

Theme of the Week - Blind lead the blind

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that just as we can recognise a fig tree because of the fruit that grows on it, people will recognise us as followers of Jesus by the way we live our lives, by the things we say and the things we do. And what a time to hear this powerful and utterly true message from Jesus, the week we enter the season of Lent. The season of Lent is where we are given the opportunity to reflect on our lives to date, how we live it, where we prioritise God in it and how we treat others. Lent is our opportunity to change so we too can bear the good fruit all of us have the potential to grow.

The Gospel speaks of what it is to be and to act as a true disciple of Jesus. We learn that a true disciple is someone whose speech is pure, who is clear sighted, humble, and acts in imitation of his/her master, Jesus Christ. A true disciple is a person of integrity. The Gospel explains discipleship and can be broken down into different aspects. Firstly, Luke in 6:39-41 deals with those disciples who guide others, urging them to honesty and humility. **"Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher."**

Luke then moves onto disciples not being judges of others in their community but more being there for one another, **"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."** Verse 43 explains how a true disciple can be recognised, **'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit.'** And this clearly proclaims that the source of all words and deeds can be found in the condition of one's heart

If it is the heart that determines the fruit that a person bears, it is with our hearts we must listen, understand and live out. A method to do this within the Catholic Church is by Lectio Divina, an ancient form of prayer with scripture. So this week, take this Gospel or a Gospel reading of your choice and pray the Lectio Divina. Be **Learned** in what you read from the Gospel with the word, phrase, or sentence that stands out to you. Then be **Wise** in acting out this message so you too can be a true disciple of Jesus.

Blind lead the blind

Weekly Reflections
2nd March 2025
8th week in ordinary time



From the Gospel of Luke (6: 39-45)

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.'

Prayer for the Week

Lord Jesus,

We thank you for calling us, and we ask very simply, but also sincerely, help us to respond so we too can bear good fruit to others.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen

Day 1

How do we recognise a fig tree?

Why does Jesus use this analogy to explain followers of Him?

Why is Lent a good time to reflect on how you follow Jesus?

Day 2

Why do you think Jesus gives such importance to these aspects of Discipleship?

Can you demonstrate where you have been **'Learned' and 'Wise'** when reading scripture and actioning this in your life?

Day 3

Each day three of each week in Lent will be given to pray three Stations of the Cross. This week please pray:

Station 1: Jesus in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane

Station 2: Jesus is betrayed by Judas

Station 3: Jesus is condemned to the Sanhedrin

Catholic Social Teaching - Solidarity

By coming together in hope as individuals, families, communities, organisations and nations, we can achieve transformative change for the common good. When we unite and make a stand for what we believe in, we can achieve remarkable things

"I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security...while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: 'Give them something to eat' (Mark 6:37)." Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*,

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How this half term can you promote Solidarity in all that you do in St Joseph's and society?