



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST

HOMILY ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

BY POPE ST GREGORY THE GREAT (EXC.)



Duccio di Buoninsegna, Temptation on the Mount, c.1308-1311, The Frick Collection

If, now, we consider the order of the temptations attacking the Redeemer of the world, we see with what power our Savior delivered us from the snares prepared for us by the enemy of salvation. For, when the old Serpent rose against the first man, the father of the human race, he attacked him with three kinds of temptations, namely, gluttony, vain-glory and avarice. And being thus tempted, he was overcome by the devil, for he gave his consent. When Satan showed to man the forbidden fruit, and persuaded him to eat of it, he attacked him with the weapon of gluttony; then he tempted him with vain-glory, saying that he would be like to God; lastly, avarice was his weapon, since he assured him that he would possess the knowledge of good and evil. For avarice consists not only in the inordinate love of riches, but also in the desire of exaltation; and we are in reality avaricious, when in an ambitious manner we desire to obtain dignities to which we cannot lay claim. This is also the teaching of St. Paul, who, speaking of Jesus Christ, says: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal to God; but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant (Phil 2:6, 7). The devil, therefore, attacked our first parent with the arrows of avarice, for he awakened in him the desire of exalting himself.

But this tempter, the old dragon, who by his artifice had overcome the first man, was in his turn overcome by another Man, with the very same weapons he had used in former times.

For our Redeemer, the Man-God, was assailed by the devil in the same manner as our first parent; first, with the sensual appetite, since he said to Him: *If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.* Then he tempted Him with vain-glory, asking Him to cast Himself down from a pinnacle of the temple, and so to show that He was the Son of God, saving His life by a miracle. Lastly, he tempted Him with avarice, when he showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and promised to give them to Him, if falling down He would adore him. But our Savior overcame this enemy by the same means that He had employed to tempt the father of the human race. And after this defeat he was enchained by our Lord, and forced by Him to go out of our heart by the same door by which he had entered to enslave us.

Yet, beloved brethren, there is another lesson contained in this temptation of our Lord. He could cast His tempter into the eternal abyss by one single word, He being the Eternal Word. But He only answered with the commandments contained in Holy Scripture, so as to give us an example of His patience and moderation, instead of a brilliant sign of His almighty power. By this He teaches us that, when our sufferings are caused by the wicked, we should make good use of such persecutions, and be instructed by them, rather than take revenge. But are we not ashamed, when we consider, on one side God's patience, and on the other our own impatience, when suffering injustice? It often happens, when we are unjustly treated or despised, that anger fills our heart at once. We try to take revenge, as far as lies in our power, and even threaten with a revenge of which we are powerless. Our Lord overcame the temptations of the devil through His patience and meek words. **He bore an enemy who deserved the arrows of His justice, and He is thus the more worthy of our admiration and praise, since He was victorious over that enemy by His moderation rather than by the stripes of His anger.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAY OF RETREAT POSTPONED

Due to the coronavirus restrictions we will not be able to preach the Day of Retreat as planned on Saturday, March 6th. Unfortunately, we will have to postpone this important spiritual exercise to a later date which will be announced as soon as it will be possible to make new arrangements.

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The Triduum Paschale in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite will be celebrated at St. Winefride's church according to the following schedule:

Holy Thursday, April 1st, at 5:00 pm

Good Friday, April 2nd, at 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday, April 3rd, at 7:00 pm

Gift Aid Envelopes Arrived

The envelopes used for the weekly collection have arrived. In the back of the church, please pick up your box with the (green) envelopes which will be used this year and which carry your individual (Gift Aid) number. We apologize for the delay in bringing them to you. – If you are interested in joining the Institute's local Gift Aid Program, please contact Canon Wiener.

SHREWSBURY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DAY	DATE	TIME	MASS OF THE DAY	INTENTIONS	
				CANON WIENER	FATHER GRIBBIN
SUN	21 ST FEB	12:30 PM	FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	LEO JOSEPH EDWARD MOE	PI
MON	22 ND FEB	10:00 AM	ST. PETER'S CHAIR IN ANTIOCH	DONNA RILEY	PI
TUE	23 RD FEB	6:30 PM	TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK IN LENT	CH. E. J. FROST	PI
WED	24 TH FEB	10:00 AM	ST. MATTHIAS, APOSTLE	PI	PI
THU	25 TH FEB	6:30 PM	THURSDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK IN LENT	PI	PI
FRI	26 TH FEB	10:00 AM	FRIDAY IN EMBER WEEK IN LENT	PI	PI
SAT	27 TH FEB	10:00 AM	SATURDAY IN EMBER WEEK IN LENT	PI	PI
SUN	28 TH FEB	12:30 PM	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	THE INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING	PI

SUNDAY MASSES AT 12:30 PM AT ST. WINEFRIDE'S CHURCH, CROWMERE ROAD, MONKMOOR, SHREWSBURY, SY2 5RA

St. Winefride's Presbytery, Mynd Close, Shrewsbury SY2 5RA

Rev. Canon Michael Wiener, Prior of the House of Saint Chad

email: canon.wiener@institute-christ-king.org telephone: 07311 44 33 23

Rev. Anselm Gribbin, Assisting Priest - email: jagribbin@hotmail.com telephone: 07952 963641

ICKSP website: <https://icksp.org.uk/shrewsbury/>