

The Saint Raphael Link

Some Periodic Ramblings of the Prior

February 2016 (Issue 22)

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Dear Members

The forty days of Lent started on Ash Wednesday the 10th February; and so began the longest penitential period in the Church's Calendar. When I was younger I could never quite work out the mathematics; because if you start on Ash Wednesday and count the days until Easter, it adds up to 46. Even I know that forty-six is not forty! Knowledge is a wonderful thing, particularly when I discovered that Sundays are not regarded as days of Lent at all. That means that I was in with a chance of working it out. As there are six Sundays in the period, even I could then deduct 6 from 46 and end up with 40.

So Lent is, in fact has forty days, and we are forcefully reminded of this by one of the most popular and well-known Lenten hymns: 'Forty days and forty nights'. Let me just remind you of the words of the first verse which run as follows:

*'Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled'.*

The words of the last line give a clue about the important Lenten Theme of 'Temptation'. How many times have we been tempted? I suppose that temptation forms a real part of our human condition. It is something that none of us ever escape and we need to be aware that the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, as scripture says.

Well, we can take heart, for one of the Lenten Gospels tells us about the time Our Blessed Lord was attacked three times by the devil in the wilderness.

The first temptation asked Our Lord to turn stones into bread. The second, was to endanger Himself so that His angels would come to His aid; and finally, the devil took Jesus up to a high mountain, and showing him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour said: *'I will give you all these if you fall at my feet and worship me.'* Then

Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: you must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Let us never forget that the devil is continually working his evil ways on unsuspecting souls.

Let me finish by telling you a true story about a young girl who unfortunately became involved with the occult and devil worship. After many years practising demonic ways she could stand it no longer. She had lost the love and respect of her friends and family and had become extremely frightened. She was at the point of total collapse, when she eventually found the courage to consult a priest.

After listening for hours to the girl, the priest decided that the only course of action left open to him was to re-baptise the girl in the Name of the Sacred Trinity.

Now the interesting thing is this, that when the priest dipped his hand in the holy water and made the sign of the Cross on the girl's forehead, she began to shake violently and fell to the floor letting out uncontrollable screams.

Eventually there was a peaceful calm and as the priest bent over the girl, he noticed that she now bore a pink mark of the cross on her forehead where the holy water had been traced. It took several hours for this to finally fade away.

Yes, the devil is powerful, perhaps even more than we care to think. But always remember that the Cross is more so and always overcomes evil. Jesus said: *'Be off, Satan! You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'*

Remember that as Lent has begun, we each need to examine our lives more deeply than perhaps we otherwise would. So let us reject the devil and all his works by meditating on these words of that hymn I used earlier.

*Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide. Amen.*

+Geoffrey GRAND PRIOR





Beryl Anderton / Mary Gallagher / Gillian Gaiter / Paul Shaw / Sheila Hogarth / Ivy Holland / Ruth Barr / Kathleen Roberts / Lesley Fudge / Thelma Thompson / Ian & Anne Weatherall / Marlene Addy / Ray & Doreen Connell / Margaret Smith / Tania Walker / John Bartle / Brian Adams / Vicky Grimshaw / Patricia Grant / Brian Barber / Elizabeth Mills / Lidia Flemming / Vera Balmforth / Tracey Rouse / Paul Sheridan / Roy Howard / Brian Sagar / Albert Jones / (Baby) Charlotte Park / Nicole Vendettuoli / Margaret Rixon / Vivienne Ainsworth / Elaine Coope / Ivor MacFarlane / Shaun Humphries / Lucy Riding / David Ford / Veronica Hawcroft / Amelia Radomski / Mary Flannigan / John & Mary Howard / Ida Simpson / Bernadette Delaney / Alexander Stoneham / Edward Billington / Katie Baker / Mary Cumberbach / Debbie Munday / Jean and Alan Rothwell / Michael & Anne Stephen / Michael Aymes / Gaynor Smith (nee James) / Anne Snell / Beryl & Julie Stelling / Diane Beresford / Doreen Devitt / Joan Armstrong / Brigitte Duffet / Malcolm Corby / Eileen Duffy / Tony Kirby / Ronald Ball / Ian Cameron / Terry Duffy / Glyn Shipton, priest / Diane Shipton and parents Derek & Delia / Angela Billerness / Divina (Mill Hill in London) / Charlotte Ward Juliette Burglé / Sally Hayes.

Answers to Locations: 1. St Julian's Church, Malta / 2, Parish Church in Mojacar, Spain / 3. Town Hall, Birmingham.

Calendar of Saints



Saint Julian the Hospitaller

Feast Day: 12th February

Devotion to St. Julian started in the Maltese Islands in the 15th century after the discovery of his relics in the city of Macerata. It was introduced by the noble family of De Astis, high-ranking in Malta at the time, who had strong connections with the Bishop of Macerata. Three churches were built in his honour before the arrival of the Knights: in Tabija, towards Mdina; in Luqa; and in Senglea (Isla). This last one had a storage room for hunters, and served to popularize this devotion through the sailors arriving at the Three Cities. In the 16th century there existed a hospital, *Ospedale di San Giuliano*, in the Citadel in Gozo, showing a wide devotion to the

saint. Being an Order of Hospitallers, the Knights of St. John helped widen further this devotion. In 1539 they rebuilt the church in Senglea and in 1590 built another church in the parish of Birkirkara, a section that since then was called St. Julian's. In 1891 the church was made a parish, the only one ever dedicated to the saint in Malta.

Story Corner

People often don't look forward to Lent. Childhood memories of giving up sweets or sitting through weekly Stations of the Cross come immediately to mind. Words like "sacrifice," "discipline," and "self-denial" are often used in ways that suggest that Lent is something to be endured rather than a time of grace and spiritual growth.

Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long, loving look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance to "return to God with our whole heart."

Everyone has different experiences which range from pious and traditional to creative and out-of-the-ordinary, but all of them represent attempts to make the season of Lent a meaningful time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving for themselves, their loved ones, and their communities. Invite family members to share their thoughts, hopes, and desires for Lent.

Decide to support one another in whatever you choose to do. As you journey through this annual second chance, remember that each step brings you closer to the welcoming arms of our loving God.

Cook's Corner:



Ingredients:

1cup potato, diced / 1cup onion, diced / 1cup celery, diced / 1cup carrot, diced / 1/3cup melted margarine / 1/2cup all-purpose flour / 2cups chicken broth / 1cup half-and-half / 1 teaspoon salt / 1/4 teaspoon pepper / 4 cups chicken, cooked and chopped / 2 pie crusts (either store bought or your own recipe)

Method:

Sauté onion, celery, carrots and potatoes in margarine for 10 minutes.

Add flour to sautéed mixture, stirring well, Cook for one minute stirring constantly.

Combine broth and half and half. Gradually stir into vegetable mixture.

Cook over medium heat stirring constantly until thickened and bubbly. Stir in salt and pepper; add chicken and stir well. Pour into shallow 2 quart casserole dish and top with pie shells.

Cut slits to allow steam to escape.

Bake for 40-50 minutes or until pastry is golden brown and filling is bubbly and cooked through.

Guess the Locations:



(See John 20:1-18)

03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

Lord who through these Forty Days'

by Claudia Hernaman, 1873



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 victory win,
Oh, 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,
Yea, evermore, in life and death,
Jesu! with us abide.

5 Abide with us, that so, this life
Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

Amen.



Diary Note:

**THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW
GRAND MASTER TAKES PLACE ON
SUNDAY 21ST AUGUST 2016**

at the 'OCCUK' Cathedral & Priory Church,
Rugeley, Staffordshire



The Healing Teaching &
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