

## 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Fr Callistus Khathali - HOMILY : 1st SUNDAY OF LENT – C 6th March 2022

**Deuteronomy 26:4-10**

**Romans 10:18-13**

**Luke 4:1-13**

The church calls us to reflect on the temptation of Jesus every first Sunday of Lent. This is carried out throughout the season of Lent at the beginning of each day as one of the invitatory antiphons of the prayer of the church (liturgy of hours) is **"Christ the Lord was tempted and suffered for us, come let us adore him."**

Today's gospel (Luke 4:1-13) gives us three important warnings from the temptation of Jesus:

***The context in which temptations happen***

***The nature of temptations (with scriptures being used)***

***The devil's relentlessness***

Jesus was tempted as he was driven by the Holy Spirit to the wilderness where he spent forty days in prayer and fasting. The devil came at this very time to tempt him. This is a warning for us as well. Temptations come to us when we are in the Lord's presence, in prayer, and sometimes even in church or special places of worship like shrines. Our call is to always focus on the Lord, hear his voice, and respond only to him.

The second warning is even more challenging. The devil used quotations from scriptures to qualify what he was tempting Jesus to do. Jesus was able to see that the texts used by the devil were very much misinterpretations of the word of God. A call for us to hear what God says, not what we think he says, or to even guard against those who present themselves to us as the real interpreters of the word of the Lord. We do get messages that look good on social media, and sometimes we even press that "share" button spreading what could easily be fake news disguised as God's own message. Our call is to listen to the Lord alone. As the flock that he leads, we should recognize his voice.

The last warning is that the devil does not give up. At the end of the gospel we are told that the devil left Jesus after failing to win him over, and was to return at an appropriate time. The devil is relentless and will always make use of every opportunity of taking us away from Christ to who we belong.

Jesus' big NO to the devil inspires us. We belong to Christ, and if we truly remain in him we will never be snatched away from him. Temptations are a reality, and we surely know how they affect us. Today Jesus calls us to cling to him even in moments of temptations. We are as powerful as he is. Through him we are able to say get behind me Satan. leave me alone, *Suka Sathane!*

**May Almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**I will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries as I pray for your personal intentions.**

***Have a wonderful Sunday.***

*Fr Callistus*