

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

17th March 2024



*A pure heart create for me, O God.*

*Psalm 50*

The Greeks in the Gospel from Saint John this Sunday know that something is happening. They want to see this man who is causing such a stir. We don't know their motives but we cannot presume that they had bad motivation. Do we really want to see Jesus? Do we just want to observe him or do we want to see him as he is?

The only way to see Jesus as he is, is to serve him so that we can truly know him. We want to see and know the heart of our Lord and that is only possible by this complete service. This Gospel passage is one of very few when the Father's voice is heard by the crowd. We are not sure what hearing the voice of the Father meant to them, but for sure there was something strange and from another world happening and people were aware of it. For us, there may at times be similar experiences, although perhaps not as striking. Walking in faith allows us to see and to experience the world in a different way.

Lent is the time for our conversion. Lent is the time to live more fully the New Covenant in the blood of Christ. God forgives us and forgets our sins. Let us rejoice in the Lord.

**This week let us pray for:**

- ◆ strength and support for all those facing difficulties;
- ◆ all those who are isolating or feeling isolated;
- ◆ all the Lenten intentions and promises throughout our community;
- ◆ all those connected to our community who are unwell, upset or mourning.

**We pray for all those we know who have passed away over the last year:**

*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and let perpetual light  
shine upon them. May their  
souls and the souls of all the  
faithful departed, through the  
mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen*

God of goodness and mercy,

Let me be honest with myself as I look into my heart  
and soul, noticing the times I turn away from You.  
Guide me as I humbly seek to repent and return to  
your love.

Transform me this Lent, heavenly Father. Give me the  
strength to commit myself to grow closer to You each  
day.

Amen.

**Monday 25th March—Feast of the Annunciation**







Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed are thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death

Amen.

LENT & EASTER		
<b>ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS</b>  Emphasizes our mortality and our need for ongoing repentance.	<b>DAYS OF FASTING</b> ASH WEDNESDAY GOOD FRIDAY  <b>WHAT IS FASTING?</b> One full meal and two smaller meals.	<b>DAYS OF ABSTINENCE</b> ASH WEDNESDAY GOOD FRIDAY EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT  <b>WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?</b> NO MEAT
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>  Commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem.	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>  We remember the Passion and Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross.	
<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>  Celebrates the Last Supper with the disciples and Passover.	<b>40</b> The 40 days of Lent are based on two accounts: the 40 years of wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan.	<b>PILLARS OF LENT</b> PRAYER FASTING ALMSGIVING  The key to understanding the meaning of Lent is simple: Baptism. 
<b>EASTER SUNDAY HE HAS RISEN!</b>  Alleluia! The principal feast of the ecclesiastical year: Jesus has risen!  Easter is an 8 day celebration leading to Easter Season, which ends on Pentecost.		