



TIMES OF THE LITURGY

Sunday - 7.45am - Lauds | 8.15am - Low Mass | 9.15am - Dominican Rite Mass (Extraordinary Form) | 11am - Sung Conventual Mass | 6pm - Low Mass | 7pm - Vespers.

Monday - Friday - 7am - Lauds | 7.30am - Conventual Mass | 6.15pm - Devotions and Meditation | 6.30pm - Vespers. On Fridays in Lent, Stations at 6.50pm. [N.B. First Fridays of the month, Vespers in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with a period of Adoration from 6.15pm.]

Saturday - 9am - Lauds | 9.30am - Conventual Mass | 4.30-6pm - Confessions | 6.15pm - Sung Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 6.30pm - Vespers.

THIS WEEK

Sun 9 **LENT I**

Mon 10 *feria*

Tue 11 *feria*

Wed 12 *feria*

Thu 13 *feria*

Fri 14 *feria*

Sat 15 *feria*

Sun 16 **LENT II**



Lauds, Mass, and Vespers are broadcast daily on Radio Maria.

To listen visit:

<https://radiomariaengland.uk/>

SUPPORT US

Our ministry relies on the generosity of our friends and supporters. If you would like to support us make a donation in the cloister, visit our website, or speak to or email the bursar, Fr Albert.

cambridge.bursar@english.op.org

THE PERSONAL MEANING OF MERCY: OUR FINAL HOPE

Dr Robert McNamara,

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Franciscan University of Steubenville.

To celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025 we will be holding a series of half-hour talks on mercy and hope. The first of these talks will take place TODAY, Sunday 9 March, immediately after the Latin Mass, around 10:15am.

CANCELLED

ORGAN RECITAL AT FISHER HOUSE

MONDAY 10 MARCH AT 6PM

James Bibey, Director of Music at Fisher House, will give an organ recital in the Chapel, including music from the Little Organ Book by J.S. Bach. Free entry, with a retiring collection in aid of the work of the Companions of the Order of Malta.

YES TO OUR HOSPICES, NO TO ASSISTED SUICIDE

You are invited to sign a petition asking the government to reform the funding of hospices so that they have the necessary resources to properly care for dying patients. For more information on how to add your name to the petition, please pick up a card from cloister or visit <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/yes-to-our-hospices/>.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent after Vespers (at around 6.50pm), the community at Blackfriars will have Stations of the Cross.

MARCH MAGNIFICATS

We have a lot of March Magnificats to give a way, so please take one.

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MENS' SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

Mens' Spiritual Exercises, 30 March – 4 April 2025: At the Christian Heritage Centre, a 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises is being offered specifically for men. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. For more information and to book please visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>.

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RETREAT ON EDITH STEIN

The Search for Truth: Edith Stein, 14 – 16 March 2025: Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend at the Christian Heritage Centre exploring the life and teachings of Edith Stein/St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. For more information and to book visit the Christian Heritage Centre website.

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SEARCH FOR MEANING

This Conference is inspired by the life and work of Edith Stein (St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, OCD), with a team of speakers, including Prof Peter Tyler, Professor of Pastoral Theology and Spirituality at St Mary's Catholic University, Twickenham, and author of *The Living Philosophy of Edith Stein*. Open to All. 9 - 11 May 2025. Attendance can be full residential, daily attendance, or online. £250 for full Residential attendance (includes Friday dinner and overnight stay until Sunday). NB: If NOT able to attend in person, or online, or are contacting us from abroad, beyond our own UK time-Zone, you will be sent recordings of the Talks.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

In Lent the Church prays in the Preface of the Canon of the Mass:

“Father, each year by your gracious gift your faithful await the paschal feasts with the joy of minds made pure.”

Jesus made the good confession, to borrow a phrase. He confessed the living God before Pontius Pilate. What was his Credo, but what God was doing in him, reconciling the world to himself by the shedding of his blood. And Jesus confessed God before Satan in the desert, until Satan had exhausted all the ways he had of tempting him, when he left him to return at the appointed time, when his Passion had come. At the beginning of Lent we think about that confession of Jesus. We think first of how the Spirit led Our Lord to the desert, where his people had been, where their God had formed them for himself, where they had been tested. Each one of the replies of Jesus to the devil harks back to that story, they are quotes straight from the Old Testament record of the truths Jesus' own people had to learn when they were in the wilderness after they escaped from the cruel Pharaoh, remember.

Man does not live on bread alone.

You must not put the Lord your God to the test.

You must worship the Lord your God and serve Him alone.

Yes, quotations from the Old Testament, in fact from the book of Deuteronomy, we heard from it already: “the LORD heard our voice and saw our misery, our toil and our oppression.” Luke edits the temptation story to show that Jesus was where his people had been, alone, defenceless, vulnerable and in great danger. But also that behind the story of one man’s joining his own people’s story in those Egypt years of slavery and hard labour, and afterwards in the cruel empty desert, there lies another story, the story of a Son of God who became human. What is it to be human but to be vulnerable, exposed, fragile, at risk. To have nothing except the enthusiasm and the devotion of one’s own heart, perhaps. And the Son of God who was son of Mary lived that, he held back nothing, he emptied himself to become as all of us are, and being humbler yet took our humanity even to the shame of the Cross.

This of course is just what Satan cannot stand. The Tempter tries every way to block Jesus, to offer him a way out. Satan wants Jesus strong. What he fears is the powerlessness of God. He fears the Trojan horse of an open heart, a heart that will remain true to its poverty, suffer the misery and abandonment that too often is the stuff of life. He doesn’t want Jesus to stay with the story of his people in their frailty and pain, that story that’s by no means over yet, it drags on out there in the Syrian refugee camps and the streets of Kyiv and nearer home in the homes of the wounded and the troubled folk whose hurt we might not even suspect, unless prayer can bring us close and help a little.

Satan loves to stress the spiritual strength of humankind and their divine character, he's done this from the beginning: "you shall be as gods" he told the first Adam, the old one. Here is the new Adam, the new man. Now this time Satan fails. Jesus won't betray God in the name of humanity, or humanity in the name of God. His "no" to Satan is his "yes" to us. He penetrates the lonely depths of human existence and he lives out the human predicament so much more faithfully than we do. Just one of all the human race stays faithful to his humanity and bears it all the way to the cross.

Now of course we could read this story as an invitation to imitate Our Lord. We could take the three sayings, the three defences offered Satan, and apply them to ourselves. We could. Feed on the Word of God - here it is in the Scriptures. Pay honour and worship to God - serve him alone, not your own fancies. Be humble and not so full of yourself - trust Him, not your own strength. Well, if we do all that, perhaps nobody will stop us!

But today might we just tell ourselves, isn't there something that comes before all that? It's just that this is the story of a victory, a success. Something has been achieved. St Paul says it for us:

"Just as one man's transgression led to condemnation for all so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all."

Something I can call upon when I think about my own journey, its hesitations, its false starts, its moments of doubt and despair even. In all that concerns his own fearsome trials and temptations, my Lord has won the victory, and that is personal to me. That alters things for me! The symbol of his victory, we call the Creed. The Creed proclaims a crucified Lord. It tells how Jesus bore our humanity to its last crisis, in spite of all the obstacles the Tempter could put in place to separate the Creator from his human creation. That is why with firm hope and full assurance of faith we can dare to confess with our lips what we believe in our hearts, Jesus is Lord.

"Grant, almighty God, through the yearly observance of holy Lent, that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ, and by worthy conduct pursue their effects, through the same Christ our Lord." (The Collect for the First Sunday of Lent).

fr Bob Eccles, OP

THE PRIORY OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Blackfriars, Buckingham Road, Cambridge. CB3 0DD.

www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk/ | Phone: +44 (0) 1223 741251

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<<https://www.blackfriarscambridge.org.uk/mass-service-times/request-a-mass/>>