



Gospel Newsletter



St. Michael Catholic Primary School and Nursery
Excellence · Enrichment · Enjoyment

Third Sunday of Lent

March 2025

Luke 13:1-9

You can share a variety of liturgies linked to this week's gospel with your child at home.

You can find weekly Gospel Liturgies from The Mark 10 Mission by clicking on the link [here](#).

You can also share the Children's Liturgy from Redemptorist Publications with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph by clicking this link [here](#).

Check this newsletter regularly for other links to liturgies designed for children.

Each week, you can download a weekly Bible verse from *The God Who Speaks* website.

[Click here](#) to access the Weekly Bible Verse archive.



At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, "Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all the other Galileans? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did. What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No indeed! And I tell you that if you do not turn from your sins, you will all die as they did."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a man who had a fig tree growing in his vineyard. He went looking for figs on it but found none. So he said to his gardener, 'Look, for three years I have been coming here looking for figs on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it go on using up the soil?' But the gardener answered, 'Leave it alone, sir, just one more year; I will dig round it and put in some manure. Then if the tree bears figs next year, so much the better; if not, then you can have it cut down.'"



(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission)

What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus told a parable. Does anyone know what a parable is? A parable is a story which teaches us something. Jesus liked to use stories to explain things that were complicated.

The parable Jesus tells us today is about a fig tree. Has anyone tasted figs? What are they like? *You could show the children some figs so that they know what they are. You could also let the children taste the figs (check about any allergies etc).*

The man who had planted the fig tree came out to pick some fruit, but there wasn't any. How do you think the man felt? What did he decide to do?

The man had been waiting for three years for the tree to give him some fruit. He was angry and disappointed. He asked his gardener to cut down the tree.

But what did the gardener say?

The gardener asks for one more year to look after the tree – to dig round it and give it some manure to help it grow. Plants and trees need the right conditions to grow and the gardener hopes that by doing this, the tree will grow fruit.

People need the right conditions to live their lives well too. Everyone needs enough food and water to stay healthy and strong. What else do we need to live? (e.g. love, shelter, clean air to breathe, peace)

The fig tree in Jesus' story is supposed to share its fruit with the man who planted it, but it is not doing what it is supposed to. Sometimes we are a bit like the fig tree. We do not share as well as we could.

So, if the fig tree in Jesus' story is a bit like us, who do you think the gardener is?

The gardener is like Jesus. The gardener gives the fig tree another chance and gives it all the things it needs to live. Jesus is always ready to forgive us when we have done something wrong. And Jesus shows us how we should live our lives.

God gives us the chance to change, to share what we have and to do all that we can to make sure that all people have the things that they need to live.

How does it make you feel to know this?

What will you do this Lent, to help build a better world?

Art can help
bring the
Gospel to
life for
children.



You may find the
website [Christian Art](#) enjoyable to
explore with your child. Each day they
share artwork linked to the daily
Gospel.

**Solemnity of Saint Joseph,
husband of the Blessed Virgin
Mary
Luke 2:41-51a**

**Saint Joseph and the Christ
Child,
Painting by Guido Reni (1575–
1642),
Painted in 1640,
Oil on canvas
© Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**



We can worship and pray through Music. For this week's Gospel, enjoy listening to both traditional and contemporary worship music!



Traditional: ['He Healed The Darkness Of My Mind'](#) by David Haas
Contemporary: ['Broken Vessels \(Amazing Grace\)'](#) by Hillsong Worship



You can now access the Ten:Ten Parent Portal at home with the details below.

Ten:Ten Resources

Username: st-michaels-tw/5

Password: thames-orange

Parent Portal:

www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal



YouCat is a guide to the Catechism of the Catholic Church for children. It is an easy read and a user friendly guide for parents and carers to support their children.

You can find out more about YouCat at www.youcat.org

Catholic Social Teaching:

Which principle do you think the gospel teaching best relate to this week?

**DIGNITY SOLIDARITY THE COMMON GOOD THE OPTION FOR THE POOR PEACE
CARE FOR CREATION THE DIGNITY OF WORK AND PARTICIPATION**



This week's Gospel activity sheet from [CAFOD](#):

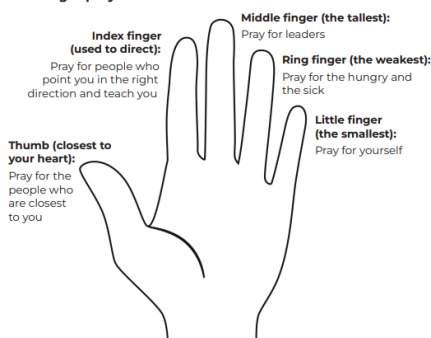


Write or draw on the leaves what you can do to help create the right conditions for all people around the world to flourish.

Third Sunday of Lent

"It may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down." Luke 13:9

Five finger prayer



Growing in love

As a family plant some bulbs, seeds or seedlings as a reminder of God's patient, nurturing love.

Find more prayer activities at cafod.org.uk/familypayers



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L

Lent begins on the 5th March, marking a season of reflection, prayer, and preparation for Easter. It is a time for Catholics to renew their faith through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, drawing closer to Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. Traditionally, the 40 days of Lent mirror Jesus' time of fasting in the desert, encouraging the faithful to embrace self-discipline and spiritual growth.

E

The day before Lent, Shrove Tuesday, (popularly known as Pancake Day) is a time of preparation and repentance. The name 'Shrove' comes from the old English word shriven, meaning to confess sins and receive absolution. Many celebrate the day with pancakes, symbolising the use of rich ingredients before the Lenten fast begins.

N

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is a day of repentance and reflection, where Catholics are invited to examine their hearts and commit to a season of spiritual renewal. During Mass or a liturgy, ashes are placed on the foreheads of the faithful in the shape of a cross, with the words, 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' This symbolises the mortality of human life and the call to humility, repentance, and conversion.

T



OBSERVING THE SEASON OF LENT IN SCHOOL

Liturgical Year



- 1st March – St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales (Feast)
- 4th March – St Casimir
- 7th March – Sts Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
- 8th March – St John of God, Religious
- 9th March – St Frances of Rome, Religious
- 17th March – St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (Feast)
- 19th March – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Solemnity)
- 25th March – The Annunciation of the Lord (Solemnity)

Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Winter), i.e. up to Lent, we are asked to pray for these intentions:

- Peace on Earth;
- Openness to the Word of God;
- Christian Unity;
- The Sick and Those Who Care for Them;
- Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it;
- The Unemployed.

Other Religions

- **Between the 28th February – 1st March** – Ramadan begins
 - A sacred month of fasting, prayer, and reflection observed by Muslims worldwide.
- **14th March** – Purim (Judaism)
 - A joyful Jewish festival commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people as told in the Book of Esther.
- **29th March** – Holi (Hinduism)
 - A festival celebrating the arrival of spring, marked by joyful gatherings and the throwing of coloured powders.

OTHER RELIGIONS/WORLDVIEWS:

FOR POWERPOINTS REGARDING KEY OTHER RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS SEE [HERE](#).