

St Thomas More 112 Knoll Drive Stivichall COVENTRY CV3 5DE Fr Simon J Baker Parish Priest 024 7641 1900

Deacon Leo Poole 07984 071124 dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk Deacon David Palmer 07831 726731 dcn.david.palmer@rcaob.org.uk Deacon Pat Jeary *Retired* **St Joseph the Worker** 1 De Montfort Way Cannon Park COVENTRY CV4 7DU

stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk

stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

both parishes are part of the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg Charity No 234216

23rd March 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Psalter Week: 3

Weekday Cycle: Year 1

Sunday Year: C

Saturday 22 nd	TUTOD	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the	e Blessed Sacrament and Confessions
	THIRD	5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Anne and Steve Buckley (40 th Wedding Anniv)
Sunday 23 rd	SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am	STM	Mass	Kevin John Duignan (RIP)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Richard Healy (RIP)
Monday 24 th	Lent Feria			No Mass	
Tuesday 25 th	SOLEMNITY OF	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Michel Simons (Ints)
	THE ANNUNCIATION			followed by Stations of the Cross	
Wednesday 26 th	Lent Feria	11.00am	STM	Mass	Madge Ward (Ints)
				followed by Stations of the Cross	
Thursday 27 th	Lent Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass	Mr Gleeson (RIP)
		6.00pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
Friday 28 th	Lent Feria	10.00am	STM	Mass	Patrick Kenny (8 th Anniv)
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	SJW	Mass	Frank and Mary Anne Bather (RIP)
		6.30pm	STM	Stations of the O	Cross
Saturday 29 th Sunday 30 th	Lent Feria	10.00am	SJW	Mass	Josie McElroy and Family (Ints)
				followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	4.15pm	STM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	
		5.00pm	STM	Vigil Mass	Mark Finn (Anniv)
		9.00am	STM	Mass	John Wooderson (Anniv)
		11.00am	SJW	Mass	Thomas Furey (RIP)

Welcome to Mass today. We extend a special welcome to anybody joining us for the first time. Please introduce yourself, and if you are able, stay for refreshments after the Mass.

The Annunciation is central to Catholic devotion to Mary. In this moment, Mary agreed to be the mother of Jesus. Her openness to God's plan made her a model of faith for all believers. Because of this, Catholics honour Mary in their prayers, remembering her "yes" to God and her role in bringing Jesus into the world.

One way the Annunciation shapes Catholic devotion is in the Hail Mary prayer. The first part of this prayer repeats Gabriel's greeting to Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." These words remind us of the angel's message and the favour God showed Mary. When Catholics pray the Hail Mary, they remember her as the one chosen to bear Jesus and thank her for her role in God's plan.

Another devotion inspired by the Annunciation is the Angelus. The Angelus is a prayer that recalls the angel's visit to Mary and her acceptance of God's will. Traditionally prayed three times a day, the Angelus helps Catholics pause and remember Mary's "yes." This prayer leads believers to reflect on the mystery of Jesus' coming into the world and Mary's unique role in that mystery.

Catholics also see Mary as a model of faith. Her response to Gabriel, "Let it be done unto me according to your word," shows her trust and obedience. She accepted God's plan, even though it was challenging and filled with unknowns. Because of this, Catholics look to Mary as an example of how to follow God's will in their own lives. Her faith and trust are qualities that all believers can try to imitate.

In Catholic devotion, the Annunciation is a reminder of Mary's openness to God's call and her deep faith. Through prayers like the Hail Mary and the Angelus, Catholics honour her and ask for her help in following Jesus. Mary's "yes" at the Annunciation continues to inspire and guide believers today.

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR to our Masses and not a Catholic, or a Catholic unable to receive, you are very welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. As you approach, please have your arm crossed over your chest, so that the minister knows to give a blessing. If you require a celiac host, please let us know before Mass.

ORDER OF MASS CARDS: If you require a card with the Order of Mass text, please ask one of the welcomers for a copy. The readings for Sunday Mass can be found on the back of this newsletter. Please do take them home with you for private prayer and reflection.

WE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF Fr Dominic Innamorati, Kevin Shakespeare (Requiem Mass at Christ the King, 12noon on Friday 11th April) **Justina Texeira** (Requiem Mass at STM on Thursday 3rd April), **Jim Power, Sarah Jones** and **Val Blaxall** together with all who have died recently. We pray for them and their families at this time. May they rest in peace.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND UNWELL: Angie Browne, Judith Cuningham, Peter Cunningham, Frank Cunningham, Elaine Fossett, Margaret Eason, Madge Ward, Heather Walton, Jay Veeman, Pat Farr, Phil Sands, Margaret Kelly, Joanna MacKinnon, Hilary Hanson, Debbie Colby, Monika Tokarska-Hosoi, Joan Theaker, Veronica Hammond, Alice Rowland, John Walker, Pauline Cullinane, Beatrice Upham, Peter Carvell, Sheila Jenkins, Lillian Chapman, Irena Bienek, Josie McElroy, Georgina Brannigan-Smith, Ann Kenny, Rose Warburton, Keelin Treharne, David O'Grady, Joan O'Leary, Thomas Weatherstone, Clare Oliver, Romina Mendieta, Jim Etheridge, Jennifer Bell, Tony Smith and Donal Heffernan

THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT are a gift that the Church in her wisdom celebrates every year. It is a gift of time, of contemplation, and of quiet. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor. Very often, when the season is over, people look back and say, 'I had a terrible Lent' and its simply because we don't truly prepare or allow ourselves to enter fully into the season. This year there are several extra things happening, so let's take full advantage of them and enter fully into the season.

THIS WEEK Fr Simon and Luke will be in Walsingham as part of the FRO Retreat. Whilst there, Mass will be offered for all parishioners and your intentions placed before Our Lady of Walsingham.

THIS TUESDAY is the Solemnity of the Annunciation, a central point of human history. All the Old Testament pointed to Christ entering the world. Everything after hinges on Christ's Incarnation, too. We measure our holiness based on how well we imitate Jesus. In the Annunciation, God also gave Mary her vocation as the mother of God. This is a huge responsibility and can lead to temptation to be afraid or want to not embrace God's calling. We need to see Mary as an example of how to embrace God's mission in our lives, particularly in our vocation. It also means there is only nine months until Christmas!

EARLY BIRD MASSES on Tuesday mornings at 6.45am in the Side Chapel at STM. These will be followed by a light breakfast in the MRR. However **PLEASE NOTE** that there will be no early morning Mass on Tuesday this week, so you can enjoy an extra lie in for once!

UNIVERSITY MASSES will resume again in April. We wish all the staff and students at the University a restful and peaceful Easter break.

DILEXIT NOS' LENTEN GROUP will meet on Thursday evening at 7.00pm in the MRR at STM. Each week, you will be given a reading pack and some questions for personal and group reflection. If you missed last week, copies of the reading available at the back of church.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT will take place on Thursday evening at 6.00pm in STM This will be followed by the Lent Reading Group, but you are welcome to come to either or both.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be prayed at SJW on Tuesday mornings after the 10.00am Mass and at STM after the 11.00am Wednesday Mass and on Friday evenings at 6.30pm.

YEAR OF JUBILEE: Pope Francis has declared that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. It is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

JUBILEE COMPANION BOOKS are available at the back of church and contain numerous articles on being a Jubilee pilgrim, about the Jubilee Icon, reflections, prayers and hymns. Please do take a copy.

DEACON DAVID AND JUNE PALMER: David and June have decided to downsize and move to a smaller house in Warwick nearer to their grandchildren. They say "We have prayed about this and feel that in the longer term it will be too far to travel to St Joseph's regularly. We will continue to come to Mass at St Joseph's for a while and plan that our last Sunday Mass at St Joseph's will be on Sunday 4th May. Many thanks to everyone who made us so welcome in the parish since our arrival in the dark days of Covid in 2020. We have really enjoyed our time at the University Chaplaincy and St Joseph's and will miss the many friends we have made."

YOU ARE MY HOPE' – 24 HOURS WITH THE LORD is an annual worldwide Lenten initiative started by Pope Francis in 2014. Its purpose is for Catholics to receive the mercy of God through Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In October we will be holding our annual Quarant'ore Festival (Forty Hours of Exposition) which will be linked into the Year of Jubilee, but in order to unite ourselves with the Holy Father next week, we are encouraging and inviting everyone to come along to our usual periods of Exposition and Adoration for a time of prayer and reflection before the Lord. During this time, Confessions will be available.

NEWMAN CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the MRR. Fr Theodorus Polyviou will be speaking on the topic of `The Icon in Eastern Spirituality.' He will also speak about other Icon's and the association with the Feast of the Annunciation. All welcome.

JUBILEE STATIONS OF CROSS: The images created for our new Stations of the Cross have now been printed into a set of cards for private devotion and prayer. These are priced at £5 a set and will be available to buy after all Masses next week. A panorama of the Stations is on display in STM, which helps to show the link and continuation of the road through each station. You can also learn more about the insight, thought and consideration which is behind the creation of these beautiful, prayerful and stunning Jubilee Stations.

NEXT SUNDAY is Mothering Sunday or Laetare Sunday: one of the two days a year when the liturgical colour is rose. You might like to consider wearing some-thing rose to Mass to fully immerse yourself in the Laetare rejoicing.

SJW EASTER RAFFLE: Thank you to all those who have donated prizes towards the raffle. Raffle tickets will be on sale next week.

LIVE SIMPLY TIP OF THE MONTH: STM is a Live Simply parish. Live sustainably with creation by planting a seed or tree sapling. For more information, please see the Live Simply website.

DON'T FORGET that next Sunday the clocks go forward an hour!

LECTIO DIVINA GROUP will meet this coming week on Wednesday evening in person in the MRR at 6.00pm. This is a reflective time of prayer and contemplation with the Sunday Gospel. All are welcome to come along.

LENTEN SOUP LUNCHES will be held on Wednesdays at 12noon in the MRR and after the 12noon Mass at SJW on a Friday. During Lent, there will be an opportunity to give a small donation at the lunches, which will be added to the parish charity collection (Mary's Meals).

THE CHAPEL OF UNITY at Coventry Cathedral is hosting an On-line 20-minute Psalm Reflection at 6.00pm each Monday evening during Lent, on 24th, 31st March and 7th and 14th April. Meeting ID: 864 9505 4646 and Passcode: COUR2025.

'ONE MAN WENT TO MOW': Weather permitting on Tuesday afternoon, the grass at SJW will be getting a cut. If you are free and have a mower, you are more than welcome to come along and lend a blade!

CHARIS EVENING on Friday 28th March from 6.00-8.00pm at Corpus Christi Church, CV3 2QP. The evening will consist of Rosary, Mass, Adoration, Confessions and a talk by Br Jospeh Mukkat. Refreshments will be available.

PARISH CHARITY: Our chosen charity for the coming year will be Mary's Meals. The money taken at refreshments after our Saturday and Sunday Masses, together with a voluntary collection once a year, and other small donations will be donated to their work and outreach.

LOOKING AHEAD TO EASTER: This may seem some time away, but there are some considerations to be made as to how we will celebrate the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter this year.

Last Easter, we had the luxury of having two priests, which meant that there was provision for the Sacred Triduum to be celebrated in both STM and SJW. Since June, there has been only one priest and between the two parishes, we have had to rethink our daily schedule and patterns of Masses. The new pattern seems to be working well, and it is good to see parishioners from both parishes attending the Masses in both churches.

The Sacred Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), though chronologically three days, are liturgically one day, through which unfolds Christ's Paschal Mystery. This means that the Triduum is one complete liturgy, rather than three separate liturgies that just happen to be celebrated on the appropriate day.

This year, we have two churches but only one priest. Unlike Christmas, Easter is not a time when several Masses and liturgies can be offered at different times and places by one priest. We also need to consider the numbers which regularly attend these liturgies, and of course, the other visitors that come during this time of year. There is also the understanding that a priest can only celebrate the Sacred Triduum once in one day, making 'doubling up' not a possibility, nor an ideal undertaking. Some parishes 'split' the Triduum up between the two parishes, having different days celebrated in each church, and this has been considered.

Taking all these things into consideration, the main liturgies of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday will be celebrated as one community in STM. Then both SJW and STM will have Masses of Easter Day celebrated at the usual times of 9.00am and 11.00am in both churches.

I know this will be a disappointment to many people, but it is a reality that we must face. I hope you appreciate the difficulty that is on the horizon and fully understand the consideration for seating and space that is needed.

It is, however, another opportunity for us to come together as two parishes and to combine all our efforts into making the Sacred Triduum a truly joyful, uplifting and fitting celebration in 2025.

KINGDOM OF GOD PRAYER GROUP on Mondays from 7.00pm – 8.45pm in the MRR. All are welcome to come along for a time of prayer, praise, reflection and refreshments.

ROSARY PRAYERS will be held every Friday at 1.40pm in Lent by the statue of Our Lady of Coventry in Priory Gardens, next to Holy Trinity Church, Broadgate. All welcome.

SEVEN DAY CANDLES can be sponsored in both STM and SJW for a donation of £5 per candle. These are lit on a Sunday and burn for the following week. At STM candles are available for Our Lady, St Joseph, Sacred Heart and St Thomas More and at SJW they are available for Our Lady, Sacred Heart, St Anthony, and St Joseph. Please note only one intention per candle can be booked. To sponsor a candle for a particular intention, please bring your donation to the sacristy.

ST JOHN PASSION by Johann Sebastian Bach will be performed by the Spires Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus on Saturday 12^{th} April at 2.30pm in Burgess Hall at King Henry VIII School. Tickets are priced at £15 or £5 for students and are available on the door, or by booking in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/spiresmusic

GOOD NEIGHBOURS COVENTRY'S MEN'S GROUPS are growing. They provide simple unstructured chat & friendship, aimed at men age 50+, but all men are welcome. Let your friends, relatives and neighbours know they can join us on a Tuesday from 2.00pm-3.30pm at ICC Keresley (CV6 2FJ); on a Thursday from 4.30pm-6pm at St Paul's Foleshill (CV6 5AJ) and on Friday from 1.00pm-2.30pm at St Martin's Finham (CV3 6EA).

KNITTED BABY CARDIGANS are required by the University Hospital for premature babies. If you, or any friends can knit any, they can be given in at church, and Knights of St Columba will pass them on.

`LITTLE CHURCH' at STM is the Liturgy of the Word with children, offering an opportunity to listen and respond to the Sunday Gospel at an age-appropriate level during the 9.00am Mass. The Children and a Prayer Leader are called forward at the beginning of Mass and process to their sacred space where the scriptures are explored through reflection, discussion, song and other appropriate activities. An adult may accompany a very young child until they are settled. All return to Mass at the Offertory for the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

STM CHURCH OPENING: The side door – known as Our Lady's door – at STM will be unlocked (except on Monday's) so access to the Side Chapel can be gained during the day for private prayer and reflection. Please note that the door will be locked at around 4.00pm every night.

PRAYING FOR POPE FRANCIS: As the Holy Father remains in hospital, we keep him close in prayer. Almighty and Eternal God, you are the everlasting health of those who believe in you. Hear our prayers for your sick servant Francis for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, pray for him.

JUBILEE RETREAT DAY on Saturday 10th May in STM, led by Canon Michael Dolman, Rector of Oscott College. A day based on suggestions for getting the most out of this Holy Year and how we might become greater Pilgrims of Hope throughout this Holy Year and beyond. More details to follow, but please do make a note in your diary.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: Heavenly Father, we ask you to send labourers into your harvest. Inspire, in the hearts of your people, vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Bless our families with a spirit of generosity, so that those whom you call have the courage to give themselves to your Church in faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION COURSES are held on the first Saturday of every month in the MRR. To book a place, families are asked to contact Deacon Leo by emailing dcn.leo.poole@rcaob.org.uk

MASS INTENTIONS: The Mass is the greatest prayer we can offer as Catholics since it is the 'source and summit' of the Christian Life. Individuals may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Mass offering envelopes are available at the back of both churches. Please fill in the required information and hand it to Fr Simon or push through the Presbytery letterbox. The Mass will then be offered, and you'll see the details on the front page of this sheet. We ask that Masses be booked three months in advance of your required date. Please remember that preferred dates cannot be guaranteed someone else might have asked for a particular day before you, but the nearest date will be offered.

HOUSE VISITS to the sick and housebound are an important part of the life of the church. Those who would like a visit, are asked to contact Fr Simon or Deacons Leo and David. A visit can be arranged by themselves or by the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. **KENELM YOUTH TRUST** are seeking committed Catholics for senior leadership positions at out retreat centres based in Alton, ST10 4TT. More information about the various roles can be found by visiting www.kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk/kenelmvacancies.html or you can call 01538 703 224 to discuss the opportunities.

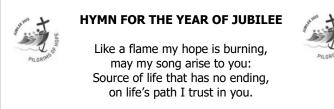
CHEYLESMORE FOODHUB: It is now possible to support the work of the Foodhub through financial donations. It allows for more flexibility for the Trust to purchase foods. The required information is Cheylesmore Food Hub CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 and the Account no: 00034145.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL: Anyone going into hospital, needs to be sure to tell the ward staff they are a Catholic and would like to see the Catholic Chaplain. Please also notify the Parish Clergy, so a visit, either by them or the Chaplain can be arranged.

ONLINE GIVING: If you were unable to give				
via the Offertory Collection at Sunday Mass, you				
can give online to either parish by scanning this QR				
code and following the instructions on the website.				

GIFT AID GIVING: If you are a UK Taxpayer and would like to increase you weekly giving, at no extra cost to yourself, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Through this scheme we are able to claim 25p on every £1 donated. More information available from Tony Curristan at STM and June Palmer at SJW.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Amanda Kelly and Claire Rutter at STM and Henry Whitney at SJW. They can be contacted using the emails below or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or email safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.



READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

FIRST READING

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the Lord said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.' Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I Am Who I Am.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you." ' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives full justice to all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong his mercy for those who fear him.

SECOND READING

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor arumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:1-9 There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.' And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

Parish Administrator and Room Bookings Amanda Kelly admin.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk

Safeguarding Representatives

Claire Rutter and Amanda Kelly (STN	4) sg.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
Henry Whitney (SJW)	sg.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk
Giving and Gift Aid	
Tony Curristan (STM)	ga.stm.covty@rcaob.org.uk
June Palmer (SJW)	ga.stjoseph.covty@rcaob.org.uk
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PARISH OFFICE for both parishes is based at STM and is open on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am - 4.00pm. If you have any general enquiries, please do try and call during these hours.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

