

SUNDAY READINGS DURING LENT

The book that contains the readings for Mass is called *The Lectionary*. Our current Lectionary was introduced in 1969 and it presents three readings for each Sunday across a three-year cycle. This year we are in Year A of that cycle.

Except for the Easter Season, the first reading on a Sunday is selected from the Old Testament. The second reading is taken from the books of the New Testament apart from the Gospels.

On the Sundays of Lent the first reading presents moments in the History of Salvation. We began last Sunday with the story of creation and on this second Sunday we hear about the call of Abraham, who was the father of the People of Israel. Next Sunday we will move on to Moses and the story of the Exodus and then the fourth Sunday will introduce King David.

The Gospel reading on the first Sunday of Lent is always an account of Jesus going into the wilderness after his Baptism. The second Sunday presents the Transfiguration. This year we have listened to Matthew's Gospel. However, on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays we will listen to accounts in John's Gospel about people coming to believe in Jesus.

The Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and the raising of Lazarus are stories that have been used since the earliest centuries to instruct those who were preparing to be baptized at Easter. They also remind us that we too are on a journey to Easter.

Paul Crowley

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