

## **Second Sunday of Lent Year A- 5th March 2023**

### **Introduction**

Today is the second Sunday of Lent. (Ask the children if they can tell you what we mean by Lent?) A time of forty days of preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. (Ask what happened on Ash Wednesday and why? We all received ashes as a symbol of repentance and that we want to come closer to God). In Lent we do three things to bring us closer to God, so that we may truly celebrate the joy of Easter. During Lent we **PRAY** more, we **FAST** (give up something we like), and we show love or **CHARITY** to those around us by being generous and sharing and not being selfish. The most important of these three actions is prayer.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.)

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

### **Penitential Act**

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “Sorry Song”.

We are sorry,  
Truly sorry,  
Heal us Lord,  
In Your love,  
Help us to do better,      (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)  
Forgive us,  
Forgive us.

## **NO Gloria DURING LENT**

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to You Lord,  
Jesus Christ,  
Whose Father's voice  
From a cloud, (same tune)  
Said "This is my Son,  
My beloved Son,  
Listen to Him,  
Listen to Him."

### **Gospel**

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on page 26, Second Sunday of Lent, in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Matthew 17:1-9

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

**Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart** (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together "Glory to You, O Lord."**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say: **"The Gospel of the Lord"**.

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ"**. Ask everyone to be seated.

### **Lead a Discussion on the Gospel**

Where did Jesus go in this week's Gospel, and who went with Him? (Jesus went up a mountain with Peter, James and John)

Why did Jesus go up the mountain? (To pray)

What happened to Jesus while He was praying. (He was “transfigured”. This means that His appearance was changed and his clothing shone white. He appeared as he will be in glory in heaven).

Who else was there? (Moses and Elijah and they were also shining in heavenly glory).

Who was the voice from the cloud and what important message did He tell us? (The voice was God the Father and He told us that Jesus is His son whom He loves and that we must “Listen” to Jesus).

How do you think Peter, James and John felt seeing and hearing this? (They were amazed, but also frightened. They had seen Jesus as he is in heaven and were very happy and then they heard the voice of God His heavenly Father, coming from the cloud, and they were frightened. After seeing and hearing this they knew that Jesus truly was the Son of God).

How can we “listen” to Jesus during Lent? ( by choosing to do good things : especially remembering to **pray**, and to **fast by giving up something we like**, and to show **charity** to others by not being selfish and being kind and generous).

What extra prayers/devotions can we make in Lent?

What things have you given up?

Have you remembered to be kind to others?

Remember - if you're tempted to give up - ask Jesus and Mary His mother and our heavenly mother, to help you to try your best.

## **Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)**

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Lord Jesus, help us to try our best during Lent to come closer to You by **praying** to You - remembering to tell You that we love You, that we are sorry for our faults and also to thank You for all the love that You show us.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Lord Jesus, help us to try our best during Lent to **fast** by giving up something that we like and to show **charity** by not being selfish and being kind and generous to others especially those who have less than we have.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

## **Closing Prayer**

Hail Mary, full of grace.....

Amen.

Now (if required) ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.