

**St John Southworth's RC Parish** at Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS **Nelson** 

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# **1st Sunday in Lent**



6th March 2022



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St John Southworth's Facebook Page

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The world is being shaken, in our days, by climate-change, pandemic, and now... war! The scientists do the science, the politicians do the politics, and the Christians... well, essentially, we do the prayer!

Prayer might sound like the easy option, or even a rather naïve response to such serious global issues, but if that's what we think, then we probably haven't pondered on the prayer of Jesus.

Let's look at this Sunday's Gospel, and what do we see? We see Jesus in prayer, and his prayer is not a cosy experience of nestling into the warm embrace of his Father, but, rather, a direct confrontation with the devil.

The devil probes the humanity of Jesus, looking for what he knows to be the characteristic human weaknesses: the desire for comfort, the desire to be self-reliant, and the desire to live outside of God's will.

It is in his prayer that Jesus finds the power and strength, and ultimately the endurance, to go to the Cross, and from that place of torture and captivity to defeat the enemy, unleashing the greatest power for good that could ever be conceived of.

As Christians, we shouldn't be standing idly by, thinking ourselves to be powerless spectators; we are the front line troops when, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, we fight against the evil which is trying, unceasingly, to enter the world through our very own hearts!

With every blessing for a fruitful Lent!

Fr Gerard

## Lenten Station Masses

During this time of Lent, there will be three Station Masses taking place in different parts of the Deanery.

24th March at St John the Baptist, Burnley

**31st March at St Mary's, Clayton le Moors,** 

#### 7th April at St Anselm's, Whitworth

All Masses begin at 7.00pm and Fr Ian Kelly will be preaching at all three Masses.

Are we going to attend? Here I am, Lord, send me!

### Wednesday Evening Masses at Holy Saviour's

Throughout Lent we will have Mass at Holy Saviour's each Wednesday evening at 7.00pm. I hope that those who usually can't attend Mass might find this to be a welcome opportunity.

#### Lenten Soup Kitchen

CAF\*D

This event will take place on all six Fridays during Lent, i.e 4th March through to 8th April. Soup will be served in the café area at Christ Church, after the weekly 12.00 noon Friday Mass.

