

THE PARISH OF LONG POINT BAY



PORT ROWAN ♦ PORT RYERSE ♦ TURKEY POINT ♦ VITTORIA ♦ ST. JOHN'S WOODHOUSE

Sunday March 6th 2022 First Sunday of Lent



Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Sentence

We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Matthew 4.4

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

DEUTERONOMY 26:1-11;

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16;

ROMANS 10:8B-13;

LUKE 4:1-13

Reflection for Sunday March 6th 2022 from Rev Enrique

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

The three temptations are related to the reality of the context of Jesus our Lord but also to our daily reality. We can see a hierarchy in the three temptations as Lukas presents them to us. It all begins with hunger, implying a power over nature, to transform stone into bread. A hierarchical level in the middle, political power over the kingdoms of the world, taking it to a high mountain, in exchange for idolatry. The last one in Jerusalem, taking him to the pinnacle of the temple, daring him to throw himself because the angels would protect him is a challenge about spiritual power in religion; The power over life and death.

Satan is very clever, and he presents temptations at just the right time and in the most attractive way. At the moment he thinks we are weaker. But he does not understand that the best opportunity that God gives us to show his strength. *“Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.”* 2Corinthians 12:10

after 40 days of fasting, when he would be starving. He knows that necessity predisposes him to act in a certain way, and he wants him to give in to what the body asks of him. Besides being a liar, Satan is cunning, he knows how to present things in a desirable way. Jesus has come to redeem the world, and he wants to propose a quick way to accomplish his mission, an easier way, with sure success: perform a spectacular miracle, and everyone will adore you. What is this about the cross, about suffering? No, he saves humanity in a spectacular way; It's very easy, just jump out of here and do the miracle. Or if you don't want it to be so obvious, worship me, prince of this world, and I will give you all the kingdoms of the earth.

This comes to us on a daily basis. Jesus overcame these temptations so that we understand that we too can overcome evil, that as long Christ is in us, he will give us the strength to achieve the goal of reaching the kingdom of God. God wants us to put our hearts in Him, and thus have the joy of the kingdom of heaven. *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* Matthew 6:21
The devil always stalks us when we are weakest, and not only when we are sick or full of problems but also when we have wealth and power. In truth we are limited, and sometimes each one in their circumstances ends up giving in to the temptations that evil proposes to us.

Let's just look at this moment like the fear of the pandemic, the fear of what is happening in Ottawa, what one man does with an entire country, the humiliation and suffering caused by a dictator, the desire for power and wealth makes a man kneel and worship Satan forgetting that only God is the one who deserves our worship. Evil has no possession over anything because everything is God's creation. Perhaps you speak to us from your Christian marriage and illness, both in the suffering of your husband or wife who are ill and you as their caregiver, have the greatest moments of weakness we would like to throw in the towel, but at that precise moment God who knows our weaknesses and infirmities and would like to succumb to these tempting proposals of evil, I can tell you that today I have experienced many temptations, and although I have been weak and have struggled with God, as *“Jacob Wrestles at Peniel”* Genesis 32:22-30 seeking the blessing of the Highest God and He never abandons me. Many times, just like Jacob, who later called Israel, he was left with the wound in his hip from the fight, but with the satisfaction that God's love fills him and fills him with blessings after these fights in temptations.

Each of these temptations that the son of God suffered in his memory lead us to reflect on what we live in our days:

The stone in bread: The temptation to HAVE, which arises from the fear of insecurity. The more material goods we have, the more satisfaction we will give to our body and the world.

The power and the glory: The temptation of POWER, which arises from the fear of insignificance and loneliness. The more successful we are, the more guarantee we are on the right track.

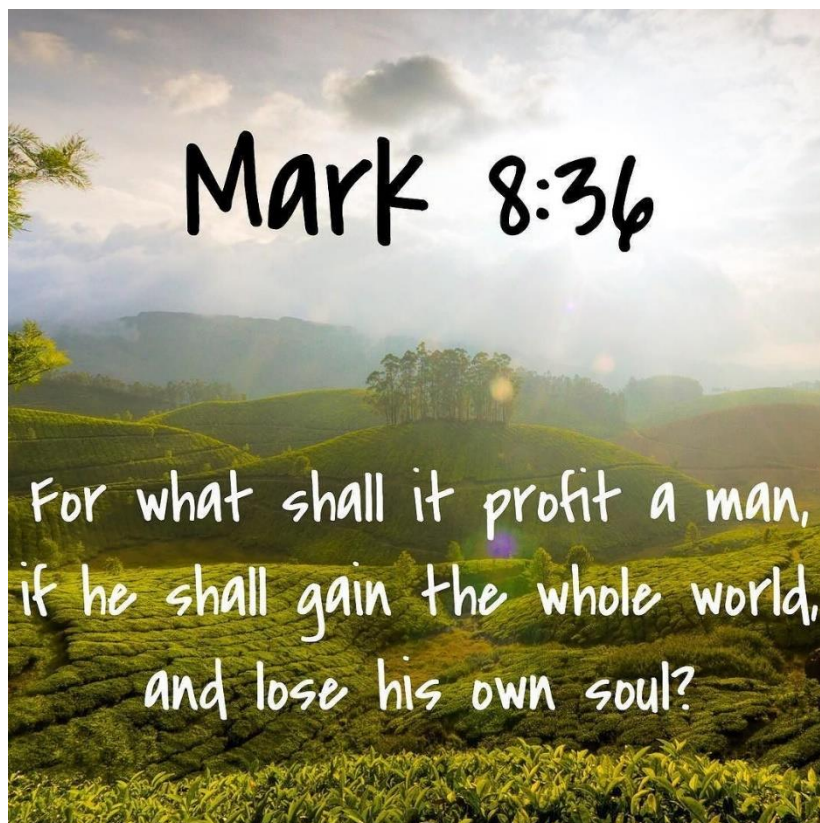
The temptation to VALUE, which arises from the fear of God's uncertainty. Since we have renounced what is of the world, let us triumph in a great way in the religious.

We cannot resign ourselves to being just another son. That we seek our divine pat on the back and tell us how great you are because you did this or that or we can't keep questioning why this happens to me, if I'm one of the good ones? God wants you to overcome all temptations, that when you feel weak, he let's the strength of God dwell in you and that like Paul we can say: *"for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."* Jesus the Christ the Savior overcame these temptations for us, we just have to follow in his footsteps and overcome evil by force of good.

Let us not be afraid to fight, let us not be afraid to raise our voices against injustice, against suffering, against hunger and misery, on the contrary, let us be brave fighting in the LOVE of God that overcomes everything and everything you can, *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*
Romans 12:21

We will always have temptations *"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!"* John 16:33 if you believe in Jesus the Christ you will have the strength to win the battles that come into your life. And remember that even if you defeat the devil today, and he goes away raging because we have ripped a divine gift from him: love for God and for the brothers. The evil leaves until the next time. God wants us to overcome and be vigilant *"Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day[a] your Lord is coming."* Matthew 24:42

We are in the world and here we learn to live the love of God and prepare our lives for eternal joy. Do not faint in FAITH, but live in the love of God, *"For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"* Mark 8:36



Prayers for Sunday March 6th from JoAnne Easton - joeaston@kwic.com

God, you know our hearts. You have knitted our inmost being and you know our deepest desires, fears and worries. Help us to journey during this Lenten season into a new awareness of your presence in our lives. Save us from our own temptations, so that we may more freely follow you.

Forty days alone in a wilderness of thoughts and temptations, which could so easily have distracted you from your task, your mission, your vision. Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned to all that had to be done, despite major temptations that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.

We too live in stressful times. Demands are made of our time, that leave so little for the important things of life. We are easily distracted in the wilderness of our lives, dealing with Covid, isolation, personal issues and the art of growing older. We listen to the voices of this world, and ignore the one who endured temptations and so much more, and emerged triumphant, that we might not have to suffer so.

Forgive us, Father, when we get distracted from our task. May we, in faith, see this world through your eyes, hear this world through your ears, touch this world through your hands and bless this world through your grace.

At this time, we ask your help for the people of the Ukraine, the surrounding countries and the world as the ego and evil of one man affects so terribly an innocent nation and the world. At the time of this writing, we ask for peace and an end to this invasion but many things can happen in the next few days.

We pray for each other in this parish. None of us know the extent of the pressures that some may be under this very day. Look upon us all, read our thoughts and weigh our feelings, and by your utter resourcefulness, "save us in the time of trial and deliver us from all evil."

Through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen

We pray especially for Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, Marinez Bishop of Amazonia, AD Rick Jones, Rev Enrique Martinez, and Rev Jack Cox.

For the week beginning Sunday 6 March 2022, we will be praying for the **Rev. Canon Bob Schroeder** and the people of **All Saints', Mount Pleasant**; and the **Rev. David Hyatt** and the people of **St. James', Burford**.

We pray for the ones who have asked for your healing touch upon their lives: Betty F., Don G., Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale F, Rose G, Julie, Carol M., George F., Carol H., Bud W. Juanita K. Mary B. Colin C. his father Michael and all their family and anyone known to you, silently or aloud

Remember as well our shut-ins June, Shirley & John, Iris, Julie, Sheila, Sylvia, Anna and Jack B

It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists, can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or Enrique at enrique6921@gmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them let us know and we will add to the list



Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Please click on the link to watch this week's Parish Video

<https://youtu.be/xa7UGkGXU2g>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In house worship March 13th St John's Port Rowan at 10 am

All in person services to be determined – I will send schedule as soon as decided

Please note there was an error in the newspaper. The Clergy meeting education is on Thursday March 10th not Tuesday March 8th as stated

Bi-Weekly newspaper

Any good movies you've seen or books you have read. A delicious recipe you want to us all to enjoy. Do you have memories you want to share? Please send them to Rev. Enrique or myself and we can include in the newspaper.

Any birthdays/anniversaries/special occasions in March – Let me know for the newspaper. We can celebrate I don't need your year of birth, just the month and date. Of course, if you have a special age birthday and want to celebrate it just let me know. If you are interested in this special occasion section, please send me details.



Sing along to this mornings Hymns

Hymn Texts – Sunday, March 6, 2022

175 – Forty Days and Forty Nights

1. Forty day and forty nights you were fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled:
2. Burning heat throughout the day, bitter cold when light had fled,
Prowling beasts around your way, stones your pillow, earth your bed.
3. Shall not we your trials share, learn your discipline of will,
And with you by fast and prayer wrestle with the powers of hell?
4. So if Satan pressing hard, soul and body would destroy,
Christ who conquered, be our guard; give to us the victor's joy.
5. Saviour, may we hear your voice – keep us constant at your side;
And with you we shall rejoice at the eternal Eastertide.

631 – The Kingdom of God Is Justice and Joy

1. The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
For Jesus restores what sin would destroy.
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
And here and here after the kingdom shall grow.
2. The kingdom of God is mercy and grace;
The captives are freed, the sinners find place.
The outcasts are welcomed God's banquet to share,
And hope is awakened in place of despair.
3. The kingdom of God is challenge and choice:
Believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
Our crisis of judgement for gain and for loss.
4. God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
In Jesus begun, in heaven made whole.
The heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
And all things cry "Glory!" to God All in All.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit, please call Enrique. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Enrique Martinez can be contacted by email at enrique6921@gmail.com or by phone at 519 586 3401 – Please note that Enrique’s day off will be Fridays

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page