



**DERRY DIOCESAN
CATECHETICAL
CENTRE**

**Assembly
Monday 22nd February
with Bishop Donal Mc Keown**

Welcome: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen**

Opening Hymn: How Beautiful are the Hands that Serve Lizzie Rea

Opening Prayer:

Lord as we begin this season of Lent, we take time to become more aware of your presence in our lives. We place before you, this day, all the things that distract us from you and acknowledge that we are sinners. As we express our sorrow and begin this journey of repentance, we pray that our sacrifices will be pleasing to you. We make this prayer, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading: A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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Reflection:

Intercessions: Lord, as we enter the first week of Lent, help us to draw near to you in humility and sorrow. We ask you, to hear and answer the prayers we make today.

Lord, help us when we are tempted to turn away from you,
to open our eyes so that we may recognise temptation in all its forms.

Lord, help us when we are tempted to turn away from you,
to be open to your transforming presence in our lives.

Lord, help us when we are tempted to turn away from you,
to remember and live your words '*Love one Another.*'

Lord, help us when we are tempted to turn away from you,
to try to live lives of charity, prayer and self-denial.

We take a moment to call to mind anyone or anything we wish to pray for..

United as the children of God, we bring all our prayers together in the words Jesus, our first teacher, taught us. **Our Father.....**

Closing Prayer: Lord, we know that we are not always willing to do your will. We often prefer to please ourselves. Be with us, we ask, on this Lenten journey and help us to remember that your own spirit can guide us in the right direction. We want to do better. At times this seems overwhelming, but with your help we know, anything is possible. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: How Beautiful are the Hands that Serve Lizzie Rea