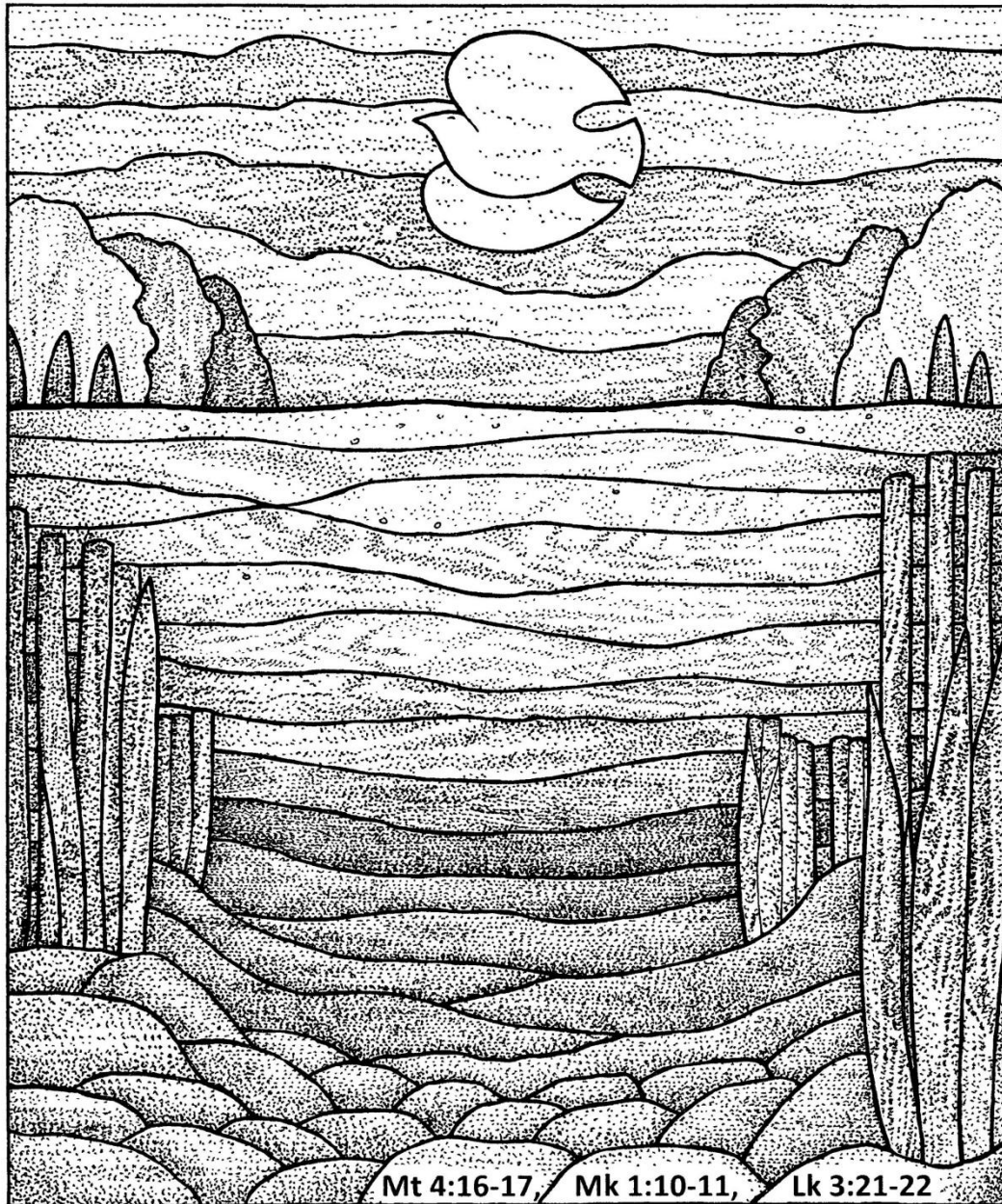


Parish Magazine

February 2026

30p



St. John's Parish Church

Rufford Road, Crossens, Southport
(A member of the North Meols Team Ministry)

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Church contacts:

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Dr Andrew Macdonald, 7 The Causeway, Crossens
Treasurer: Mrs Louise James
PCC Secretary: Mrs Chrissy Gregory

Rainbows: Mrs Nicola Macdonald
Brownies: Mrs Natalie Flynn
Guides: Mrs Tracy Boden. Tel: 228189

Mumford Room bookings:
Mr Andrew Boden. Tel: 228189

Service times:

Sunday (10am)

Holy Communion: 1st February, 1st March

Morning Prayer: 8th February, 15th February, 22nd February

Wednesday (10am, unless otherwise stated)

Morning Prayer or Holy Communion

For later dates, please check the website: www.stjohncrossens.co.uk

Paul Jones, the organist of St. Cuthbert's writes:

Dear friends,

There are many things that I like about being a citizen of the United Kingdom. I like Big Ben, cups of tea and cake, the music of Vaughan Williams, occasional viewings of Prime Minister's Questions and walking in the countryside. There are however a few things that I don't like about our dear country and one of them is its reputation for lack of self-awareness and its convenient habit of knowing not just the good things about its history but a profound ignorance of the bad too. Tommy Robinson is keen to clothe the label of his somewhat right-wing perspective with his understanding of Britain as a Christian nation. He's entitled to his views but is he really sure how this chimes with the call to discipleship in the gospel? The disciple Simon Zealot (the one with the chip on his shoulder) got short shrift from Jesus when he wanted the Lord to overthrow the Romans using force of arms.... Food for thought!

What is self-awareness? Self-awareness is a human beings' capacity to reflect on their behaviour, attitude and outlooks. Scripture and Christian history is ridden through with many distinct calls to self-awareness. You could argue that the prophet Jeremiah was too self-aware with his reputation for depression. When the crowds were screaming to save Barrabas rather than Jesus by shouting "crucify him!", you could certainly say that the crowds were not self-aware.

Some of the contemporary discourse that we see today in our wider secular world struggles with self-awareness. Have you seen some of the recent parliamentary Prime Minister's Questions? Oh my word! Crash, bang, wallop! And further afield? Crash, bang, wallop, mark two! It seems to be a world where the mantra is let's have a fight at the most convenient opportunity!

One of the things when I speak to non-church going people that I hear when they speak about church communities is the expectation that we should be a different kind of people, a kind of people who radiate the love of God. That call to self-awareness is one of the things that constitutes the love of God.

I think one of the calls of a self-aware Christian is to ask good questions. Questions such as: do we get irate about the big issues that face our society or do we harp on about trivial and small matters? In our relationships are we more likely to assert our own positions over confidently rather than to persuade others of different points of view? Do we cultivate open mindedness in ourselves and others? Do we jump to conclusions on a subject before we get the full facts appertaining to a situation? Do we

seek simplistic answers to difficult questions when what may be required is a little patience?

Alongside my organist's work at St. Cuthbert's which I treasure the other thing that I treasure is the community of self-aware grace that it exudes, a grace expressed in the words of the Nunc Dimittis:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

May I wish you a self-aware Lent and the everlasting peace of the gospel here and in eternity.

Paul.

The Quarter's Team Magazine is now available to watch

on our  **YouTube** Channel

NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY SOUTHPORT -

Items this Quarter include:

Remembering the Fallen on the 80th Anniversary of the ending of WW2

The Children's Society at Christmas - Threads Through the Bible (Revelation) -

Dedicating a Service Book for Chris - Rector's Christmas Reflection -

Meeting a New Churchwarden - An idea for a Christmas Present

Shining Brass

Once a month, if you would ever have the need to go into our vestry, then you would have found Brenda and Mavis rubbing and cleaning our brass and silver furnishings. They have regularly kept this work going for several years and we thank them most sincerely for it!

They now feel that it is time to stop, and they would be grateful to hand over to someone else.

If you feel that you would like to continue this work, then they would be very grateful. Please contact Chris Jowett if you would like to help in keeping our church well cared for.



ROTAS

Sunday Coffee Rota

1st Feb Nicola & Andrew
8th Feb Brenda & Chris
15th Feb Louise J & Heather
22nd Feb Kath & Jane
1st March Nicola & Andrew



Help is urgently needed to maintain a weekly rota. If you are willing to volunteer, please see me. Chris Jowett

Wednesday Coffee Rota

4th Feb Eileen & Trish
11th Feb Brenda & June
18th Feb Jean
25th Feb Chris & Janet
4th March Eileen & Trish

Readings Rota

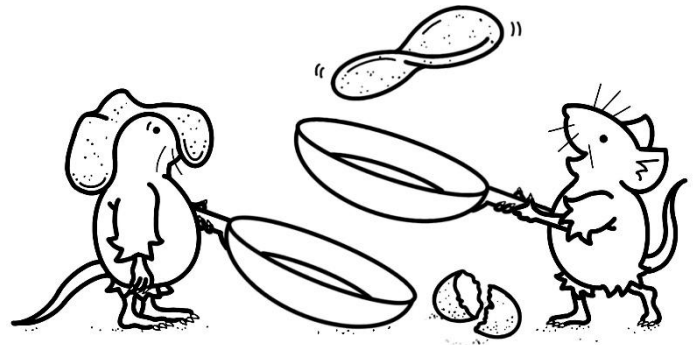
1-Feb-2026	Andrew	4th of Epiphany	1 Corinthians 1.18-end
8-Feb-2026	Nicola	2nd before Lent	Romans 8.18-25
15-Feb-2026	Simon	Next before Lent	2 Peter 1.16-end
22-Feb-2026	Chris J	1st of Lent	Romans 5.12-19
1-Mar-2026	Joey	2nd of Lent	Romans 4.1-5,13-17
8-Mar-2026	Louise J	3rd of Lent	Romans 5.1-11
15-Mar-2026	Maggie	4th of Lent	Ephesians 5.8-14
22-Mar-2026	Sylvia	5th of Lent	Romans 8.6-11
29-Mar-2026	Joan	Palm Sunday	Philippians 2.5-11

16th February: Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Day

Ever wonder why we eat pancakes just before Lent? The tradition dates back to Anglo-Saxon times, when Christians spent Lent in repentance and severe fasting.

So on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the church bell would summon them to confession, where they would be 'shriven', or absolved from their sins, which gives us

Shrove Tuesday. At home, they would then eat up their last eggs and fat, and making a pancake was the easiest way to do this. For the next 47 days, they pretty well starved themselves.



Pancakes feature in cookery books as far back as 1439, and today's pancake races are in remembrance of a panicked woman back in 1445 in Olney, Buckinghamshire. She was making pancakes when she heard the shriving bell calling her to confession. Afraid she'd be late, she ran to the church in a panic, still in her apron, and still holding the pan.

Flipping pancakes is also centuries old. A poem from Pasquil's Palin in 1619 runs: "And every man and maide doe take their turne, And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne."

Some people have noted that the ingredients of pancakes can be used to highlight four significant things about this time of year: eggs stand for creation, flour is the staff of life, while salt keeps things wholesome, and milk stands for purity.

Shrove Tuesday is always 47 days before Easter Sunday and falls between 3rd February and 9th March.

Ash Wednesday: A good time to admit you are sorry

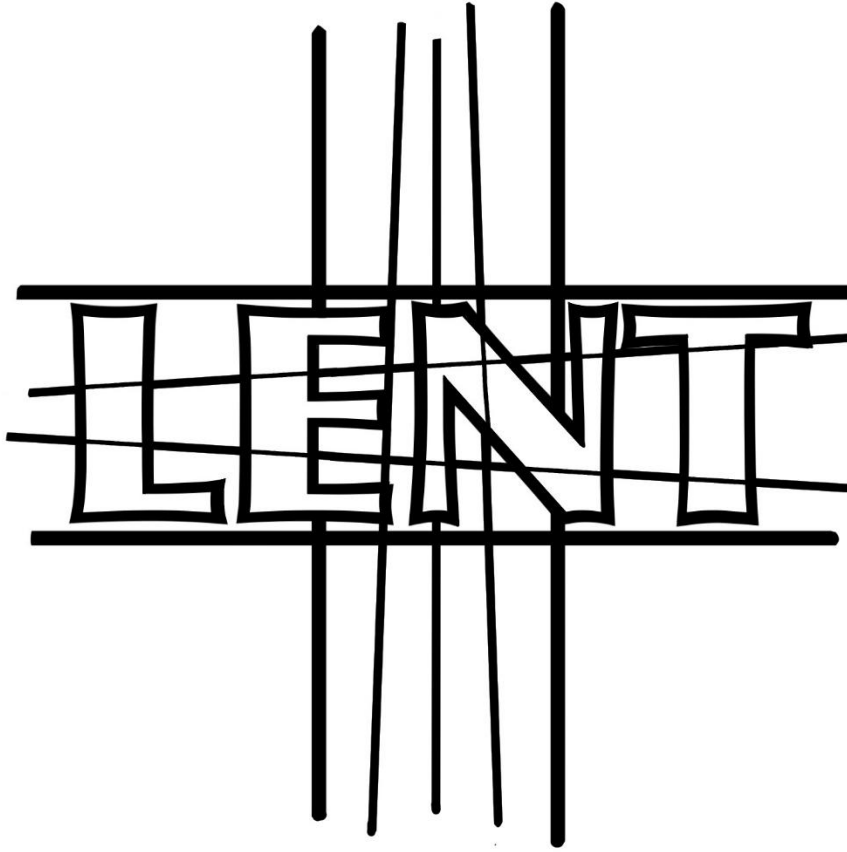
Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance' (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55.7)

'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.' (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to Him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.



Thank you!

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Southport and all the recipients I would like to thank your congregation and the school children for your very generous gifts of toys and chocolates which were collected before Christmas. Together with your great contribution Rotary were able to help in distributing toys, chocolates and food vouchers to many families in our community who were in need. I can assure you that everything was very gratefully received and much appreciated.

Thank you

Liz

Rotary
Club of Southport



Puzzles – Sudoku

EASY

1	9					5		8
	2	6		3	8	1		9
8				7		4		
				9				6
3	4		8		6		1	7
2				1				
		4		8				1
7		3	9	2		6	5	
6		2					8	3

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MEDIUM

							7	2
					9	5		3
6	7			3	2	9		
9				1				
4	1	6				7	9	5
				6				1
		3	1	8			4	6
2		7	4					
8	4							

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Sanctuary Flowers

February 1st Candlemas. Mrs J Navin

February 8th _____

February 18th Ash Wednesday

No flowers in Lent

Thank you to all who contribute to the flower fund.

ECB



"SCHOOL - RESCUE ME!"

As part of their work to support charities, school are supporting an animal rescue centre called "Rescue Me". The children have been asked to collect postage stamps from envelopes, unwanted foreign currency and any pre-decimal or pre-euro currency people may have hidden in old socks!!!

If you have any such items, please can you pass them to Karen Corbett and she will take them into school.

Nexus

Churches Together

(in North Meols)

Tuesday 10th February
At St Patrick's RC Church
7:30pm

Everyone is very welcome!

"A new commandment I give unto you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another"

John 13:34-35



THE NORTH MEOLS TEAM MINISTRY
ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18TH 7PM
ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH
HOLY COMMUNION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

TUESDAYS EVENING'S 7.00pm
SAID BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER
EVENING PRAYER
HELD AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES ACROSS OUR
TEAM ON THESE DATES

ST CUTHBERT'S 24TH FEBRUARY
ST. STEPHENS IN BANKS 3RD MARCH
ST CUTHBERT'S 10TH MARCH
ST JOHN'S CROSSENS 17TH MARCH
ST STEPHEN'S 24th MARCH

ALL VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR THIS QUIET
REFLECTIVE SERVICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REV REBECCA
CLARKE:
ON 01704 233738/ EMAIL revdrebecca@hotmail.co.uk

WORDSEARCH

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple/ Candlemas

Candlemas, 2nd February, comes exactly 40 days after Christmas. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Luke 2: 22-40). So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day.

Candlemas

Forty

Days

After

Christmas

New

Testament

Important

Age

Baby

Boy

First

Public

Appearance

Mary

Jewish

Temple

Festival

Presentation

Described

Light

World

Candles

Lighting

Early



The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



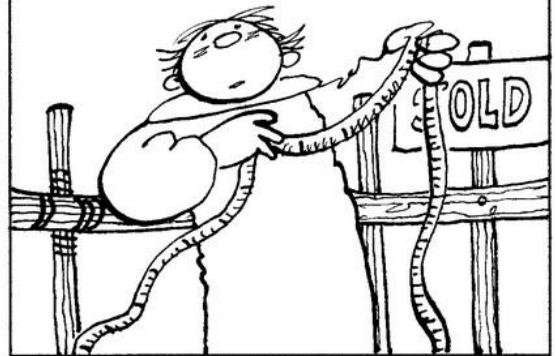
ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

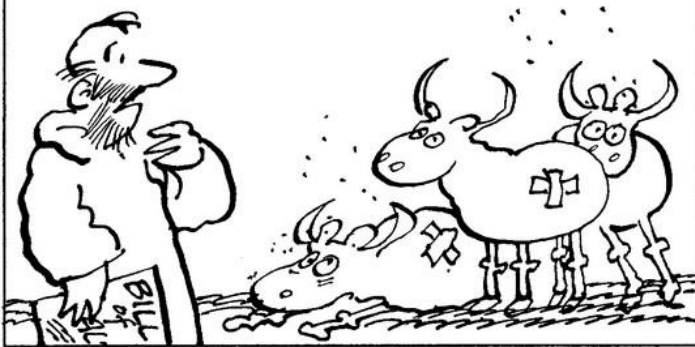


BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

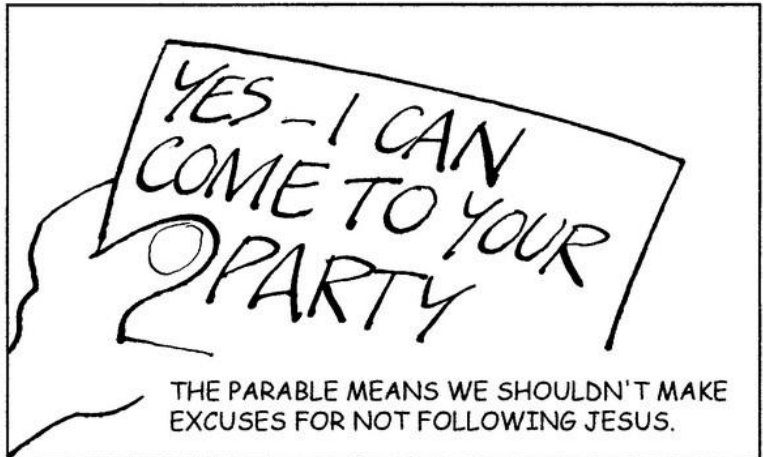


ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR



ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.



THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
1 Samuel 2:11-17, 22-25, 3:1-21

As soon as he was old enough to leave his parents, Samuel went to live at God's temple in Shiloh, with the priest, Eli..

Eli's sons were also priests, but they helped themselves to what people had brought to give to God.



Eli talked to them about it. They ignored him.



But Samuel did all the work he was given well.

One night, after everyone had gone to bed, Samuel heard someone calling him.



He thought it was Eli, so he ran to him.



No, I didn't call you

It happened again.



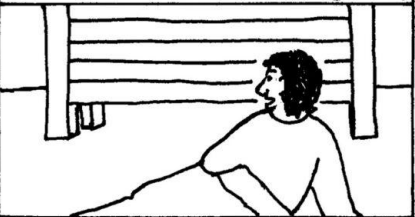
I didn't call. Go back to bed.

The third time, Eli knew it must be God calling Samuel.



You must say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

God called Samuel again,



and Samuel answered as he had been told.

I told Eli his sons had done bad things, but he has not stopped them. Now, even being sorry will not make up for what has happened.



The next morning, Eli demanded to be told what God had said.



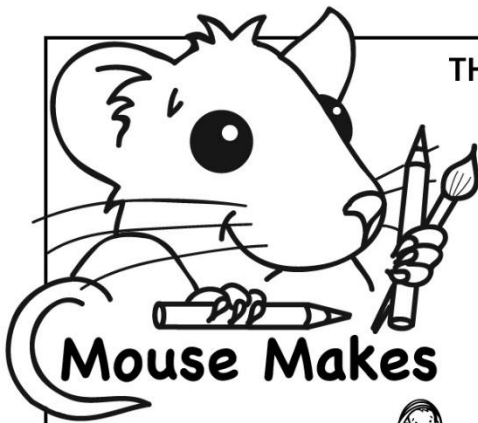
Samuel was afraid, but he told him.

He is God. He will deal with us as is right.



God continued to talk to Samuel. He became known throughout Israel.





Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

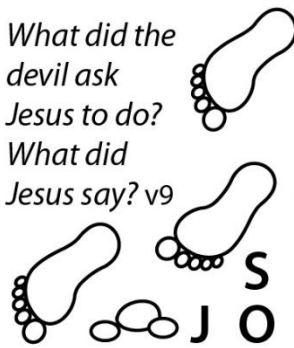
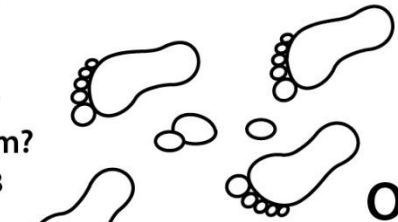
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God first

Worship only Him.



T W L D G
R O G L O R Y L O
I B A P T I S E D
V O F O O T H D
S E R V E B T I
J O R D A N J E G
L O R D N H



F O R T Y D A Y S S O N K L O R D N H
T D O W N O N W O R S H I P
T E S T W O R L D L T U N B
L V T E M P T A T I O N G R
E I A M J E S U S F N G D E
N L K P D E S E R T E R O A
T H O L Y S P I R I T Y M D
I M J E R U S A L E M F S J
W I L D E R N E S S J U M P

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT



THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

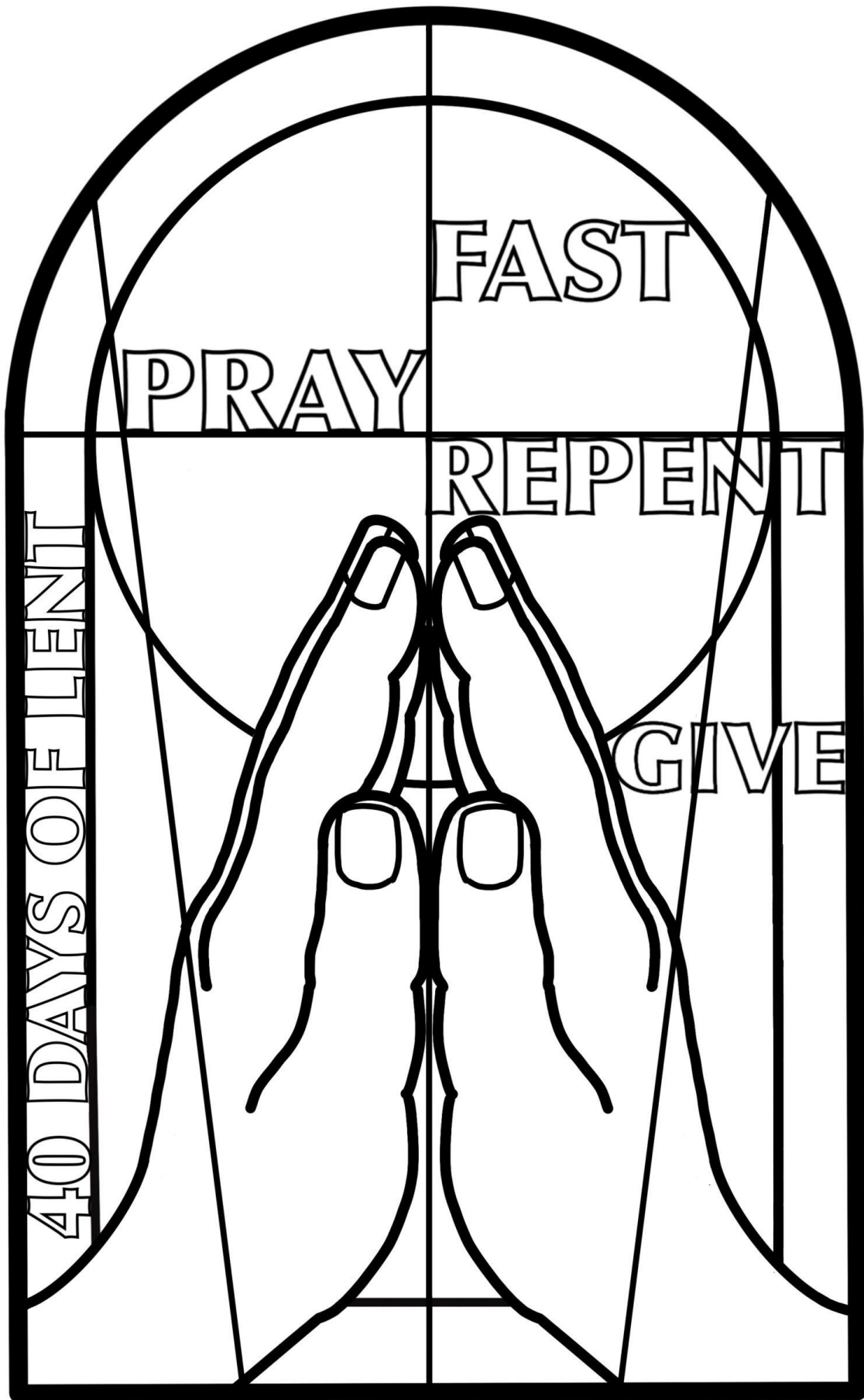
WE LEARN:

God cares, trust

Him do not test Him.



Some colouring for all ages....



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