

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY  
FORTY FIVE DAYS TOWARDS THE CROSS  
FROM DEACON CHRIS  
LENT 2024

**Sunday of Week 2 in Lent: Twelfth Station:** Preparations for the First Passover Meal.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

Exodus Chapter 12 verses 1 to 14

Friday Week 15 Year 1

Reflection.

The Lord has given Moses and Aaron specific instructions on how the whole community of Israel are to prepare to leave Egypt. There is a true sense of community because if the sacrificial lamb is too much for one family then they must join together with another. There is the instruction to mark the door posts and lintel with blood so that the Lord will pass over them. They must celebrate this event for all generations. It has to be a remembrance. Does this not sound familiar. When Jesus was celebrating the Passover with his disciples he gave them a new Passover and said that they had to do this in remembrance of him. This is our Mass which is the here and now. Not like the Passover because that is history and very important history at that. If you ever have the chance to join in the Passover with our Jewish brothers and sisters take it.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

I love you, Jesus ..

**Monday of Week 2 in Lent: Thirteenth Station:** Here I am Lord; The calling of Samuel.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

1<sup>st</sup> Book of Samuel Chapter 3 verses 1 to 10

Wednesday Week 1 Year 2

Reflection

This is another woman who is desperate for a child. Samuel's mother promised the Lord that if she ever had a son she would offer him back in thanksgiving. Hannah, did have a son and she did offer him back.

We have this lovely story of how Samuel hears a voice and naturally thinks it is Eli calling him. When Eli realises what is happening he tells Samuel what he should say.

Samuel needed an introduction to the Lord. It was Eli who gave it him. We have been introduced to the Lord most probably by our parents. At the end of Mass we are sent out to take the Lord with us wherever we go. Our actions can be our preaching or an introduction to Lord.

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**Tuesday of Week 2 in Lent: Fourteenth Station:** Samuel is Sent to Anoint a Successor to Saul and finds David.

“We adore you, O Christ etc,

Scripture Reading

1<sup>st</sup> Book of Samuel Chapter 16 verses 1 to 13

Tuesday Week 2 Year 2

Reflection.

In this passage we see the Lord at work carrying out his plan of salvation. We are introduced to Jesse. Samuel asks him to come and sacrifice with him. One of Jesse's sons will be chosen to be anointed. Samuel sees each one in turn and is convinced that the Lord's chosen one stands before him. None are suitable. Almost in desperation he asks if Jesse has any more sons. There is one. Our reading describes him as a boy of a fresh complexion. This is the one, the Lord's chosen one.

It is a good job that we cannot see people as God sees them (and that includes ourself) because we may be surprised at what we might see. We have to remember that everybody is made in God's image. I know this is a task that we find hard at times but we must persevere.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....

**Wednesday of Week 2 in Lent : Fifteenth Station:** Solomon Is Lead Astray and Worships False gods to the Anger of the Lord.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

1<sup>st</sup> Book of Kings Chapter 11 verses 4 to 13

Thursday Week 5 Year 2

Reflection

It doesn't matter how old we are we can succumb to the tempting of the devil. An example of this is Solomon who, in his old age, succumbed to the persuasive arguments of his wives. He turned away from the Lord. His punishment is the dissolution of the kingdom that his father David had united. But God did allow a remnant to remain. He did this for the sake of David and Jerusalem by leaving Solomon's son one tribe.

No matter how clever we are or how wise we are, we can sometimes get lost in a world where there are so many temptations. The Devil knows our weaknesses and he works on them in such a way that we may not recognise what he is doing. Today's reading reminds us how frail we can be when we let go of God. It also reminds us of how lovingly generous God is. Yes,

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he is angry and he punishes. But he leaves the door open. He leaves us a way in which we can return to him and he will accept us back. His love is all powerful and never ending.

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**Thursday of Week 2 in Lent: Sixteenth Station:** Eleazar choses the only option open to him if he wants to remain faithful.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

2<sup>nd</sup> Book of Maccabees Chapter 6 verses 18 to 31

Tuesday Week 33 Year 1

Reflection

Our Lord said that anybody who loses their life for his sake and the sake of the gospel will live forever. How do we relate to that? We may never be faced with that challenge. I wonder if we do face it more than we think. Is the choice between going to Church or going shopping or going out for the day not the same? It certainly isn't as dramatic as Eleazar but it could lead to what he feared or knew would happen to his soul. We need help in making our choices. Not like the help that was offered to Eleazar but the help that comes from God through the Spirit.

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**Friday in Week 2 of Lent :Seventeenth Station:** Job's world crumbles about him and yet, through all of it, he blesses the Lord.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading.

Job Chapter 1 verse 6 to 22

Monday Week 26 Year 2

Reflection

We have to be careful in our reflection on the use of the word Satan. In this reading Satan is a prosecutor. He challenges or tests the virtue of mankind. We can sense this when he says that Job has everything he wants so it is no wonder he never says anything against the Lord. Here is the challenge. Satan can do what he wants but must not lay hands on Job.

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Today we have the start of things going wrong and after receiving all the bad news Job makes an act of penance and blesses God.

When things go wrong for us what do we do? There is a good chance that we will have a rant. For me that is fine as long as we don't let that rant cloud or destroy our relationship with God. I know of instances when this has happened. The sad part of it is that is sometimes what another has said that is out of context. Often easier said than done but if we can accept what has happened we can come out stronger.

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**Saturday in Week 2 of Lent: Eighteenth Station:** This is the sign: that the maiden is with child.

"We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah Chapter 7 verses 10 to 14 and Chapter 8 verse 10

25<sup>th</sup> March

Reflection.

Ahaz is a troubled king. He faces military conflict but will not put the Lord to the test. Is it out of fear of what the sign might be or respect for the Lord? Nonetheless a sign is given which is the maiden is with child and it will be named Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. This is a reference that St. Matthew uses in chapter 1 of his gospel.

God-is-with-us is a comforting title. It is a genuine title and one that is applicable today. When we look at the last verse of Matthew's gospel we hear Jesus saying that he is with us to the end of time. With all that is happening in the world with war and coronavirus lots of people may be thinking where is God in all this. Rest assured he is with us. We must open our eyes and ears to notice him.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....,