

BBC Calendar for Lent Day 2

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It Is Finished

Most of us, probably all of us, go through life and leave behind us **unfinished business** – projects we started but didn't complete, letters we meant to write but never got round to, places we meant to go with our children, but never quite found the time.

There's only one person in history who could truly say that he **finished** completely and perfectly everything he set out to do. The whole purpose of Jesus' life and ministry was to go to the cross, there to give his life for ours, satisfying completely the rightful judgement of God the Father against sin.

When Jesus said on the cross, "**It is finished!**", it was not a cry of despair, but one of triumph. In Greek it's just one word – **Tetelestai**. It was the word that was stamped on a debtor's bill when they had finally made the last payment that cleared them completely of their obligations – proof that they could no longer be held liable for what they owed. It meant '**paid in full**'.

Jesus, the humble, obedient servant of God, fulfilled his Father's mission perfectly. He **finished** the task and **paid in full** so that we never have to.

Hallelujah!

A Prayer for Today

**Create in me a clean heart,
O God; and renew a right
spirit within me.**

Psalm 51:10



BBC Calendar for Lent Day 1

Next day



Lent

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday**, which is traditionally a day of repentance when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. It is the period before **Easter**, when Christians remember Jesus's withdrawal into the **wilderness** for 40 days and nights. A **wilderness** is a rough, uninhabited or neglected region, not the sort of place where you would want to spend a long time.

The word '**Lent**' originally came from the word '**lencten**' meaning 'spring', a time when the days start to lengthen and things begin to spring up. You have probably noticed that happening this year. During **Lent**, many people decide to try to deny themselves as Jesus did and give something up that they love - perhaps chocolate, sweets or biscuits.

It is also a time to commemorate the **passion** and **death** of **Jesus Christ**, the Son of God, our Saviour, and an opportunity to think about all that it means to be a follower of him. *(Brenda)*

'Follow him, follow him, yield your life to him, he has conquered death, he is King of kings; accept the joy which he gives to those who yield their lives to him.' *(C Simmons)*

A Prayer for Today

Enlarge my heart with a spirit of gratitude this Lent, so that I recognise the simple gifts that lay in abundance all around me. In your precious name, I pray.

