

Mission Together

Lent Liturgical Prayer: Week Five



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 fifth Sunday of Lent, when Jesus stops a woman from being punished and helps people to reflect on their own actions.

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 suggestion: *Make me a channel of your peace*

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 John 8:1-11 *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 suggestion: *Freely, Freely*

Follow up activities

Why is Lent a time to change Activity workbook.

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

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 Five of Lent. Lent is a time when we are encouraged to change for the better. For example, if we are sometimes mean, Lent is a time to change this and practise kindness and generosity instead. In our Gospel reading today, we hear how Jesus stops a woman from being bullied. Let's begin with our opening prayer, then listen to the reading and the way Jesus helps the people change for the better.

Sign of the Cross and Opening Prayer

Reader: God our Father, through our prayers, fasting and acts of kindness this Lent, we share your love with the world. Help us to always remember how much we are loved by you and help us to follow your Son, Jesus. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Bible reading: From the Gospel of John 8:1-11

Reader: One day Jesus was sitting in the Temple teaching the people. The religious leaders brought him a woman who had been caught doing something wrong. They made the woman stand in front of Jesus and explained out loud all the wrong she had done. Then they said to Jesus 'Our religious laws tell us that we should severely punish this woman. What do you have to say about that?' They were testing Jesus, to see if he would break their law. Jesus replied, 'If there is one of you who has never sinned, let them be the first to punish this woman.' When they heard this they went away one by one, until Jesus was left alone with the woman. Jesus looked at the woman and said to her 'Has no one has punished you? Neither do I. Now go and do not sin any more.'

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



Bible Reflection

We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Today's Gospel reading begins with a sad story. A group of people want to set a trap for Jesus, so they bully and embarrass a woman who's made some bad choices. It's a sad story because it shows us how sometimes, when people think they are better than others, they forget to be merciful and loving.

God doesn't want us to behave like this, and so Jesus says something to the people that encourages them to change their thinking and mean behaviour.

- Q.** Can anyone remember how Jesus replies when the people ask if the woman should be punished?
A. He says, 'If there is one of you who has never sinned, let them be the first to punish her.'

By saying this Jesus asks all the people to reflect on their own actions and to remember the times they have made bad choices too. Jesus helps everyone to see that as we all make mistakes we should all be more understanding and forgiving. Rather than point fingers at people, we should help one another to change for the better.

Lent is a time when we are all encouraged to stop and think about our actions and recognise where we need to change. For example, perhaps there are times when we refuse to share with our family or friends. Lent would be good time to make a special effort to change this and become generous with what we have.

Changing our behaviour isn't always easy, so it's good if we have people who believe in us. People who know that we can start to make better choices and be more considerate of others. Jesus believed that the woman in today's Gospel could change for the better. He saw the best in her and helped her to see it too.

- Q.** Can you remember what Jesus says to the woman when everyone else has left?
A. He says, 'Has no one has punished you? Neither do I. Now go and do not sin any more.'

As Lent draws to a close, let's make think of the ways we can make good choices and be more considerate of others. Let's do that now as we join in our prayers of intercession.



Prayers of Intercession

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

Reader: Heavenly Father, we ask for forgiveness for the times we have failed to share your love with others, when we have been selfish, mean, or rude. Help us to be more kind and generous, like your Son, Jesus.
Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, help us to reflect on our words and actions. When we have made bad choices, help us to seek forgiveness and to change for the better.
Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for the children, families, and staff in our school. May we see the best in one another and encourage everyone here to be the wonderful person you made them to be. Lord in your mercy. **R/ Hear our prayer.**

Reader: We pray for children overseas whom Mission Together helps: those who are scared, sad or lonely. May they find hope in your love and may we always be ready to help them. 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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