



WOLLASTON
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE

Anglican Children
& Youth Ministry
Diocese of Perth



Children & Youth Ministry Resource Pack

Lent 2018

14 February – 31 March

**Also incorporating Shrove Tuesday (13 February)*

DATE	EVENT / THEME
Tuesday 13 February	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 14 February	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 18 February	1 st Sunday in Lent
Saturday 24 February <i>(may be observed 14 May)</i>	St Matthias
Sunday 25 February	2 nd Sunday in Lent
Sunday 4 March	3 rd Sunday in Lent
Sunday 11 March	4 th Sunday in Lent
Sunday 18 March	5 th Sunday in Lent
Monday 19 March	Feast of St Joseph
Sunday 25 February – Saturday 31 March	Palm Sunday & Holy Week

The Season of Lent

Background Information

Lent is the period of six weeks or 40 days (not including Sundays) leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday in western Christian Churches and climaxes during Holy Week. The last week of Lent is called Holy Week. During the 40 days of Lent, Christians remember the time when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray before beginning his work for God. During this time Jesus was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.

Lent is a time of giving things up. For Christians, it is one way of remembering the time Jesus fasted in the desert and is a test of self-discipline. There are many foods that some Christians do not eat in Lent, such as meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Some Christians just give up something they really enjoy such as cakes or chocolate. In earlier times, Lent was set aside as a time of preparation for baptism at Easter. It was a time to teach new Christians about the faith, and then came to be seen as a time when *all* Christians could learn a bit more about the faith they live – and the activities here will help you do this.

The day prior to Lent is commonly known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day. This day was traditionally the last chance to use up the foods Christians would not be eating during Lent. Today people often give up chocolate or alcohol. Festivities take place in many cities all over the world: Mardi Gras or 'Fat Tuesday' is held in New Orleans (USA) and gets its name from all of the fat that was traditionally eaten up before Lent; while Carnivale in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) translates as 'Goodbye (vale) meat (carne).

On Ash Wednesday many western Christian churches hold services during which Christians are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes. This is a sign of saying sorry to God for any wrong doing (penitence) and mortality. It helps us remember that, according to Genesis, we came from dust, and we will return to dust. But the Cross means we need not fear that 'mortality' any more. The ashes come from burning the palm crosses from Palm Sunday of the previous year.



Information <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/christianity/lent.shtml>

Images <http://www.communityoftheway.org/ash-wednesday-and-lent-faq>

Attached Resources

**Some of these resources have been developed in two versions, which are intended to suit different age groups.*

DATE	WORKSHEETS & HANDOUTS
Tuesday 13 February Shrove Tuesday	Pancake Recipe
Wednesday 14 February Ash Wednesday	40 Piece Lent Puzzle Simple Guide to 'Praying in Colour' 'Praying in Colour' Lent Calendars (2 Versions)
Sunday 18 February 1st Sunday in Lent	The Story of Jesus in the Desert Dilemmas Activity Baptism Worksheet
Saturday 24 February St Matthias	<i>(may be observed 14 May)</i> Saint Matthias : God's Choice (2 Versions) St Matthias Colouring Sheet
Sunday 25 February 2nd Sunday in Lent	Names of Jesus Bookmarks Template
Sunday 4 March 3rd Sunday in Lent	Clearing the Temple Colouring Sheet Model of Jerusalem's Temples
Sunday 11 March 4th Sunday in Lent	'Love the Lord...' Mindful Colouring Sheet
Sunday 18 March 5th Sunday in Lent	-
Monday 19 March Feast of St Joseph	Saint Joseph Worksheet Saint Joseph Colouring Sheet
Sunday 25 February – Saturday 31 March Palm Sunday & Holy Week	-

Additional Online Resources

Illustrated Children's Ministry

Richly detailed posters/colouring images, and accompanying worship resources, produced seasonally. Available for purchase in hardcopy format or digital download. The 2018 Lent resources focus on the Psalms. Resources from previous years are also available.

<https://store.illustratedchildrensministry.com/collections/lent/Lent-2018>

Forty Ideas for Forty Days

<https://catechistsjourney.loyolapress.com/resources/40-ideas-for-40-days/>

Printable Lenten Calendar for Kids

<http://www.catholicicing.com/printable-lenten-calendar-for-kids/>

54 Outstanding Lenten Arts and Crafts Ideas

<https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/lenten-arts-and-crafts>

Leader's Guide

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday – 13-14/2/2018

Gospel (Matthew 6:1-21)

Jesus teaches about prayer and fasting

“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”.

Suggested Activities

With young children:

Pancakes - Hold a pancake race or host a pancake dinner. Involve young children in the making of the pancakes as appropriate to their age.

Lent Challenge - Help children to decide on a simple ‘Lent Challenge’ they wish to undertake. This may involve giving something up for 40 days, or instead taking up a new responsibility or habit.

Lent Calendar - Create a calendar to mark off the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Lent Puzzle – create a simple puzzle with 40 pieces. Similarly to a calendar, children can add one piece each day to reveal the full picture gradually.

With adolescents:

Carnival – Add to the usual ‘Pancake Day’ celebrations by introducing aspects of Carnival from around the world: eg - circus, mask ball, parades. See this website for more ideas and information

<https://kidworldcitizen.org/carnival-around-the-world/>

Favourite Food Fast – A food item is chosen to fast from during Lent. Then, each week a portion of pocket money is sacrificed to purchase that item for donation towards food hampers.

Non-food fast - for examples, fasting from social media, shopping or luxury items. Encourage teens to look beyond the superficial to see how such a fast could benefit their spiritual life or indeed benefit others.

Christianity — Lent



Pancake Recipe

Makes about 6 pancakes

Ingredients

100g flour

1 egg

280ml milk/milk with water

pinch salt

oil for frying

sugar, golden syrup, lemon, or whatever you like to go on your pancakes



Method

Important note: pancakes need to be fried in hot oil. Hot oil can be very dangerous. Make sure you ask an adult to help you with this recipe!

1. Sieve the flour into a bowl and make a well in the centre.
2. Put the egg, milk and salt into the well you made in the flour. Stir the ingredients, gradually mixing in the flour from the sides.
3. When all the flour is mixed in, whisk the mixture to a smooth batter and pour it into a jug.
4. Leave the batter to stand if there is time.
5. Ask an adult to heat a little oil in a small non-stick frying pan. When the oil is hot, carefully pour in enough batter to just cover the bottom of the pan thinly.
6. Cook for a few seconds. Use a spatula to check the underside of the pancake. When it is brown, toss or turn it with a spatula and cook the other side.
7. Slide the pancake onto a plate and sprinkle it with sugar or a spoonful of golden syrup. Pour on lemon juice to taste.
8. Roll up the pancake or fold it in half and enjoy!



40 Piece Lent Puzzle

Print, cut out and jumble. Each day in Lent, add one more piece.

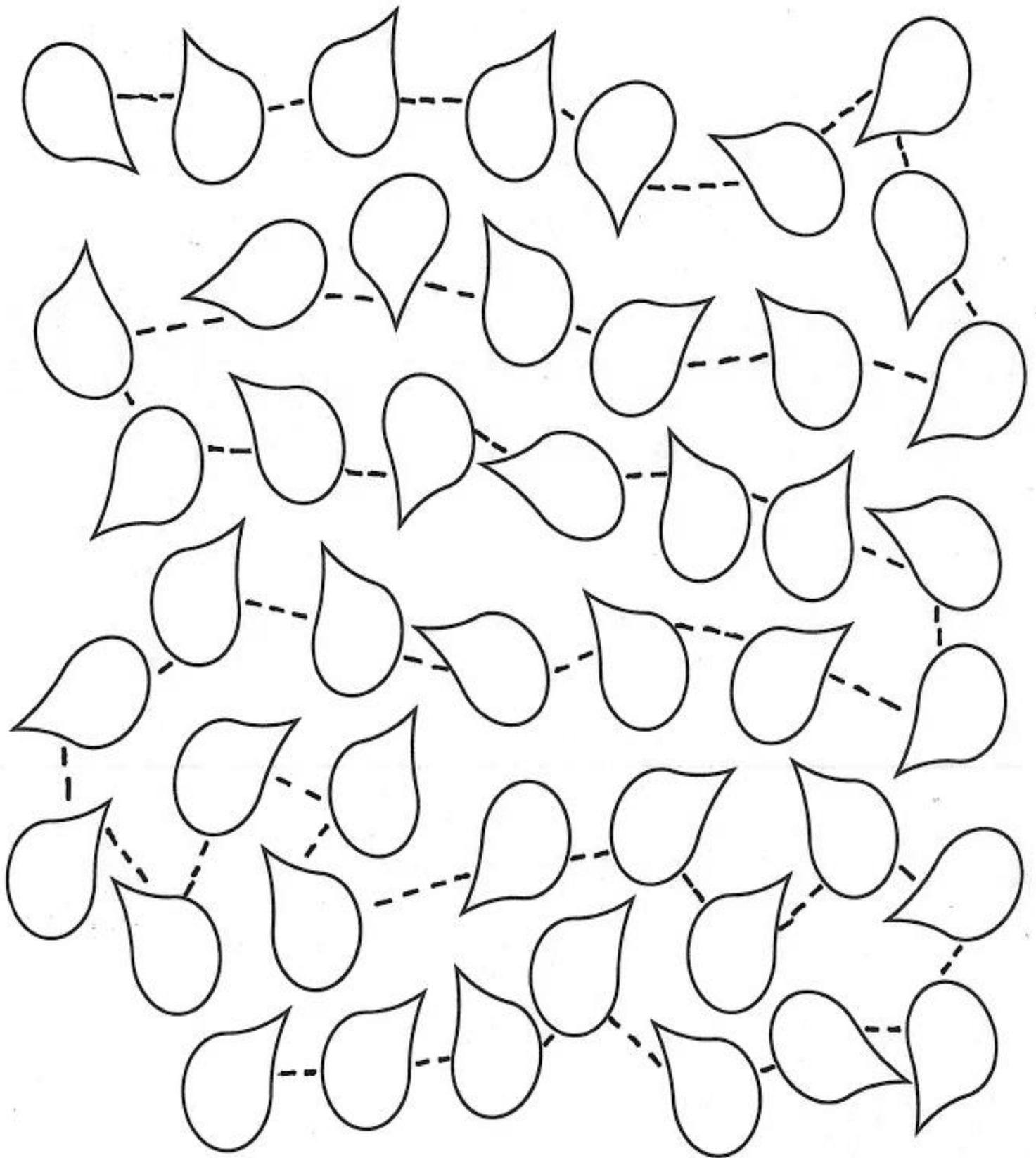


Free image from <https://pixabay.com/en/passion-cross-good-friday-3111303>

'Praying in Colour' – Lent 2018 Standard Calendar

Lent 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			February 14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	March 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



lent 2018

Leader's Guide
1st Sunday in Lent – 18/2/2018

Gospel (Mark 1:9-15)

Jesus is baptised by John in the Jordan River

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

Suggested Activities

Ash Wednesday 'start of Lent' activities are also suitable for today.

With young children

- Explain that baptism is how new members are welcomed into the Church family.
- Ask if the children have ever seen a baptism before, or if they know when they were baptised.
- Show the children where the font is in the church and help them to draw pictures of it.
- Imagine what it would be like to journey into the desert. Have the children draw or paint pictures of the desert or other wilderness areas.

With adolescents

- Explore different concepts associated with baptism: repentance, sin, forgiveness, new birth, grace.
- If any in the group are preparing for confirmation, explore the link with baptism.
- Explore the concept of confession, and discuss how Lent can be an opportunity to redirect our lives.
- Work through a series of ethical dilemmas or hypothetical scenarios, discussing how one might make a decision about how to act.

Videos

Sophia SketchPad: Baptism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww5GyWJaQ-Q>

Sophia SketchPad: Confession

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDyMHg8HkSE>

Tell me the story: John the Baptist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OO84K9RuF0>

Christianity — Lent



The story of Jesus in the Desert

Fill in the blanks.

Before Jesus began his teaching, he was led into the _____ by God. He fasted for forty _____ and forty _____. He was very hungry and very tired. Then the devil came to tempt him. Christians remember this time during _____.

The devil knew Jesus was _____ and he wanted to test how strong he was. He tried to make him use his powers to help himself. First, he told, Jesus, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become _____.' But Jesus wasn't fooled. He knew it was a trap. He told the devil, 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of _____.'

Next, the devil took him to the holy city and made him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are really the _____ of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down. The scriptures say that God will _____ you from harm.' Jesus answered him, 'The scriptures also say: "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' He knew that the devil was trying to _____ his faith in God.

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high _____ and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their wealth. 'I will give you all this,' he said, 'if you will bow down and _____ me.' But Jesus' faith in God was too _____ for him to be tempted. He told the devil, 'Get away from me, Satan! The scriptures tell us: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."'

God was pleased to see how strong Jesus was. The devil left him alone, and angels came to wait on him. He was ready to begin his _____.

hungry nights teachings Son days
mountain bread protect strong
Lent desert test worship God



Christianity — Lent



Dilemmas Activity

Dilema	How you could deal with it	How a Christian might deal with it
<p>You find £50 in the road. There's no one around. Do you keep the money? Do you take it to the police? Or something else?</p>		
<p>A new person joins your class. He is clever, and quite shy. In the playground no one offers to play with him and some people in your class start to bully him at breaktimes. What do you do?</p>		
<p>You are out with your friends. They are daring each other to steal sweets from the local shop. You don't want to join in, but they are putting pressure on you. What do you do? What do you say?</p>		
<p>You and your friends are playing football in the park. Someone unpopular from another class asks to join in. What do you do? What do you say?</p>		
<p>You have a birthday present which everyone wants to borrow. Someone in your class who is not really your friend asks to use it. What do you do? What do you say?</p>		

Baptism

Jesus was baptised in the Jordan River by John. Today, some people are also baptised in rivers, the ocean, lakes and pools. More often though, baptism occurs at church, in a special water bowl called a **font**. Some fonts are small, and water is simply sprinkled over a person's head when they are baptised. Other fonts are big enough to get into, like a big bath!

*Do you know when you were baptised,
and where? If not, ask your family.*

I was baptised on (date)

I was baptised at (place)



*I baptize you in the name
of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit*

The font at our church looks like this:

Leader's Guide
2nd Sunday in Lent – 25/2/2018

Gospel (Mark 8:27-38)

Who do you say that I am?

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Suggested Activities

[Continue with any season-long activities begun on Ash Wednesday or 1st Sunday in Lent.](#)

[Activities sheets for St Matthias' Day are also included \(24 February or 14 May\).](#)

With young children

- Have the children share what they know about Jesus, in their own words.
- Create an art gallery of images of Jesus, drawn or painted by the children. Invite the adult members of the congregation to come and see the pictures.
- Make bookmarks with different names for Jesus. Help the children to understand what these names mean.

With adolescents

- Mindmap - "Who do you say that I am?" Ask each member of the group to explain their own understanding of Jesus, in their own words.
- Explore together any key words that come up in the mindmap exercise: ie - Saviour, Messiah
- Provide an opportunity for the group to share with the adult members of the congregation, and also to hear their thoughts. This can be a challenging exercise for everyone, and an opportunity to learn together.

Names of Jesus Bookmarks

Jesus

Christ

Saviour

Messiah

Emmanuel

Son of God

Son of Man

Son of David

Prince of Peace

Light of
the World

Lamb of God

Rabbi

Jesus

Christ

Saviour

Messiah

Emmanuel

Son of God

Son of Man

Son of David

Prince of Peace

Light of
the World

Lamb of God

Rabbi

St Matthias : God's Choice

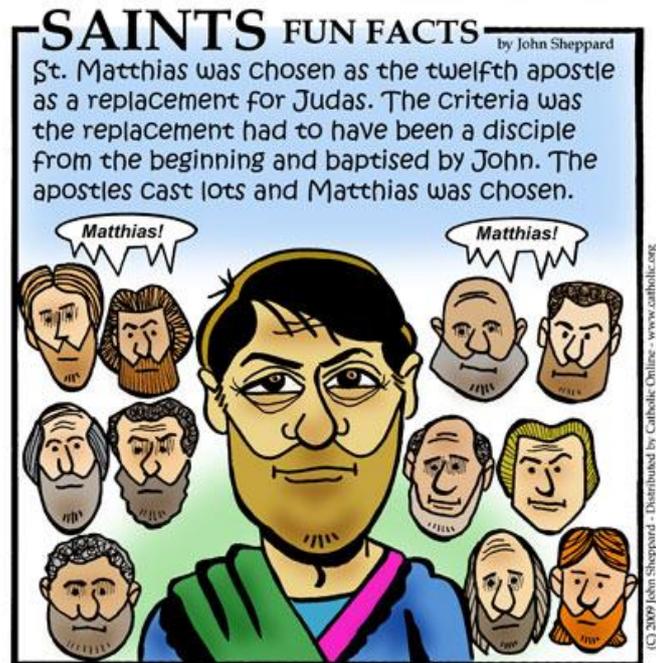
The first act of the apostles after the Ascension of Jesus was to find a replacement for Judas. With all the questions, doubts, and dangers facing them, they chose to focus their attention on finding a twelfth apostle. Why was this important? Twelve was a very important number to the Chosen People: twelve was the number of the twelve tribes of Israel. If the new Israel was to come from the disciples of Jesus, a twelfth apostle was needed. But Jesus had chosen the original twelve. How could they know whom he would choose?

One hundred and twenty people were gathered for prayer and reflection in the upper room,

when Peter stood up to propose the way to make the choice. Peter had one criterion, that, like Andrew, James, John, and himself, the new apostle be someone who had been a disciple from the very beginning, from his baptism by John until the Ascension. The reason for this was simple, the new apostle would must become a witness to Jesus' resurrection. He must have followed Jesus before anyone knew him, stayed with him when he made enemies, and believed in him when he spoke of the cross and of eating his body -- teachings that had made others melt away.

Two men fit this description -- Matthias and Joseph called Barsabbas. They knew that both these men had been with them and with Jesus through his whole ministry. But which one had the heart to become a witness to his resurrection. The apostles knew that only the Lord could know what was in the heart of each. They cast lots in order to discover God's will and Matthias was chosen. He was the twelfth apostle and the group was whole again as they waited for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

That's the first we hear of Matthias in Scripture, and the last. Legends like the Acts of Andrew and Matthias testify to Matthias' enthusiastic embrace of all that being an apostle meant including evangelization, persecution, and death in the service of the Lord. How does one qualify to be an apostle? Clement of Alexandria says that Matthias, like all the other apostles, was not chosen by Jesus for what he already was, but for what Jesus foresaw he would become. He was elected not because he was worthy but because he would become worthy. Jesus chooses all of us in the same way.



Reflection Questions

Who does Jesus want you to become?

Have you ever felt like an afterthought, or a latecomer?

Have you ever resented someone new who was added to your group?

Try to see your community as not complete without the newcomer, whether you or someone else. Welcome any newcomers to your parish, work, or family community this week as someone chosen by God.

SAINTS FUN FACTS

by John Sheppard

St. Matthias was chosen as the twelfth apostle as a replacement for Judas. The criteria was the replacement had to have been a disciple from the beginning and baptised by John. The apostles cast lots and Matthias was chosen.

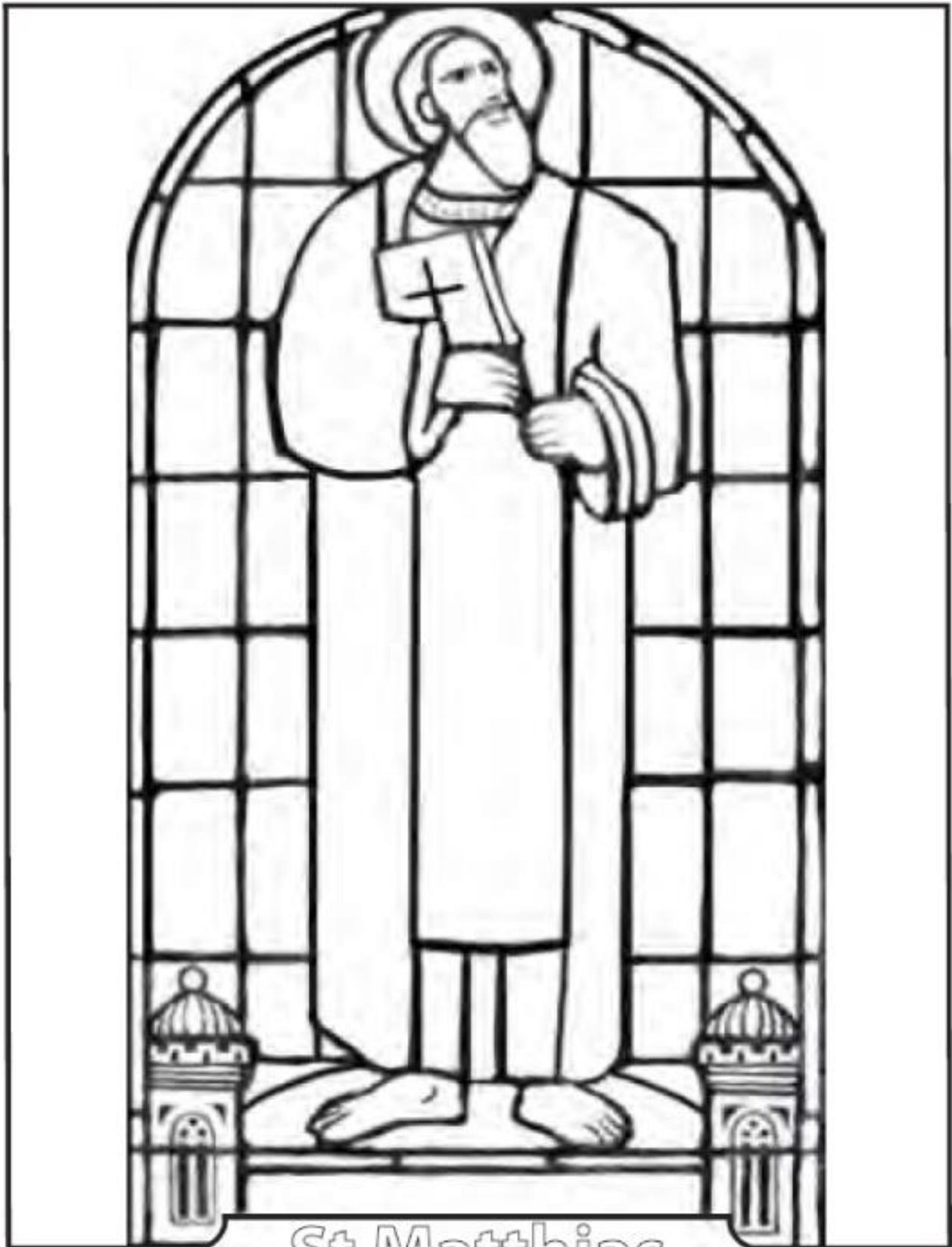


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St Matthias : God's Choice

When have you been chosen for a special task?

How did it feel to be chosen?



St Matthias

Leader's Guide
3rd Sunday in Lent – 4/3/2018

Gospel (John 2:13-25)

Jesus clears out the Temple

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

Suggested Activities

Continue with any season-long activities begun on Ash Wednesday or 1st Sunday in Lent.

With young children

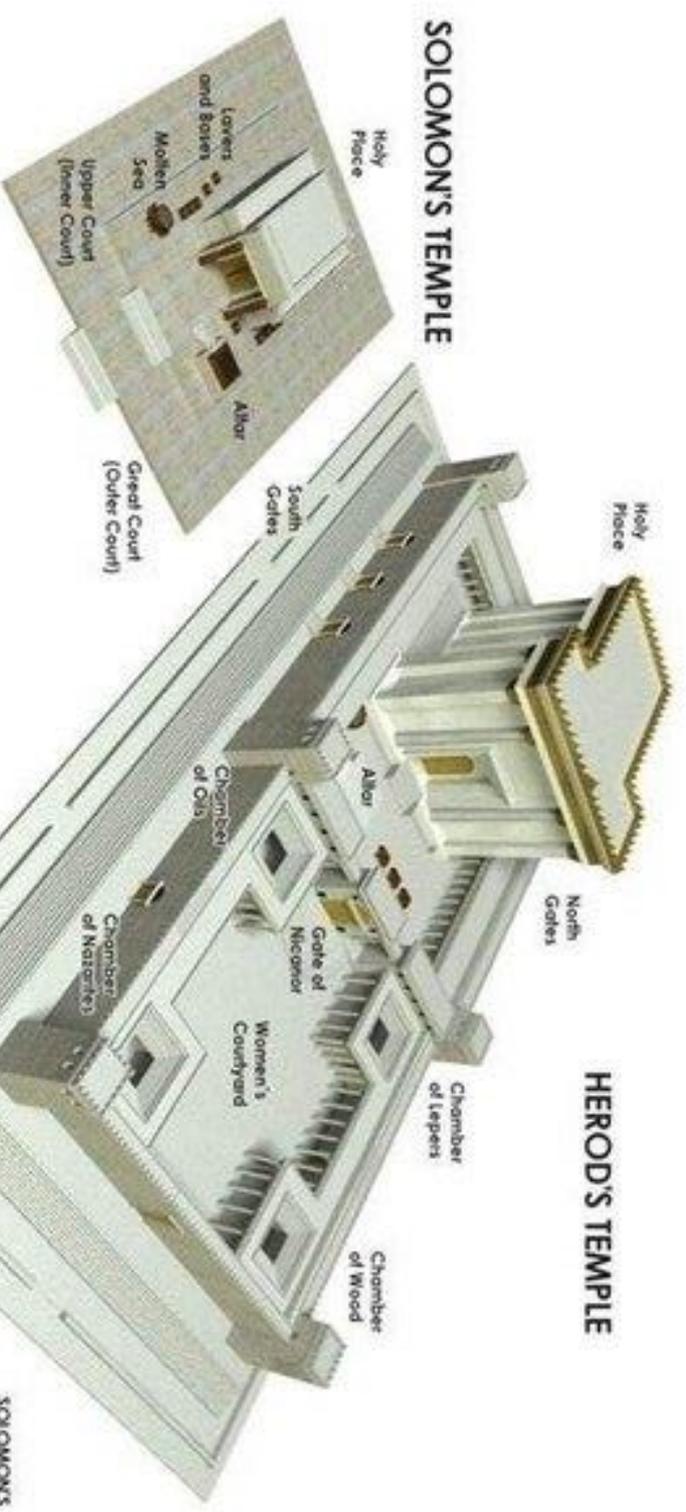
- Ask the children why we come to church, and why a church building is special.
- Create artworks that represent your own parish church. This may be through drawing, painting or model making. Give an opportunity for the children to showcase their artworks.

With adolescents

- Use Lego bricks, clay or similar to build models of the temple in Jerusalem.
- Explore the symbolic meaning in Jesus' words about rebuilding the temple in three days.



Jesus sent away all of the shopkeepers.

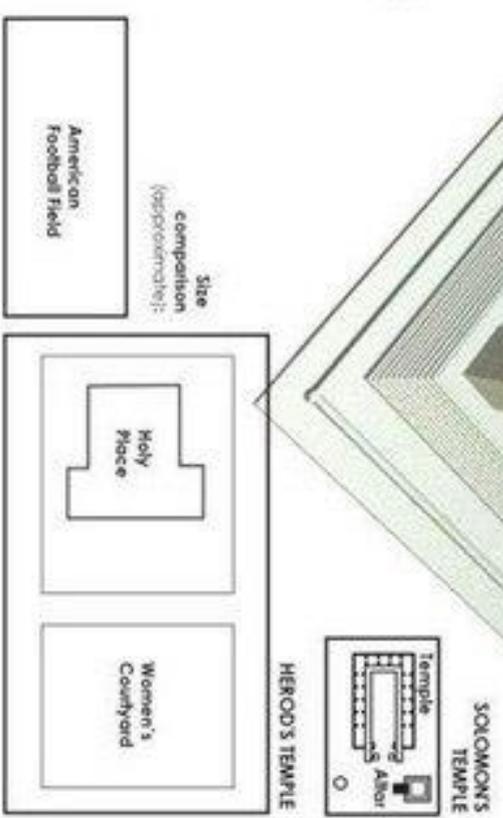


SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

HEROD'S TEMPLE

Temple Comparison

Solomon's Temple, finished in 957 BC, was less than one-half the size of Herod the Great's expanded Second Temple in Jerusalem, built in 20-19 BC.



Leader's Guide
4th Sunday in Lent – 11/3/2018

Gospel (John 3:14-21)

Jesus foretells of his death

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Suggested Activities

Continue with any season-long activities begun on Ash Wednesday or 1st Sunday in Lent.

With young children

- Revise the story of Moses, if the children are unfamiliar.
- Explore the importance of saying sorry – when, why and how.
- Teach a simple confession prayer: ie- *Dear God, We are sorry for our kind words and actions. Amen.*

With adolescents

- Create a space for silent reflection. This may include paper and pens to write prayers of confession, art supplies for drawing prayer pictures or 'mindful colouring' type exercises, and other similar activities. (*Mindful colouring refers to the practice of using colouring in as a way of meditating or reflecting quietly. Usually highly detailed and intricate pictures are used for this purpose. Resources from 'Illustrated Childrens Ministry' would be ideal for this kind of exercise.*)
- Hold a movie night to watch 'The Prince of Egypt'. Reflect on the connections between Passover and Easter, and the image of Jesus as the 'Passover Lamb'.

Videos

- The Prince of Egypt – available on DVD. An animated retelling of the life of Moses.



Leader's Guide
5th Sunday in Lent – 18/3/2018

Gospel (John 12:20-36)

Jesus foretells of his death

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light." After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

Suggested Activities

Continue with any season-long activities begun on Ash Wednesday or 1st Sunday in Lent.

Activity sheets for St Joseph are also included (19 March).

With young children

-Decorate flower pots and plant seeds. Explain the process of a seed becoming a new plant. Talk about how we might care for the seeds to help them grow.

With adolescents

-Go on a night hike. Take note of all that is seen and heard during the hike and incorporate these observations into a simple prayer service at the conclusion of the evening. Reflect on the different feelings that light and darkness can invoke in us.

SAINTS FUN FACTS

Saint Joseph was the step father of Jesus and husband of Mary. By all accounts he was a good and loyal man, dedicated to protecting his family and keeping them safe. He provided for them by working as a carpenter.



"Psst ... hey Joseph.

Wake up ... come on ... you are about to become a father."



Written & illustrated by John Sheppard

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Saint Joseph

Joseph first appears in the Bible in the gospels of Matthew and Luke; in Matthew, Joseph's lineage is traced back to King David. According to the Bible, Joseph was engaged to marry the Virgin Mary, Jesus's mother. Everything we know about St. Joseph, the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus, comes from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, and there are very few mentions of him. The New Testament letters written by Paul (the epistles) make no reference to him at all, nor does the Gospel of Mark, the first of the Gospels.

After being engaged to Mary, Joseph found that she was already pregnant, and being "a just man and unwilling to put her to shame" (Matt. 1:19), he decided to leave her quietly, knowing that if he did so publicly, she could be stoned to death.

According to Matthew's gospel, an angel, however, came to Joseph and told him that the child Mary carried was the son of God and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, so Joseph kept Mary as his wife.

After Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, an angel came to Joseph again, this time to warn him and Mary about King Herod of Judaea and the violence he would bring down upon the child. Joseph then fled to Egypt with Mary and Jesus, and the angel appeared again, telling Joseph that Herod had died and instructing him to return to the Holy Land. Avoiding Bethlehem and possible actions by Herod's successor, Joseph, Mary and Jesus settled in Nazareth, in Galilee. The Gospels describe Joseph as a "tekton," which traditionally has meant "carpenter," and it is assumed that Joseph taught his craft to Jesus in Nazareth. At this point, however, Joseph is never mentioned again by name in the Bible—although the story of Jesus in the temple includes a reference to "both his parents." The circumstances of Joseph's death are not known, but it is likely that he died before Jesus's ministry began, and it is implied that he was dead before the Crucifixion (John 19:26-27).

In your own words, explain why Joseph is so significant:

Information adapted from <https://www.biography.com/people/st-joseph-9358199>



Leader's Guide

Palm Sunday and Holy Week – 25-31/3/2018

Palm Sunday Gospel (Mark 11:1-11)

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Good Friday Gospel (John 18:1-19:42)

Jesus is crucified

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?' Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was

crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Suggested Activities

[Continue with any season-long activities begun on Ash Wednesday or 1st Sunday in Lent.](#)

With young children and adolescents

The stories in Holy Week can invoke strong emotions in children, especially the Good Friday stories which can be frightening. However, in order to understand the resurrection and the Easter celebrations fully it is important that children and adolescents are invited to reflect deeply on the events of Holy Week. Through participation in traditions such as Palm Sunday processions and Maundy Thursday foot-washing, these stories can become alive in their imaginations. In addition, allowing space for children and adolescents to ask questions about the stories and events will help them to wrestle with the difficult aspects of this week.