

Charity number 1180853

21st February 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Forty days and forty nights, we are now in the season of penitence called Lent. The season said to parallel the time that Jesus was in the wilderness, being tempted by Satan, yet remaining without sin. The word 'temptation' is not all that common nowadays – we have become so used to living in an 'I want – I get' world. We are so used to buying something in the shop just because we want it, regardless of whether it can be afforded.

This is one of the difficulties we have become familiar with in the coronavirus lockdown – we have found ourselves restricted from going where we wanted to, doing what we wanted to, meeting whoever we wanted to. All that is limited now, and it feels frustrating. Lockdown is not a time of no temptation, though. Even confined to our own homes, we have enough going on in our minds to make us stray. Because temptation is anything which tends to pull us away from God.

This happens every time my mind wanders when ought to be praying. Every time my mind does not pay attention to God's word when it is being read. Every time I want to cut corners rather than get straight with God, when seeking his forgiveness for my wrongdoings. Every time I have an angry thought which I know is not good for me, let alone the other person; or every time I knowingly waste some more of the earth's scarce resources. These are 'everyday temptations' but important ones nonetheless.

This Lent, let us focus on giving up 'I want', let us spend the time of this season focussing ourselves instead on what God wants. Let us spend more time listening to him, hearing his word by reading the Bible. And let us ask the Holy Spirit to work within us to give us the strength to do that, and to make us more like Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith, who suffered and died for our sins, so that we can be brought close to God.

In the words of Pope Francis, if you are going to fast this Lent:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints, contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words, be silent and listen.

With love,

Tina

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NOTICES

Holy Trinity Blacon are the living church of our living God, and we continue to be at work here! If you are able, do check the parish website www.holytrinityblacon.org or our Facebook page (holyltrinityblacon) for updates.

LOCKDOWN affects the whole country now, but fortunately we can still continue to meet (socially distanced) in church to worship together, and we will continue meeting at 9.30am each Sunday. The minibus is also running, so do let us know if you would like a lift.

PRAYING FOR BLACON This week, Louise and Tina are joined by Jo Pemberton who is on placement with us, and we are prayerfully putting out chocolates, as we take our exercise. Do join us in praying for the residents of the following roads: *Wavertree Road, Cairns Crescent, Hobart Way, Auckland Road, Wyndham Road.*

EVENING PRAYER We meet each Wednesday 5pm for Evening Prayer on Zoom. Do let us know if you would like the link – everyone is welcome to join us.

DAILY HOPE is a free phone line for hymns, prayers and reflections – 0800 804 8044

LENT Each Sunday in Lent, after the 9.30am service, there is a time of silent contemplative prayer in church from 11am. There is also a Lent Course run online on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm 'Transformed by the presence of Jesus' – do let us know if you want the Zoom link.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – The video is now on our website, do go to <https://holyltrinityblacon.org/whats-on/events/stations-of-the-cross.php> If you do not have access to the internet, and would instead like a DVD of our stations video, please let Tina or Louise know.

BLACON BEACON is a food charity for Blacon based in our church hall. Members pay a weekly contribution, and in exchange receive weekly bags of food. Donations are always welcome: food can be dropped off at the church on Sundays, or the hall during the week. For more information, please contact Kerry on 07851 870078.

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