

Dear all in Jesus Christ

The season of Lent is upon us. Here goes a bit of help with this feast in the Apostolic Church, shared with all other traditional Christian churches. The Christian church, following earlier Jewish tradition, has long used the seasons of the year as an opportunity for festivals and holidays, sacred time set aside to worship God as the Lord of life.

While Jewish celebration revolves around the Exodus from Egypt, the Christian Church year focuses on the life and ministry of Jesus. The Christian Church Year helps us follow the events of Jesus' life. By observing specific feasts, holy days and seasons, it fosters unity among millions of Christians throughout the world and also for us as Christian Apostolics. Some of the seasons or feasts in our Church year are the following:

Advent = the preparation for the birth of Jesus;  
 Christmas = birth of Jesus;  
 Lent = preparation for Easter;  
 Easter Time = Easter to Pentecost; and  
 particular Holy Days such as Pentecost (Whitsunday), Ascension. etc.

...however, our focus now is on Lent which starts

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar (BBC, 2017). Beginning on Ash



Wednesday (1 March 2017), Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter (BBC, 2017). By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

Whereas **Easter** celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, **Lent** recalls the events leading up to and **including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome**. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.



The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week** and begins on the sixth Sunday of Lent which is also called **Palm Sunday**, which commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, welcomed by people waving palms and acclaiming him as the Messiah (CCIANZ, 2017).

Divine Service on Holy Thursday evening marks the end of Lent and the beginning of the Easter.

**Purple is the liturgical (colour associated with this season) and is the colour of reflection, seeking forgiveness, but also one of joy and expectation.**



The links below will also help.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_-3uVQ\\_TuA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_-3uVQ_TuA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxV2Bs9Rr0A>

Lent By Apostle Flor (2017).

Beloved Brethren in Office, Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

In life if we are specially blessed to receive a special gift that will benefit us all our lives and beyond, we constantly turn to the gift giver to express our thanks. So it should be in our spiritual life, as we move through this period of time to remember our Lord's victory over the temptations of the world, the lusts of the flesh and Satan. The greatest battle to ever be fought in this world! If victorious, God would give to mankind the means to be part of a new covenant of promise leading to eternal life, but if lost, then mankind would have to continue to go on to judgement.

We must realise that if the temptation is overcome then sin does not follow. Once we have sinned, whether in thought, word or deed, we are dependant then on the grace and righteousness of Christ to have it taken away. John 1:29 "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." We give special thanks during this period, that our Lord was victorious after enduring forty days and nights of constant temptations from Satan – Matthew 4:11 "Then the devil leaveth him, and behold, angels came and ministered unto him." Every victory was converted to righteousness and this was sufficient to fulfil the promise – Psalm 85:2 "Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of thy people, thou hast covered all their sin." Our Lord's victory over all temptations must be an example for the Church, the mystical creation of the second Eve, to follow and allow God's plan of salvation to be completed. 2 Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin: that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." On the cross the Lord made



an impassioned plea to the future Church – John 19:28 “I thirst.” Not a natural thirst, but for that righteousness to come forth in part from the Church working to overcome the temptations in the world.

Without Christ’s victory, our efforts would be as shown Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags: and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind have taken us away.” But the prophet also gave a promise to the Church – chapter 33:5 “The Lord is exalted: for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion (the Church) with judgement and righteousness.” Jesus taught – John 15:1-2 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman, every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

All our efforts that are fruitful must be purged to be acceptable to God as righteousness and this is done through the blood of Christ. Titus 2:14 “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Every purged victory remains for ever to be used by the Lord in His salvation plan. Matthew 6:20 “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.” Jesus, as a man, had to be given a special power that was above that of an angel (Satan), and we read – John 1:32-33 “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”

The Holy Ghost has been sent to the world to remain with all, who put their faith in Christ to help and guide us to be fruitful. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” If we desire to have the Spirit to guide us, obviously our heart must be as recorded - Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart: O God, thou wilt not despise.” Jesus also took a special weapon with Him in His battle, which was

the Word of God, for it is recorded He rebuked Satan each time with the words “It is written.” As we begin each day during this special time in the Christian Church, we should take the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) and read a small section of Christ’s teachings, and those temptations we should be resisting in our lives, will become obvious. Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piecing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” We know that the forty day temptation and victory was at the beginning of Christ’s mission labour, but let us hear what is recorded at the end of His time as He entered the city, before His final passion. Mark 11:7-9 “And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments and he sat upon him. And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed cried saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.” And in Matthew 21:12-14 “And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves. And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple and he healed them.” In the living temple of God, this offer of healing and sight is always offered to us through the Grace of Christ.

We the Apostles, pray that all will achieve some victory for the Lord. Revelation 2:11 “He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.”

Please accept greetings from Apostle Dargusch & myself.

Your brother & Apostle for Christ,

Cliff Flor.

God bless Br Theo



Reference:

CCIANZ. (2017). *Lent*. Retrieved from <http://www.catholic.org.nz/liturgical-season/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=38>

BBC. (2017). *Lent*. Retrieved from [http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/lent\\_1.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/lent_1.shtml)

Flor, C. (Apostle). (2017). *Apostle Pastoral for Lenten Season*. Retrieved from <http://www.apostolicchurchqld.org.au/SubPages/Pastoral.htm#4>;