

## THROUGH CHILDREN'S EYES: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

The first of our artist's work is based on the fascinating gospel of the 40 days spent in the desert by Christ and his encounter with the tempter.

For Jesus' temptation, Julia, aged 7 has drawn us a stark desert landscape indeed. There is nothing but brilliant hot sun and desert sand. No water, no well, and no plant or animal life. There are neither palm trees for shade nor rocks for shelter from the wind; just open barren desert. And Jesus... and the tempter. And these two are barren themselves in the scarcity of their features – just stick men... stuck out in the desert. Jesus rooted in his faith and the tempter stuck in his vicious cycle of malevolence. Between them is a box of rocks. "Turn these into bread," the tempter mocks. Arrows dramatically show their opposition.

Here is the age appropriate translation of the gospel for the First Sunday of Lent:

### FIRST SUNDAY ON LENT – 14 FEBRUARY

Jesus had gone away into the dry desert to think about what God wanted for him and for what God wanted him to do. To Jesus the desert was a quiet and holy place where he could think without being bothered by the needs and questions of other people. He stayed in the desert for several days and didn't eat anything. He was in prayer. He became very hungry. He drank some water from a well and maybe ate a little wild honey, but really not much at all.

An evil person... or was it a bad angel or even a devil, came to Jesus to tempt him with food. "If you are really God's son, turn these stones into bread and eat them" the tempter said. But Jesus said, "No, I am in prayer and God's holy words will be my food."

"Well then, why don't you prove to everyone that you are God's son with something flashy? Throw yourself off of a high place. God's son will surely be saved by angels, and everyone will see it and know. You will be famous." "No," Jesus said, "It would be wrong to tempt God and make him save me."

"I have lots of money and riches. Come and work for me instead of God and I will make you rich. Pray to ME and I will reward you" "No, said Jesus, "People should only worship God."

Then the rich evil person left Jesus alone.

