

Reflections on 1st Sunday of Lent 21B.

Mass: Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm: 24; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

The first Sunday in Lent always begins with a battle. It is strange that we don't always realise that. It is a battle between Jesus and the powers of evil, or Satan. It has to be a battle because it is known as the temptation of Jesus. If Jesus couldn't be tempted, then it wouldn't be a battle. Jesus was fully human and therefore faced the challenges that we face. He was victorious but at a terrible cost to himself. We are being prepared at the beginning of Lent for a battle. We have to make a choice, do we choose to follow Jesus into battle, with his weapons, in full knowledge of his victory. We are being prepared for that battle in Lent just as the first Christians were prepared, in full knowledge that they were putting their lives on the line. The battle is over all that divides us. The demonic is that which breaks us apart, both within ourselves and between ourselves. The Christmas season prepares us with a vision of peace, all our brokenness healed and restored in the Great Shalom. Now we have to choose and prepare ourselves for the warfare that Jesus has already won but that we have to make a reality in our lives and world. Wow! What a task! Identifying with Jesus in the paschal mystery is the win win situation.