

First Sunday of Lent

15th February 2026



Collect

Heavenly Father,

your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:

help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God.

Post Communion

you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;

by it you nourish our faith,

increase our hope,

and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live by every word

that proceeds from out of your mouth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Contact details

Priest in Charge Rev Alex French revajwfrench@gmail.com 07508564392

Safeguarding Officer Mrs S Odedina-Barton sholaodedina58@gmail.com

If you would like to receive these notices electronically, please email Rev Alex.

Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7

Jacqui

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

³ Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

⁴ “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵ “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Romans 5: 12-19

Yvonne

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—

¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone’s account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with

the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. 17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. 19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Matthew 4: 1-11

Fr Alex

⁴ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Hymns

Complete Anglican; Hymns Old and New

		<u>Number</u>
Processional	Praise to the Holiest	572
Kyrie		962
Gradual	How sweet the name of Jesus sounds	297
Offertory	Amazing grace	29
Communion	Lord, who throughout these forty days	Sheet
Recessional	At the name of Jesus	54

Notices

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with the House of Bishops guidance and policies and have our own Parish Safeguarding Officer who is **Mrs Shola Odedina-Barton**. See the front of the Contact Sheet for her contact email address. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on **0121 426 0407** or email StephH@cofebirmingham.com if you have any concerns.

Fire escape

In case there is a need to evacuate church, please make yourself familiar with the fire exit routes before the service starts.

Compline

There is a service of compline on Wednesday the 25th February 2026, the Zoom details for which are

Meeting ID: 848 0981 2495

Passcode: 464983

Jumble sale @ St Benedict's

St Benedict's are planning a jumble sale in March. If you have any jumble at home, please let Fr Alex have it.

Tidy up

We need to tidy up the scullery and sacristy, being clinical regarding the stuff we through away. If you are able to offer any help, please let Jeanne or Phil know and we'll coordinate at time to get it back into a pristine state.

Lent Course – Racial justice

There will be a lent course running on Monday mornings during Lent at St Michael & All Angels church. Each week starts at 10am for around 60 minutes and will explore issues of racial justice within the Bible. The first session is on **Monday 23rd February** and the last one on Monday 23rd March. If you would like any further information just let Fr Alex know.

Lent lunch

We will be holding a simple Lent lunch after the service on Sunday 22nd March. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church on which to indicate what you would be able to bring in to share with others. Soup, rolls and cheese will be provided.

Stations of the cross

Every Sunday during Lent at 6pm there will be a service on Zoom walking through the stations of the cross. The Zoom link will be the same each week..

Meeting ID: 826 5065 9129 Passcode: 856494

Prayers

Saint Cyprian's church

Inspire our thoughts and increase our courage so that we can see clearly whether there is a workable future in establishing the Community Benefit Society to lease the church and hall.

Saint Michael & All Angels church

May those who are working to build the houses in the back garden of the vicarage have their physical and financial interests looked after by their employer.

St Benedict's church

Thank you, Lord, for enabling the funding to become available through which to look at the feasibility of repurposing the church hall into affordable local housing.

Saint Mary's church

As we begin our journey through Lent, may we have a purpose to our thoughts and walk knowing you are watching us, on our journey as we follow your walk towards Good Friday.

Prayers at St Cyprian's church

We pray for all those who are in need at this time, for

Ollie, Beryl, Harold, Maureen, Andy Newman, Kevin, Lauren, Paul, Ken Long, Alan Carter and Pat.

We remember those who have died in faith... Phyllis Macken, Lillian, Clarice Allen and for those whose years mind is in February ... Stanley Tinley, Mary Saunders, Hubert Austen-Ryder, Kathleen Samuels, Alice Evans, Lillian Belcher, George Horton, Albert Taylor, Hilda Warwood, Joseph Abraham Hyde Allen, Stephen Carter`

Lord, who throughout these forty days

1 Lord, who throughout these forty days
for us didst fast and pray,
teach us with Thee to mourn our sins
and close by Thee to stay.

2 As Thou with Satan didst contend,
and didst the vict'ry win,
O give us strength in Thee to fight,
in Thee to conquer sin.

3 As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and chiefly live
by Thy most holy word.

4 And through these days of penitence,
and through Thy passion-tide,
yes, evermore in life and death,
Jesus, with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that so, this life
of suff'ring over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.

Source: [Our Great Redeemer's Praise #223](#)