

LENT – SPRING TIME MIRACLE

- Talk by Fr. Joseph Stephen, C.Ss.R.

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Fr Joseph Stephen started his talk with Scripture – [Mark 1:12-15](#), the reading for the 1st Sunday of Lent and gave a brief explanation on St Mark who wrote this Gospel between 60AD to 70AD who wanted to convey to the early Christians on conversion and to believe in the Good News.

Lent is a spring time celebration which includes spring cleaning. In this season, the Church invites us to pray and reflect on how we as laity are living our Christianity in a secular world, how to let go of things which hinder our growth and to explore new things God is calling us to do. Along this Lenten journey of renewal we need to make a diagnosis of our interior lives as we study scripture, attend daily mass, doing acts of mercy, praying and working on areas which God is leading us to. In being observant, we will discover the miracle God is doing in our lives.

Fr Joe cited [Fr Bernard Lonergan](#) SJ's explanation on conversion which is about [self transcendence](#) where God is always inviting us to look further to see our full potential. This calls for **conversion of intellect**, ie, to keep our mind open towards God who is working to reveal Himself; **moral conversation**, ie, a shift from personal satisfaction criterion to values that transcend oneself and **religious conversion**, ie, the process of self surrender to God in the “dying” to self and rising as a new person. St Mark reminds us of the passion, death and resurrection of our lives.

The journey of Lent takes us from the **purgative stage** of cleansing of darkness within ourselves through prayer and reflection to the **illuminative stage** which allows us to see a little better. Our enlightenment will bring us to the **unitive stage** where we get a sense of belonging and realise that we are all responsible.

What miracle are we looking for? Let us pray for that miracle to happen and see how God's miracle can transform our lives. We need to be disciplined in doing this

and if we do, we shall surely experience a wonderful Easter.

PHOTOS



1. Fr. Joseph Stephen giving his talk.



2. The team organising the event.



3. The faithful.



4. Another view of the faithful.



5. The Choir at work.

