***Mark for Lent***

Dear friends,

Lent begins on 17th February, with an online service for Ash Wednesday. Christians often use the days of Lent for extra reading and praying in order to deepen their faith in Jesus Christ. There are different ways to do it, and there are many books and studies on prayer, on spirituality and on discipleship.

For those who would like something that is not too heavy, I’ve prepared this programme of Bible readings in the Gospel of Mark, calling it *“Mark for Lent”*. The readings I have selected are deliberately short, and I hope this will encourage you to read them thoughtfully and then to turn your thoughts into prayer.

You can ask yourself, ***‘What strikes me in this reading?’***

Or, *‘****Do I have questions I wish to think about?’***

However we choose to spend the days of Lent, and whatever materials we decide to use, I pray that we all may grow more and more to know God and his presence in our lives.

With my prayers,

*Martin Greenfield*

Mark for Lent

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|  | **Date** | **Mark’s Gospel** | **Theme** |
| 1 | 18th February | 1:9-12 | Jesus comes for baptism |
| 2 | 19 | 1:14-18 | Jesus calls men to follow |
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| 3 | 22nd February | 1:40-45 | Jesus cleanses a leper |
| 4 | 23rd | 2:1-12 | Jesus heals and arouses hostility |
| 5 | 24th | 2:13-17 | Jesus calls Levi |
| 6 | 25th | 3:1-6 | Sabbath healing and plots to kill Jesus |
| 7 | 26th | 3:13-19 | Twelve appointed to be with him |
|  |  |  |  |
| 8 | 1st March | 3:31-35 | The new family |
| 9 | 2nd | 4:21-25 | Strong sayings |
| 10 | 3rd | 4:30-34 | The mustard seed parable |
| 11 | 4th | 4:35-41 | Who is this whom wind and waves obey? |
| 12 | 5th | 5:25-34 | A sick woman finds healing |
|  |  |  |  |
| 13 | 8th March | 6:1-6 | Home town not impressed |
| 14 | 9th | 6:7-13 | Twelve on their mission |
| 15 | 10th | 6:30-34 | Trying to get a break |
| 16 | 11th | 6:35-44 | Five thousand fed |
| 17 | 12th | 7:14-23 | From out of the heart |
|  |  |  |  |
| 18 | 15th March | 7:24-30 | A gentile woman’s great faith |
| 19 | 16th | 8:14-21 | Lessons for the disciples |
| 20 | 17th | 8:27-30 | ‘You are the Christ’ |
| 21 | 18th | 8:31-33 | He must suffer and die |
| 22 | 19th | 8:34-38 | Take up the cross and follow |
|  |  |  |  |
| 23 | 22nd March | 9:2-13 | He was ‘transfigured’ |
| 24 | 23rd | 9:33-37 | Who is the most important? |
| 25 | 24th | 9:38-41 | John gets it wrong |
| 26 | 25th | 10:17-22 | The rich man cannot follow |
| 27 | 26th | 10:46-52 | The blind man sees |
| Holy Week  Easter | | | |