

1st Sunday in Lent



The Church offers us a variety of moods during the liturgical year as we re-live the life of Jesus.

On this first Sunday of Lent we find ourselves at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He has just been baptized and had his identity confirmed 'You are my beloved Son . . .'

Surely Jesus had had some inkling in his heart of a vocation from God. A vocation that would set him apart and send him forth . . .

It is the Holy Spirit who drives Jesus into the desert where each temptation begins ' IF you are the son of God . . . '

His identity, so new-found is being questioned, almost ridiculed.

I was reflecting on this and thinking that each of us has had this affirming or confirming moment. Maybe it was like Paul's bolt from heaven, but more likely, a gentle whisper, when we believed God was speaking his intention for our life. A call to come apart; a call to move out towards others in service.

We believed it and clung to it no matter what happened that might put us off course.

These Lenten weeks offer us the opportunity to reconnect with this still, small voice.

The penances that we assume can help to set our spirits free from desires that would knock us off course: desires for pleasure, honour and power. These were the temptations of Jesus. He was tempted to displace Abba from the centre of his life to be replaced with these idols. These same temptations are ours.

We are reminded that this is a moment of grace, the favourable time. So let's seize the day . . .