

**HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE**  
 Holyspiritmarple.com  
**Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February 2023**  
**1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**



Online Donations

**First Reading: (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7)**

The creation and sin of our first parents.

**Second Reading: (Romans 5:12-19)**

However great the number of sins committed, grace was even greater.

**Gospel: (Mathew: 4:1-11)**

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

**Pope Francis's prayer intention for February:** We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

<b>Sunday</b> 9am 4pm	26 <sup>th</sup> February Parishioners / Renata Broda Stations of the Cross	<b>Thursday</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> March NO MASS
<b>Monday</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> February NO MASS	<b>Friday</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> March NO MASS
<b>Tuesday</b> 10am	28 <sup>th</sup> February DAILY MASS Mark Nichols	<b>Saturday</b> 4pm	4 <sup>th</sup> March Vigil Mass David Devine / Ints. C. Nield
<b>Wednesday</b> 10am	1 <sup>st</sup> March DAILY MASS Ints / V. Harrison & M. Abbott	<b>Sunday</b> 9am 4pm	5 <sup>th</sup> March Parishioners / David Matthews Stations of the Cross

Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above

### THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Nina Noworyta, Kathleen Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, David Froggatt, Pat Owen, Jonathan Davison.

**A warm welcome to everyone.** If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible

**The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No.234025**

**Data Protection Privacy Notice.** The Parish of Holy Spirit, Marple sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at

**<https://www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice>**

A/C DETAILS: Name "Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No. 58710368 Sort Code 30 15 52

## **Fr Bill Writes:**

Thank you to all who helped with, and attended the Requiem Mass for David Matthews on Friday last here at Holy Spirit, it was appreciated by David's family. David was a loyal and faithful parishioner who contributed much to Holy Spirit Parish during his years in Holy Spirit Parish. May he rest in peace.

Wednesday last was "Ash Wednesday" and the beginning of the 2023 Lenten Season, it was great to see a good turnout for the Masses and the distribution of Ashes, though it was not a holy day of Obligation. We put ashes on our foreheads as a reminder that we have entered a special period of forty days to help us prepare ourselves for the great Easter Liturgies of Death/ Resurrection.

The local Council of Churches have prepared a poster with the various services and Lenten Events taking place at the various local churches during Lent, and people are most welcome to attend any of those Service / Lenten Events.

We will have our young team of people reading at the Sunday 9am Morning Mass, from this Sunday Morning, the First Sunday of Lent. This is their second time round, and they were great their first time around. Fr. Bill has still to give some of the team their rota, so if you read last time around, and have not received your current rota, speak with Fr. Bill after Sunday Mass.

This weekend is the final weekend for submitting Application Forms for the First Sacraments, Fr. Bill has so far received sixteen Application Forms. In the coming week Parents and Candidates will receive the dates for the various Preparatory Sessions as well as the dates for First Forgiveness & First Holy Communion. The most essential first step now for Parents & Candidates is regular attendance at Sunday Mass. This year we have a number of Candidates and families who have not been regular Mass goers so it is even more important that they quickly get into the rhythm of regularly attending Sunday Mass and Children's Liturgy. The days of turning up for a couple of weeks around Holy Communion time are long over, commitment is now the New Password for Candidates who want to receive First Sacraments.

Friday next, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the 2023 "Women's World Day of Prayer" and Holy Spirit is the venue for the local Marple Service at 2pm, all are welcome and this includes men.

Tickets continue to be on sale for the "Quiz Night" on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>, all proceeds will go to the Turkey / Syria Earth / Appeal Fund. Our CAFOD Lenten Appeal will take place as usual, CAFOD Envelopes are available from the table in the Church Foyer. CAFOD Members will speak at all our weekend Masses, this weekend.

Copies of "Walk With Me", the Lenten edition, are now available from the table in the Church Foyer @£1 per copy, first come first served.

"No Notes Singing Group" are seeking new members, they meet most Thursdays at 2:00pm in the Meeting Room at Holy Spirit. During the year they sing at various venues and also collect donations for their chosen charity. Last year they raised £420 for St. Mary's Special Care Baby Unit. If you are interested, contact Frank on 0161-426-0097.

This weekend there is also a "Pastoral Letter" so please take a copy from the table in the Church Foyer.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS — FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 2023**

The first reading for this first Sunday In Lent is from the "Book of Genesis" where we are given an account of Creation. The sacred writer centres God's work of creation around the creation of man and woman. We are given an idyllic picture of what God intended for his finest creation, man and woman. Here from the very beginning, Man / Woman had the ability to make decisions for their good or otherwise, alas that initial choice was not for the good.

In today's second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul gives us a brief but poignant account of how God redeemed the world from that "initial Sin" of Adam and Eve. Just as their disobedience and failure to accept God's promise caused many to suffer, the gift of Salvation brought by Jesus' acceptance of his fathers will, would be a saving act for the generations of all ages.

Today's Gospel from St. Matthew, recounts Jesus' temptations in this wilderness, and how despite the offer of Power over earthly things, given by the devil, Jesus chose to trust in God's promise as given through the Word of the Scriptures. This trust in God's promise is seen in contrast to Adam and Eve, who gave into the earthly temptations that they were presented with. Lent is perhaps a time for us to reflect on the earthly temptations that often take the place of God in our daily lives.