**Lectio Divina. 1st Sunday Lent. A. February 26th 2023**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord Jesus, send your Spirit to help us to read the Scriptures with the same mind that you inspired the disciples on the way to Emmaus. In the light of the Word, written in the Bible, you helped them to discover the presence of God in the disturbing events of your sentence and death. May your word guide us so that we too, like the two disciples from Emmaus, may experience the force of your resurrection and witness to others that you are alive in our midst as source of fraternity, justice and peace. We ask this of you, Jesus, son of Mary, who revealed to us the Father and sent us your Spirit. Amen.

**Scripture Reading Matthew 4: 1-11**

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.’ But he replied, ‘Scripture says:

*Man does not live on bread alone*

*but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’*

The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. ‘If you are the Son of God’ he said ‘throw yourself down; for scripture says:

*He will put you in his angels’ charge,*

*and they will support you on their hands*

*in case you hurt your foot against a stone.’*

Jesus said to him, ‘Scripture also says:

*You must not put the Lord your God to the test.’*

Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. ‘I will give you all these’ he said, ‘if you fall at my feet and worship me.’ Then Jesus replied, ‘Be off, Satan! For scripture says:

*You must worship the Lord your God,*

*and serve him alone.’*

Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

*Silent Reflection*

**Commentary from Fr David**

**Sharing of a personal reflection or impression**

**Intercessory prayers from the text**

**Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the word that has enabled us to understand better the will of the Father. May your Spirit enlighten our actions and grant us the strength to practice that which your Word has revealed to us. May we, like Mary, not only listen to but also practice the Word. You who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.