

## REFLECTION FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT



Our readings today remind us of our baptism. The waters of the flood heralded a new beginning. In this event God renewed his covenant with all of his creation and left us a reminder in the heavens, the rainbow.

As Noah and his family were saved by the flood so we too are saved by our baptism; our baptism by which we are made children of God, we become a new creation.

Our lives then are a playing out of our baptismal promises, our personal covenant with God, to reject whatever would replace God in our lives, to reject false 'gods'.

Jesus was tempted just as we are, just as Adam was, but whereas Adam succumbed to the temptations, Jesus, the new Adam, was victorious and invites us with his grace to overcome our sinful tendencies; to choose life.

The scriptures are peppered with reference to 40 years or days which usually herald an important event just as our 40 days of lent heralds and prepares us for the celebration of the Pascal Mystery.

Only our lent is 46 days. Sundays, the day of Resurrection, not being included. I'd love if we could have a Lent of 40 days straight through and an Ash Monday instead!!

Jesus calls us to repent. Repentance – metanoia - invites us to change our perception.

We've all had those pictures that, when looked at differently, give us another image that initially we were unaware of. We change the way we look at the picture and another image appears.

This is what Jesus asks of us. St Paul too in Romans 12:2 where he wrote, “let your mind be renewed and your whole nature thus transformed”.

It has all to do with perspective. How do we look on people, events? Is there a possibility of looking or thinking of these in a different light? In a way that frees me to appreciate or understand more favourably; in a way that sheds light and brings life; in a way that offers hope? In the way that Jesus himself might look on a situation?

Fr Selvam, when writing about poverty, invites us to shed the past; to let go of our clinging to attachments to our pains and hurts of the past and to our losses in life.

Perhaps we can begin to look at these through a different lens and begin to let in God’s light, love and mercy; to experience again the freedom to which God invites us; to live that new creation which we became in our baptism.

