

The Violet Desert

You'll notice something a bit different when you walk into a Catholic Church over the next couple of weeks. There will be less different colours, because all the large statues and images will be covered with violet/purple coloured cloths. A colour of royalty, this colour is also associated in our faith with repentance (saying we are sorry) and mourning (grief and loss).



Our churches are draped in violet (purple) during Lent. The good things we feel when we see the holy images and statues is taken away, for a short time, to remind ourselves of sin, its consequences in the world, and the sacrifice made by Jesus. Jesus has won us freedom in the kingdom of God

through the forgiveness of all our sins. The purple is a reminder of the suffering of our Lord through his death on the Cross, when his body was bloodied and bruised because of our sins.

A visitor will also notice that the holy water stoops will be empty. In some Churches they are filled with sand! They remind us of the desert-like dryness of life without God. These small signs, combined with our prayers, gifts to the poor, and fasting, help us to feel in our body and soul the limits of this life. They remind us to hope for God's kingdom above all and train ourselves in keeping on living the way God wants us to. We will continue in faith, until the time comes when these mourning clothes are thrown off. At Easter we rejoice again that Jesus Christ has given us living water that springs up within us and holds the promise of eternal life.

Mother Mary, help us to observe our Lenten promises and grow in love of Christ.

Fr Michael

7th April 2019