

## **First Sunday of Lent 2019 (given by Fr Ian Wilson)**

✠ In the Name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

Lent is a time of reflection and renewal. Both physical as human beings, and in our inner being, in spiritual renewal. The world around us desperately needs the message of Lent, and the wonderful life giving message of Good Friday and Easter Day. Let us be aware of that need in our own prayers for others.

We do not forget that Jesus took 40 days of reflective prayer, and faced temptation from the devil in the wilderness region between Jerusalem and the Dead Sea. This says it is OK to be tempted, and we must also pray for strength to be delivered from our own self and the external push of evil. In this we avoid sin. That is, instead be expansive in loving others, in an active way. We do this by absorbing and reflecting God's love for all of us.

It is sad that some want the words changed in the Lord's Prayer that we be delivered from temptation, for that liberation is exactly what so many people need in this life. God wishes we prayerfully ask Him for spiritual guidance and strength. Many say they are spiritual people, and therefore, I think they should relate to this in a deep way.

What needs to be realised is that spiritual people must also be worshipping and believing people. We believe the Catholic Church and its Faith most excellently supplies this medium of being truly spiritual people.

All good things have a true cost. To be true to spirituality means we need be refined and well prepared to live out this life.

To do this we need to realise what is wrong or weak in ourselves. These things easily lead not only to temptation, but serious acts of evil we call mortal sin. Also lesser sins we call venial sins. The serious sins are those

defined in the Ten Commandments and the laws of the Catholic Church.

If everyone followed these guidelines for life, this world would be an excellent, enjoyable and very safe place for each person to live.

We have an excellent guide by reading the works of saints and listening to and obeying the true teaching of the Church and Her Tradition.

There we have 2000 years of collective wisdom and experience. From this, we can begin to appreciate the biblical scriptures as a revelation of Catholic lives lived out true to Christ's teaching, and read His own words as He delivered them.

Be of good heart. The Archdiocese now has seven seminarians for Adelaide, thanks to Fr. Peter Zwaans and the Holy Spirit, other dioceses such as Broken Bay near Sydney in NSW have an unheard of nine seminarians. The tide is turning for the Australian Church, and they all are receiving sound Catholic instruction, and promised to be excellent well-formed priests. The Personal Ordinariate is also gaining seminarians.

Let us thank Our Lady and the Saints and Holy angels for their prayers and assistance in our time of need.

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Amen.