



Chaplaincy Newsletter February 2020

Lent Thoughts

As you are aware ASH WEDNESDAY is this week and with it we begin the season of Lent. This year in particular we asked to focus on scripture and to reflect prayerfully on what it might be saying to us. One of the prayers we say most often which comes from scripture is 'The Our Father'. This short reflection is from Pope Francis.

There is a striking absence in the text of the 'Lord's Prayer'. A word is missing. Everyone think: what is missing from the 'Lord's Prayer'? Think, what is missing? One word which in our times — perhaps always — everyone holds in great consideration. What is the missing word in the 'Lord's Prayer' that we pray every day?

To save time, I will tell you: the word 'I' is missing. 'I' is never said. Jesus teaches us to pray with 'You' on our lips, because Christian prayer is a dialogue: 'blessed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done'. Not my name, my kingdom, my will. Not I, it is no good. And then it moves on to 'we'. The entire second part of the 'Our Father' uses the first-person plural: 'give us our daily bread, forgive us our sins, lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil'. Even the most basic of people's requests — such as that of having food to satisfy hunger — are all in the plural. In Christian prayer, no one asks for bread for themselves: give me bread today — no, give us, it is asked for all, for all the world's poor. We must not forget this. The word 'I' is missing. We pray by using 'you' and 'we'. It is a good lesson from Jesus. Do not forget this.

In prayer, a Christian bears all the difficulties of the people who live beside him: when night falls, they tell God about the suffering they have come across that day. If you do not realize that there are many people suffering around you, if you are not moved by the tears of the poor, if you are accustomed to everything, then it means your heart it is made of stone. In this case it is good to implore the Lord to soften our heart: 'Soften my heart, Lord'. It is a beautiful prayer: 'Lord, soften my heart, so that I may understand and take on all the problems and all the suffering of others'..... This 'feeling compassion' — is one of the key words of the Gospel: it is what inspires the Good Samaritan to approach the wounded man by the roadside, unlike others who are hard of heart.

During Lent therefore can we make an effort to encourage our pupils to reflect on how the 'Our Father' reminds us that we are all connected that we need to be aware of the needs of others and try to make a difference.

Within Lent

The Feast of St Joseph March 19th

St Joseph tends to get overlooked. We know very little about him but if you look at what we do know it tells us something about our own lives. His plan for his life was completely disrupted he had to trust in God even when it was really difficult to do so. We know Joseph was a man of faith, obedient to whatever God asked of him without knowing the outcome. When the angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him the truth about the child Mary was carrying, Joseph immediately and without question or concern for gossip, took Mary as his wife. When the angel came again to tell him that his family was in danger, he immediately left everything he owned, all his family and friends, and fled to a strange country with his young wife and the baby. He waited in Egypt without question until the angel told him it was safe to go back (Matthew 2:13-23). He shows by his life the need to place your trust in God. He was also prepared to put his own needs to one side to see to the well-being of others.



Lenten Resources

- <https://missiontogether.org.uk/school-resources-for-lent-2020> There are really interesting resources especially geared for primary. Please try to support Mission Together. The focus here is primary. For Secondary Missio has materials to use.
- Look at the Cafod website they have some fantastic reflections and materials for Lent.
- <https://www.allwecan.org.uk/resources/children-youth-resources/> This is a Methodist site and the focus here is on action for climate change and protecting the environment. Some interesting ideas that can be used both at primary and Secondary
- <https://www.apostleshiofthesea.org.uk/resources-schools> The Apostle of the Sea resources are not focused specifically around Lent but this is the charity Bishop Declan has asked school chaplaincy teams to support this year. If you are selecting a charity to focus your almsgiving on during Lent you could make it this one. As it is also the Year of Communion please consider holding a joint event/prayer service with the parish.
- For Secondary and sixth form there are resources on the Caritas New Zealand website <https://caritas.org.nz/lent-schools> These are on the theme of *Renewed by the Spirit*. They include lesson plans and would supplement material from CAFOD
- http://www.going4growth.com/growth_through_the_year/lent/online-resources-for-lent-and-holy-week/ This is an Anglian site and mainly for older pupils. It has some interesting ideas which could be used in school though some may need a little adapting.
- <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/lent-activities/> This site has links through to other areas that might be of use.

- Please check our own website where there are a number of resources

Ash Wednesday 26th February

Last year there were headlines in national newspapers about children being burnt with ashes during an Ash Wednesday service. As far as I know it was a one-off event, however, please take simple precautions. You need to let parents know in advance this service is taking place. (Please explain the symbolism to them). Check for pupils with allergies, **test** the ashes before the service. If you are using pupils to help administer the ashes, ensure they know it is a ‘light touch’. Remember you cannot compel anyone to receive ashes who does not want to!

Please remember during Lent the colour is purple. So, all focal areas in the school should reflect this. No Alleluias should be said or sung. During Sunday mass we will not say the Gloria. There is a service attached to this for those of you not able to have a priest with you or take pupils to mass on this day. It is intended for KS2

Teaching Other Faiths: 5th March - A Day for those of you who are also Primary Coordinators (Dunstan Centre)

This day will focus on the teaching of Hinduism in the morning and in the afternoon, there will be an update on the revised Curriculum Directory. Please let Graham know if you are attending.

Primary Leavers Masses 17th and 18th June, 2020

- All schools are expected to attend this event and please try to make this a priority over other events that may occur on the same date.
- As you are aware, we always have a theme for our offertory procession at the Primary Leavers Mass. This year as part of our work for the Year of Communion we are focusing on Catholic Social Teaching. Our Booklet for staff on this is on the governors’ section of the website and a simpler version for pupils is on the Chaplaincy section of the website under chaplaincy Training 2019/20. We are asking all schools to create a symbol to represent their work and to complete the following statement.

This year we have been focusing on as part of our work on Catholic Social Teaching. Our Symbol is which represents our work to.....

Examples

it could say

1. “This year we have been focusing on the idea that *God wants us to help make sure everyone is safe and healthy and can have a good life* as part of our work on Catholic Social Teaching. Our symbol is a *Ship* which represents our work to raise money for *The Apostleship of the Sea*

Or perhaps

2. “This year we have been focusing on the idea that *The world was made by God, so we have to take care of all creation* as part of our work on Catholic Social Teaching.

Our symbol is a *Tree* which represents our work *to plant trees to help the environment*

- Details of numbers attending and the sentence describing the offertory symbol should be entered on the booking form appropriate to your partnership, which can be downloaded from the Schools & Colleges website <https://schools.cliftondiocese.com/courses>. When complete please email the form to graham.tiley@cliftondiocese.com as soon as possible but no later than **Friday 22 May**.
- One or two representatives from the school are asked to process in with the school's banner at the start of mass. The banners will be stacked at the side of the cathedral and pupils asked to come and stand with them five minutes before mass begins. They will be given clear instructions as they arrive.
- Please remember that coaches are not able to park at the cathedral itself but only drop off there.
- Everyone should try to be in place by at least 15 minutes before mass begins.

Just a reminder about **the Head Teachers Conference at Bath Spa on March 27th please see the primary newsletter for further details.**

Many thanks for all you do.

God Bless

Ann Fowler

An Ash Wednesday Service

Before the service begins you need a copy of the Palm leaf for each pupil. A focal point should include a purple cloth, a large cross (You can make one out of 2 branches) and a basket or baskets for the palm leaves For the Power point you need to download the Song 'Go Make a Difference' by Steve Angrisano . This service assumes you have no priest and are not celebrating mass

Reader A. Today is Ash Wednesday; the beginning of the season of Lent.

Reader B Boring! My gran is always on at me about giving up sweets and biscuits. It must be the most depressing time of the year.

Reader A. But it's not all about giving things up.

Reader B Tell that to my Gran!

Reader A No, it isn't, honest. It's supposed to be a time when we try to get closer to God; when we try to become better people. Look that's why we have the ashes on our foreheads- it's a sign that we are sorry for the things we've done wrong and we want to change

Reader C Honestly the stuff you believe. Besides I certainly don't need to change. I'm perfect!

Reader A and B. Oh Yeah right

Reader C Well almost. Mind you ...

There was that row last week with my mum. But that was her fault. I'm too old for her to tell me what to do. It was all her fault, wasn't it?

As for my sister: Well I don't see why I should lend her my stuff; she never takes care of it, never returns it. And I know I don't help much but I don't see why I should help until she does her bit - that's only fair. It's all her fault, isn't it?

And honestly who wants to get involved helping other people. I mean it's kind of sad that people are hungry and refugees and all that but I don't have the time. It's not my fault they have problems!

Reader A There's a lot that's not your fault! Look I think we need to be honest here. Nobody is perfect. I think we can all think of times when we should have done more to help others. And look at the world. Is it really the kind of place you want it to be?

Reader C Well no, I suppose not, but what are we meant to do?

Reader B And how is giving up stuff meant to help?

Reader A I think it goes like this. During Lent we are asked to do 3 things:

1) (person comes in with a card that says 1 on it with the words don't be selfish. To try and give up things that tempt us to be selfish. It could be sweets I guess, but it could also be acting as though no one else matters,

2) (person comes in with a card saying 2 and the words help others). Do something to help other people. Maybe we could try 40 acts of kindness for the 40 days of Lent

3) (person comes in with card saying 3 and the words get closer to God) Finally we are meant to try to get closer to God. See I believe that God helps us become better people, and if we pray, if we talk to God we become more like the people we are meant to be

Scripture Reading (read by a teacher)

This reading is from the Gospel of Mathew. It is about how Jesus was tempted in the desert.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Reader B Hang on a minute I've lost it a little. What does this mean?

Reader A I think this means that Jesus is being asked to be selfish to think about his own needs but he's saying no, doing what God wants is more important.

Reader B Ok that makes sense carry on

Then the tempter I took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Reader B Sorry lost it again – I am never, never, going to be tempted to through myself off a mountain!

Reader C Hang on I think I have got this one. Jesus is being asked to show off, to make people like him and follow him because he can do spectacular things. But he says no. I guess he wants people to follow him because what he says make sense not because he's a show off

Reader B Ok I can see that now

Again, the tempter took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'

Reader B I understand this one. It's about power. Jesus is being told if he is willing to do the wrong thing he will have lots of power over people.

Reader C So basically Jesus is being tempted to be selfish, to show of and do the wrong things. But he says no. It is better to do what God wants

Teacher : This song reminds us that we need to **Make a Difference** in our world , to choose to do the right thing. (play PowerPoint and song)

Now Let's all promise to do one thing in Lent that will make a difference to our world

(Pupils write their promises on the palm leaves)

If you have ashes: (Remember it must be an invitation to come forward ask them to do this quietly and respectfully)

Ashes are made from the burnt palm leaves used last year on Palm Sunday. They remind us that we can leave our past behind in ashes. We can change. We can be different. We invite you to come forward now to receive the ashes as a sign of our willingness to change. As you come forward please leave your palm leaf with your promise on in the basket at the front. If you don't want to receive the ashes you can just leave your palm leaf in the basket)

You may want to play music here or have a group singing

If you don't have ashes

We are going to sing..... as we do so we are going to invite you to come forward a row at a time and place your promises in the basket by the cross

After this we say final prayer together (on PowerPoint) and sing final hymn.

