

Mission Together

Lent Liturgical Prayer: Week Three



Introduction for teachers / leaders: Lent lasts for 40 days, echoing the period of time Jesus spent in the desert preparing for his public ministry. It is a time of preparation for the greatest feast in the Church year, Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead. During Lent, Christians devote more time to prayer, charity and sacrifice. Our Lent liturgical prayers include the Sunday's Gospel (in 2022 these are taken from Year C) and invite children to reflect on Jesus' words and actions. This liturgical prayer focuses on the Gospel reading for the third Sunday of Lent, when Jesus told a story about the need to be patient and encouraging.

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide: *How to Pray with Children* missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/

Opening hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: *Be Still for the presence of the Lord.*

Introduction

Print the introduction on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Sign of the cross and opening prayer

Print the opening prayer on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reading Luke 13:1-9 *adapted for children from NJB*

Print the reading on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reflection

See page 3. We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Prayers of intercession

Print the prayers of intercession on page 4 and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer

See to the right.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: *Oh the Word of My Lord*

Follow up activities

Encouraging Envelopes; literacy activity

Download here <https://missiontogether.org.uk/calendar/lent/>

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU missiontogether.org.uk

Missio.org.uk Registered in England and Wales Charity No. 1056651

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Introduction

Reader: As we come together to pray, we remember that we are in Week Three of Lent. Lent is a time in which Christians prepare for the great feast of Easter, when Jesus rose from the dead, winning for us eternal life with God the Father in heaven. In our Gospel reading today we hear a story about patience. Let's begin with our opening prayer, then listen to Jesus' story and the lessons it teaches us.

Sign of the Cross and Opening Prayer

Reader: Let us pray. God our Father, through our prayers, fasting and acts of kindness this Lent, we share your love with the world. Help us to encourage one another, so that through our good works we grow in faith and friendship. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bible reading: From the Gospel of Luke 13:1-9

Reader: Some people came to see Jesus, and he told them this story: A man planted a fig tree in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the gardener who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" The gardener replied, "Leave it one more year and give me time to take care of it: it may bear fruit next year. If not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord **R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Bible Reflection

We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells a story about a fig tree.

- Q.** Can anybody tell us what a fig is?
A. A fig is a fruit that grows on a small tree.

Fig fruits are tasty and sweet. Many people like to eat them. So its no surprise that the man in the story wanted to grow a fig tree of his own. But a fig tree can't produce fruit straight away. The tree has to grow for at least three years before it starts producing fruit.

- Q.** Can you remember how long the fig tree had been in the man's vineyard before he wanted to cut it down?
A. Three years.

The man didn't seem to have much patience did he! He wanted his figs now and wasn't prepared to wait. But growing takes time, care, and encouragement. Think about how long it takes a baby to grow strong enough to walk, and how we need to care for and encourage the baby each step of the way. Sometimes we have to be patient with one another and with ourselves.

Thankfully for the fig tree the gardener was able to persuade the man to have some patience. The gardener had confidence that, with time and attention, the fig tree would bear fruit.

- Q.** Can anybody explain the phrase 'to bear fruit?'
A. To bear fruit means to be successful and produce good results.

In Lent we are asked to 'bear fruit' by the good works we carry out. But sometimes, like the fig tree, we might feel a bit too small to do much. We might need some care and encouragement.

Some people say that the gardener in the story is Jesus. Jesus is ready to encourage and care for us, we just need to ask for His help. We can do this through prayer. Jesus also wants us to encourage and care for one another, so that we can all grow in faith and friendship.

Let's do our best to care for and encourage each other today. Let's help each other to make good choices and bear fruit!

We can start by praying for our needs and the needs of the world. Let's do that now.

Prayers of intercession.



Prayers of Intercession

Reader: The response to our prayer is: **Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, help us to encourage and care for each other, so that we might grow in faith and friendship and bear fruit in our lives.

Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, help us to be kind with our time and our gifts during Lent, knowing that even small things can make a big difference.

Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for the children, families, and staff in our school. Help us to be patient, fair, kind and forgiving.

Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for children overseas whom Mission Together helps: those who are poor, hungry, sad or scared. May we work together to build a fairer world for everyone.

Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: We end our prayers by saying together the ***Mission Together Prayer.***

**May all children
in the world
share love
share friendship and live
in the peace
of God's love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing hymn or recorded music.

Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few Lenten ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring term

For ideas that require a prize, maybe your Governing Body could donate a small something?

Pancake races: hold a Pancake Day event with race, with a small entry fee. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

Pancake flip fundraiser: If lockdown measures prevent the traditional pancake race, try a Fundraising Pancake Flip. Why not offer an Easter Egg prize? Pancake flips could take place on zoom or google classrooms. We'd also love to share your videos where safeguarding allows.

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents as Easter gifts?

Sponsored give-something-up: encourage pupils to give something up for Lent and either donate the money they save or get sponsored to do it. Alternatively, children can offer to take on extra chores or responsibilities in Lent for a donation to Mission Together.

Springtime Scavenger hunt: this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with springtime things to spot e.g. Snowdrops or crocus, tree buds, birdsong and birds nesting, cherry blossom. You can tailor the items to whatever suits your space and environment. Charge pupils to enter. Either get pupils to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Lent through a Lens: Run a photo competition for KS2. Challenge pupils to capture images of springtime. Charge for entry and provide a prize for the winner(s). Perhaps introduce different categories e.g. wildlife, nature, people. You could even have a category for grown-up competitors!

Easter bonnet competition: charge pupils to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous fashionista creations! Alternatively you could get everyone involved in egg painting or Easter cake designs, and sell them after for extra fundraising!

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