

First Sunday of Lent
21st February 2021
Readings

FIRST READING

A reading from the of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his children, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth.

I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.'

God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth.

When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9

Response: **Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth
to those who keep your covenant.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Response:

Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord.

Response:

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

he guides the humble in the right path;

he teaches his way to the poor.

Response:

SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God.

In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison.

Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe.

That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God.

'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT 2021

Presider: Let us ask God to strengthen us on our Lenten journey.

Send your Spirit of wisdom into our lives as our Church continues on the journey to the Plenary Council in 2021 and beyond. May the planning through this year, guide our Church into a faith-filled future.
(pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

Guide our Land at this time as we continue to deal with the COVID pandemic. Grant us all patience and perseverance during this challenging time.
(pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

That the Church be faithful in her proclamation of the gospel, bringing the good news of repentance and forgiveness to all who would hear. (pause) Let us pray to the Lord:

That all the baptised of the world renew their covenant with God, renouncing sin and believing the Gospel.
(pause) Let us pray to the Lord:

May each of us walk with those families who children are to be baptised into our Community, strengthening their resolve by the quality of our own gospel living.
(pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

Grant heal to our sick at this time, and welcome into your Kingdom of love those who have died.
(pause) Let us pray to the Lord.

(Please remain at the ambo until the Presider finishes the concluding prayer.)

Presider: Merciful God, you are near to those who cry out to you: hear these our prayers and be with us during our Lenten journey so that we may worthily celebrate your Son's resurrection.

We ask this through that same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.