

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Lent Yr B 2024.

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God.

'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



## Reflection on the Gospel

Did you ever wonder why Jesus might have needed to spend 40 days - a month + 10 days - out in the wilderness before he was ready to embrace his new life? When I think of 'wilderness' I think 'hostile' and indeed 'to be avoided' unless out for a nice walk. Yet it represents the great test: me versus nature – even human nature. There are several reality tv programmes based on this at present. But Jesus, like us in all things except sin (Heb 4:15), why had he need of such an extended stay? Could it be that he was about to leave behind a lifestyle he had known for 30 years: a carpenter no doubt in demand, a home, the company of his Mother and friends, and was to become homeless, jobless and mistrusted – and therefore

needed a space in which he could refocus his priorities, his identity, his purpose?

Why are you making sacrifices this Lent? It must all be for love of God, so as to live the Kingdom now, and like the rainbow, be a reminder that God is with us, and is for us. Like Jesus, over these 40 days we are called to opt in, to become what we were baptised to be!

## To think about ....

**Lent** is a time of remembering the grown up mature Jesus, his words and actions and applying them to our own lives.

**It** is a forty day season of penance, reflection, and fasting.

**Lent** is a time, with the help of God to mature our own spirituality, faith, hope and love of God, Father, Son and Spirit.  
-a time of deep loving.

**It** is a time sharing inner discipline, of walking the Jesus walk, climbing the Jesus hill, uniting our little sacrifices with Jesus' big ones, a fitting time to climb the holy mountain of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

**Lent**, in short, is like spring,  
-a time for positive, energetic and yet enthusiastic growth. It's an important 'me' and 'we' time

