

temptation is resisted, one final danger remains: pride. This is pride in the gifts one has received from God. These three temptations symbolise the phases of temptations we go through in the spiritual life. It has to be added that those which the devil used with Jesus were especially subtle:

First, the devil tempted Jesus not with sin (as such) but with imperfection. He was asked to stop doing something good, namely his fasting, and turn stones into bread.

Jesus was then tempted with the spiritual good of the world. It is as if the devil were saying, "Make a sign of acknowledgment toward me, proud as I am, and, as a reward, I will put myself at your side. All I ask is that you acknowledge me, and I will help you in your work of saving souls. Are you not humble? Are you not capable of lowering yourself a little more for the eternal good of souls?" (Fulton Sheen) This second temptation is packed with tremendous spiritual meaning. Jesus was not asked to stop being God; He was only asked to humble Himself a little more. Could not the Just One, who had made so many sacrifices for souls, make one more? It is the temptation for us to do a *little evil* so as to achieve a great good.

The final temptation is that of pride, namely to be publicly recognised. It was to leave out of consideration the truth that it is God, in His time, who exalts His servants. Here, the devil was saying, "Even though God decides the time and the moment, why not bring the moment forward? Why remain in obscurity when so much good can be done by coming out into the light in a glorious and spectacular way?" When we look at the temptations in this way, we are able to discern that the Final temptation is in many ways the most complex and subtle of all. Matthew and Luke recount three temptations of Jesus that reflect the inner struggle over his own particular mission and, at the same time, address the question as to what truly matters in human life.

Let us leave the final words to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: "At the heart of all temptations, as we see here, is the act of pushing God aside because we perceive him as

secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying, in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives.

Constructing a world by our own lights, without reference to God, building on our own foundation; refusing to acknowledge the reality of anything beyond the political and material, while setting God aside as an illusion—that is the temptation that threatens us in many varied forms Lent is like a long "retreat" in which to re-enter oneself and listen to God's voice in order to overcome the temptations of the Evil One and to find the truth of our existence. It is a time, we may say, of spiritual "training" in order to live alongside Jesus not with pride and presumption but rather by using the weapons of faith: namely prayer, listening to the Word of God and penance. In this way we shall succeed in celebrating Easter in truth, ready to renew our baptismal promises at the easter Vigil"

Gift Aid

As the end of the tax year is approaching, please could we ask Gift Aid donors to notify us of any changes of address since last April, to ensure that the tax certificates are sent to the correct addresses. Please also let us know if you are no longer a tax payer, or no longer paying enough tax to cover your donations. Many thanks to all the parishioners who use the Gift Aid scheme. New donors are always welcome. Any parishioners who pay tax can gift aid their donations, which provides a valuable source of income for the parish at no cost to the donors. Giving can be through the use of envelopes or a monthly standing order, and all that is needed is a name, address and signature. All details are strictly confidential. If you would like to Gift Aid, or would like to know more, please speak to:- Sally Morgan for Evesham
Dominique Hardiman for Broadway

Sacramental Preparation

Catechetical sessions

Evesham 10.45am in Evesham or Broadway 4.00pm

First Holy Communion

Saturday 16th March 2019

Confirmation

Saturday 23rd March 2019

Evesham Information Thursday Club

The next meeting will be on 21st March. —A visit to the retirement village at Wood Norton. Leaving church at 2.15pm. No meeting on Maundy Thursday.

Coffee

In the parish centre after the 8.00am and 10.00am Sunday Masses

Food Bank

The box is available today. The next date: Sunday 7th April.. Many thanks to all who assist in this important work of mercy throughout the year.

Finance

Many thanks for your contribution to the work of the Church.

Weekly Offertory	£667.31 GA£325.00.
Cathedral maintenance	£396.04 GA£185.74

Second Collection

This week: Parish development
Next week: Parish development

Lamp before the Sacred Heart

This week: The Holy Father

Lamp before Our Lady

This week: Bishop Robert Byrne

Pray the Rosary

Third Monday in month at 6.30 pm in the church Monday, 18/03/2019

Broadway Information

Finance

Many thanks for your contribution to the work of the Church

Weekly Offertory	£211.19 GA75.00
Cathedral maintenance	£99.46 £17.00

Second Collection

This week: PA System
Next week: PA System

Lent Lunches

Wednesdays in Lent(not Holy Week) in the Methodist Church hall.. Please support this event. Our parish will provide the soup etc on 20th March. We are most grateful to those who have indicated their willingness to prepare the soup on this occasion