

Clergy letter

LENT A TIME FOR VISION

In the season of Lent we seek to be with Jesus in his searching and in his preparation. During his sojourn in the wilderness Jesus was tempted by the promise of power; of success and of popularity. He was challenged to assert his own self importance and to put God to the test by challenging him to respond to unreasonable demands.

In the aftermath of Brexit all those issues are surfacing in the national and political arena. The promises made now have to be fulfilled. The cult of “personality” and “celebrity” and the seeking after power and influence remain strong forces within our cultural identity.

We live in hopeful and yet uncertain times. We are not alone, however, as we are part of the great congregation of the faithful to guide and shape our creation through the workings of the Holy Spirit. We have the gifts of trust, faith and grace to ensure focus and vision in our difficult world. We need the wisdom to recognise the difficulties and the trust and belief to do something about it.

Although Jesus preached the Gospel of peace and salvation, he realised that the effectiveness of that message lay with him and his personal integrity. So too with each one of us. We need an honest recognition of our weaknesses and shortcomings as well as our strengths. We often pride ourselves of being independent and self made individuals but the reverse is mostly true. We depend on the love and support of others to grow and become creative.

As with most things in life we need to arrive at a right balance and perspective as to who we are and in what we do. Lent gives us the opportunity to reflect upon our secular/spiritual balance. We need to sharpen our focus and give a practical expression to our vision.

Michael Josephson in his poem “What will Matter” reminds us that:-

“Living a life that matters doesn’t happen by accident. It’s not a matter of circumstances, but of choice.”

May we, in humility and with faithful insight, make the correct choices.

Peter King