ANNUAL COLLECTON

The money raised from the annual collection for Lourdes at Sunday Masses is used to help cover the costs of nurses and others who assist. This ensures that pilgrims with medical can come to Lourdes. The money is also used to support pilgrims who otherwise could not afford to come. For further information regarding this, you are most welcome to contact me.

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Sunday 9 th Mar	10:00 Solemn Mass – 1 st Sunday of Lent – Year C.	
	18:00 Solemn Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday 11 th	10:00 Mass – Tuesday of the 1 st week of Lent	
Wednesday 12 th	10:00 Mass – Wednesday of the 1 st week of Lent	<i>Followed by the first Lent Address</i>
Sunday 16 th	10:00 Solemn Mass – 2 nd Sunday of Lent – Year C.	<i>Matthew Navin – RIP</i>
	18:00 Solemn Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>

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GOSPEL REFLECTION

*« Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert
to be tempted by the devil »*

Today, Jesus, “filled with the Holy Spirit” (Lk 4:1), goes into the desert, far from men, to experience in an immediate and tangible way, his absolute dependence on the Father. Jesus feels attacked by hunger and this moment of weakness is taken advantage of by the Evil One, who tempts him with the intention of destroying the very core of Jesus’ identity as Son of God: his substantial and unconditional adherence to the Father. With our eyes fixed on Christ, the conqueror of evil, Christians today feel encouraged to enter the path of Lent. We are driven to do so by the desire for authenticity: to be fully what we are, disciples of Jesus and, with Him, children of God. This is why we want to deepen our profound attachment to Jesus Christ and to his program of life which is the Gospel: “One does not live by bread alone” (Lk 4:4).

Like Jesus in the desert, armed with the wisdom of Scripture, we feel called to proclaim in our consumerist world that man is designed on a divine scale and that he can only satisfy his hunger for happiness when he opens wide the doors of his life to Jesus Christ, Redeemer of man. This involves overcoming a multitude of temptations that seek to diminish our human-divine vocation. With the example and strength of Jesus tempted in the desert, we will unmask the many lies about man that are systematically told to us by social media and by the pagan environment in which we live.

Saint Benedict dedicates chapter 49 of his Rule to “The Observance of Lent” and exhorts us to “wash away in this holy season the negligences of other times (...), by devoting ourselves to prayer with tears, to reading, to compunction of heart and self-denial (...), to offer God something of our own will with the joy of the Holy Spirit (...) and look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing.”

Fr. Josep LAPLANA OSB Monk of Montserrat(Montserrat, Barcelona, Spain)

Courtesy of Evangeli