

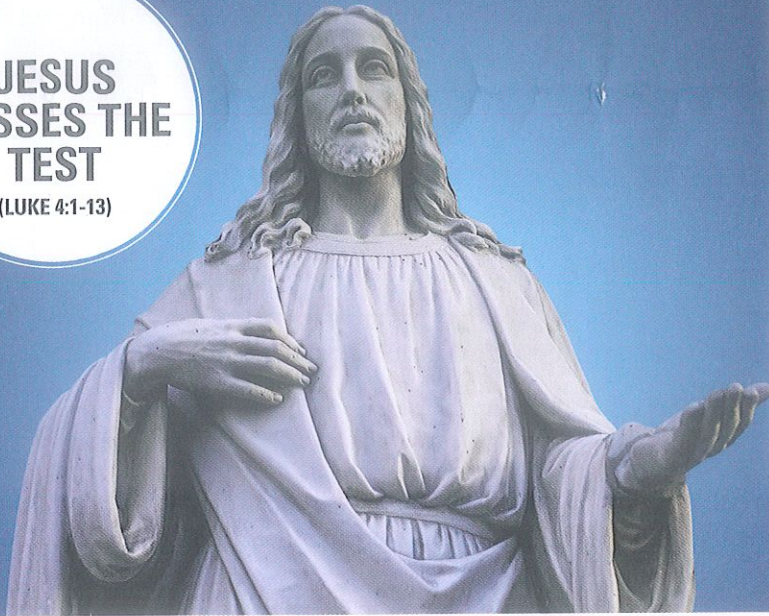
Sunday Message

THE WORD

Year C • Season Colour: Purple • Psalter Week 1

JESUS PASSES THE TEST

(LUKE 4:1-13)



On this first Sunday of Lent, we are taken back to the prelude to the ministry of Jesus. The Gospel tradition begins with the figure of John the Baptist, the baptism of Jesus, then Jesus' being tested.

Luke and Matthew present a dramatic confrontation between Jesus and the devil. But we might note that Luke tells us in our gospel reading today that it is the Spirit who sets up this encounter; Jesus is not ambushed in the wilderness, but rather the devil is acting, in a sense, as God's agent, to find out how Jesus understands what it means to be the Son of God. He has been revealed as such at his baptism, but will he use this knowledge as a kind of short-cut to being the Messiah people are expecting, or will he be the Son that God has in mind?

The three tests present Jesus with a choice: he can use his divine power for his own advantage or to attract a popular following. In either case, his mission is doomed. Or, he can be the Son and Messiah whom God intends, and the proof of that is not human success, but the cross. We will reflect on the final and crucial test at the end of Lent, in Holy Week. Our gospel reading hints at this, when it ends with the ominous warning that "the devil left him, to return at the appointed time" – that is, at the Last Supper, when the story of Jesus' Passion begins. ■

REFLECT

For many people, Lent is an endurance test: we decide on a penance, usually giving up something, then follows six weeks of struggle to keep to that decision, much as we may make our new year resolutions, and very often with similar success – or lack thereof. But there is more to the idea of penance. First of all, it is to make us more conscious of God in our lives: it is meant to remind us of the Lord so that, if we deny ourselves something, we are meant to reflect on

why we have given it up, to remind ourselves of Jesus' sacrifice of himself for us, and to encourage us to deepen our relationship with God, so that at the end of Lent we are closer to God than at the beginning.

Lenten penance, self-denial, is not primarily an exercise in willpower or the opportunity to lose weight. We may well decide that it is a good opportunity to adopt a healthier lifestyle, but perhaps we might always begin by thinking about

LEARN

The Gospel text speaks about Jesus being tested rather than tempted.

Jesus is being tested as to what he understands by his being the Son of God, as revealed at his baptism, which immediately precedes this scene.

The final test in Luke's account takes place in Jerusalem.

This sequence reflects Luke's geographical understanding of Jesus' journey to the holy city and to the cross.

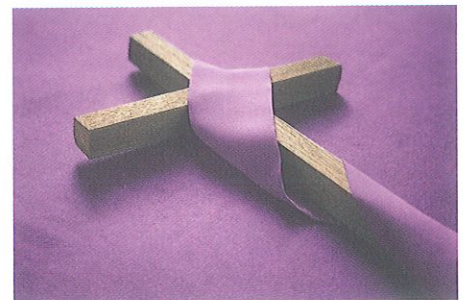
SAY

**We do not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes
from God's mouth**

(see Matthew 4:4)

DO

Decide on your Lenten penance: but remember every time you perform it to think of Jesus and his love for you.



ourselves as disciples of Jesus and reflecting on whether we might adjust our behaviour and attitudes so that we live out our Christian vocation more fully.

The three traditional aspects of Lent are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. First is *prayer*, communion with the Lord; *fasting*, self-denial, comes next; and then *almsgiving*, the giving of the money we have saved to those in need, is one result of our Lenten penance. ■



NEWSLETTER

6TH MARCH 2022

A PARISH OF THE MULLINGAR DEANERY

Fr. Stan Deegan Tel: 044-9374127 0872673655.

Email: parishofkillucan@gmail.com

www.parishofkillucan.ie Facebook: Killucan Parish

The Community of St. Camillus 044 9374115.

ST. JOSEPH'S, RATHWIRE.

Saturday 5th, 6pm. Richard & Niall O'Keefe.

Sunday 6th, 11.30am. Oliver Lynam MM. Paddy & Thomas Beatty. William, Peter, Richard & Margaret Pakenham.

Saturday 12th, 6pm. Eileen Leech MM. Robert Kellaghan. Coleman & McCormack family & friends.

Sunday 13th, 11.30am. Sally & Tommy O'Hara.

ST. BRIGID'S, RAHARNEY.

Weekday Masses; Tues, & Thursday Raharney. Wed & Fri Rathwire.

MASS OFFERTORY COLLECTION: €590
PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND €591

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



In St. Joseph's Tuesday 1pm-9pm.
& St. Brigid's Wed. 6pm-10pm:
*Special Diocesan intention of prayer
for vocations and the family.*
Take one Hour with the Lord

Streaming Service: Masses from Raharney may now be viewed on <https://www.churchservices.tv/raharney>

Towards the Universal Synod of 2023

This week, the Diocese of Meath begins its synodal pathway. All members of the Christian community are invited to take part in this synodal process which will take place at various locations around the Diocese on the Tuesdays of Lent.

The meetings are moments of spiritual discernment, where we listen to God's Word, and to God's Spirit who speaks through the Baptised, to discern what God is saying to the Church at this time. As Bishop Deenihan said in his Lenten message: "By asking us to reflect on our experience of *communion*, *participation*, and *mission* in the life of our Church at parish level, Pope Francis is calling each of us to play our part in bringing about a new springtime for our Church".

The meetings in our Deanery will be held in *St Etchen's NS Kinnegad on Tues at 7.30pm.*

All are welcome.

See the Synod page on www.dioceseofmeath.ie for an explainer video about this process.

See www.synod.ie for more resources.

And please pray the following prayer for the success of this process:

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus (Synod Prayer.)

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen