



Growing Faith

15 - Spring | 22 February 2023

Lent - Let Us Pray

Written by Fr Jordan:

Dear friends,

Another half term goes by! I honestly don't know where the time disappears to, but as they say - time flies when you are having fun!

However, with time disappearing down the rabbit hole quite so quickly, we are somehow stumbling across the start of Lent already. A season very different to the one we are ending with Candlemas.

Christmas is a season of gold and white in church, a season of celebration and merriment. We celebrate the birth of God as a child amongst us, a story told so beautifully by primary school children in their Nativity scenes (and of course the Staff pantomime!). Lent is a season of penance; of forty days before Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and is traditionally a time of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (which means giving away your money, resources or time).

It is not simply a time of difficulty, when things seem dull and miserable; a time to go out of our way to make our lives a pain. Lent is equally a time to celebrate the opportunity for spiritual renewal. An opportunity to attend church services, receive the ministry of healing, or the ministry of reconciliation (confession). We do these things to centre our lives and our thoughts on God.

Lots of people give something up for Lent, but if you are anything like me, that can be a real struggle at times. We often find ourselves asking how on earth we are going to manage to commit to something for such a period. The answer is easy – we can't do it in our own strength! We have to rely on God and spend time with him in prayer.

We do a lot of talking about prayer, and a lot less time doing it. Why not commit to saying a prayer each day during Lent? It will further our relationship with God, and in turn, with each other.

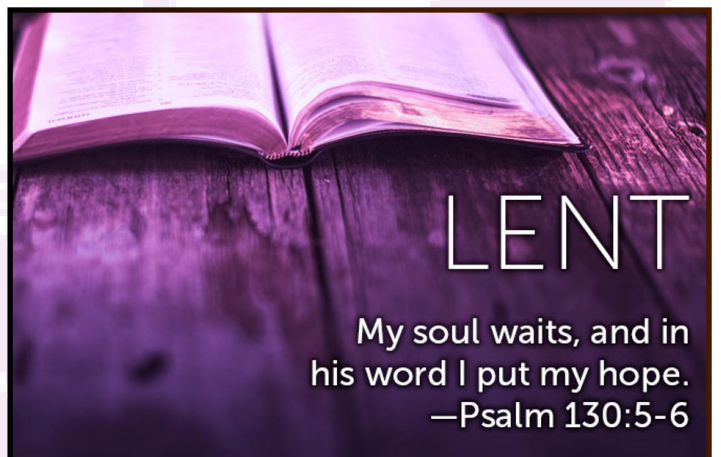
Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to see God's wonderful works bear fruit before our very eyes. Let us greet this Holy season of Lent, not with anxiety, fear or ambivalence. Let us embrace it with open arms, allowing the Holy Spirit to come into our lives and our school more fully.

However, don't keep that gift to yourself; share it with a friend, or perhaps a family member. Lent can be difficult – but remember that through our personal discipline and service we are actively increasing the amount of Love in our heart, and therefore in our school community.

I pray that this Lent may be love filled, and a blessing to each one of you.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Jordan



My soul waits, and in
his word I put my hope.
—Psalm 130:5-6

A Prayer

By Alex, Year 8:

Dear God,

We pray for our school and the things that are happening in it like events,

We pray for the war in Ukraine and how Russia is invading it.

And we pray for everyone else like doctors and firemen and how they save us.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me-put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”

Philippians 4:4-9

Church Support

Church Services

Please visit these church websites to see when their services are taking place:

Great Harwood Christian Fellowship: [Website](#)

St John's and St Augustine's Church, Huncoat: [YouTube channel](#)

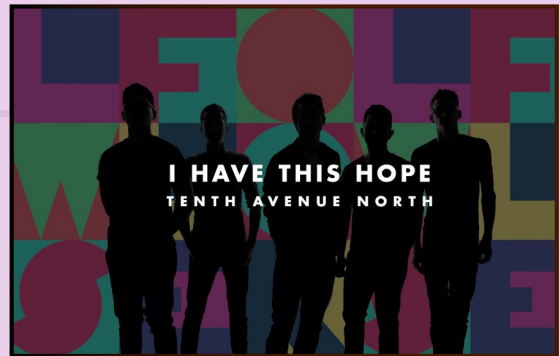
St Peter and St Paul's Church, Rishton: [Facebook Page](#)

St. John's Church, Baxenden: [Website](#)

Peel Street Baptist Church: [Website](#)

All Saints Church, Clayton-le-Moors: [Facebook Page](#)

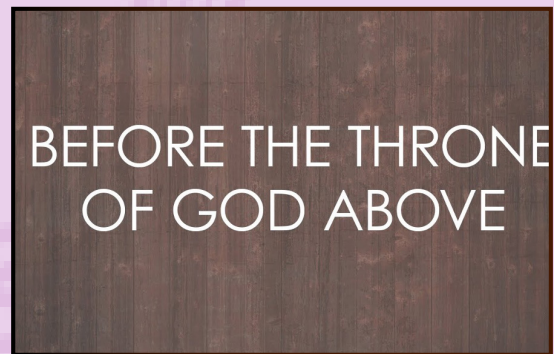
Song for the Reflection



**“When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me”**

Lyrics from “Before the throne of God above”

School Song



Why not sing along to ‘Before the throne of God above’ as we worship together.

St James' Church, Clitheroe: [Website](#)


Burnley Life Church: [Website](#)

St Mary Magdalen's Church, Accrington: [Website](#) / [Facebook Page](#)

St Andrew's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)

St Peter's Church, Accrington: [Website](#)



 **Queens Road West
Accrington
Lancashire
BB5 4AY**

 **01254 232 992**
 c.pountain@st-christophers.org

 www.st-christophers.org

