

Spirit of the Season

Lent 2001

www.liturgy.demon.co.uk/sos.html

The annual observance of Lent is the special season for the ascent to the holy mountain of Easter

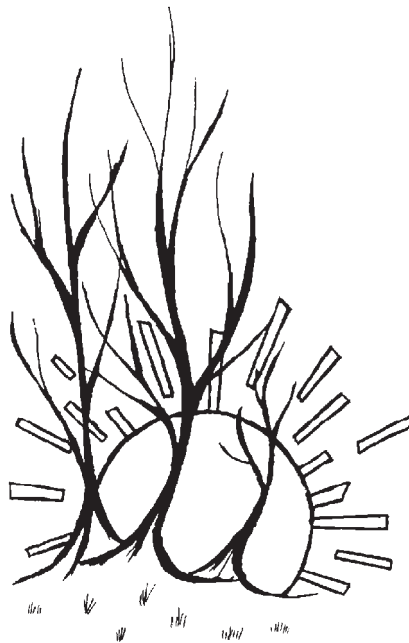
Please pass this on. You are free to photocopy it. It might be helpful to collect them for reference.

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A Ghanaian Prayer

Come, Lord,
And cover me with the night.
Spread your grace over us
As you assured us
you would do.

Your promises are more than
All the stars in the sky;
Your mercy
is deeper than the night.
Lord, it will be cold.
The night comes
with its breath of death.
Night comes; the end comes;
you come.

Lord, we wait for you
Day and night.

The liturgy of Lent is marked by two related themes, the baptismal and the penitential. The local Church helps those preparing for the sacraments of initiation at Easter, and doing so, recalls their own baptism and the need for renewal. Both groups join in a spirit of repentance and conversion of heart. The season becomes one of spiritual recollection for the whole Church.

Guidance for

a Reconciliation Service !

Almost certainly — if you are involved with KS2 and above you'll be involved in a Reconciliation service of some sort. Why not involve KS1?

Children are best introduced to prayer and liturgy in a step by step approach. The issues involved in Reconciliation are just as relevant and important to KS1 as to KS3.

What ever is planned:

- Keep it short.
- Keep it simple.
- Keep it uncluttered.

There is of course the need to note the differences in what is to be celebrated:

A Reconciliation Service

- Can be celebrated with anyone.
- Will not involve sacramental absolution.
- Will not require a priest.
- Could be class, KS or school based.

Is to help those present to “prepare with joy for the paschal feast.”

A Penitential Service

A Service of Reconciliation

Is celebrated with one or more priests.

- Will involve the Sacrament of Penance/ Reconciliation.
- Is celebrated by those who have been prepared those who have made their ‘first confession.’
- Will follow the Churches liturgy:

Rite 1:

One to one celebration of the sacrament.

Rite 2:

Several penitents with a one to one celebration of the sacrament.

(We are unable to use Rite 3 which is several penitents with General Absolution.)

A Reconciliation Service

Leader: There is light in you.

You know I see it when you smile.

There is light in you too when you are kind.

It shines when you share.

It shines when you love.

There is a light in you.

There is a light in all of us.

Reader: John 3:20-21

*Light individual candles from the large central candle, asking someone to help you
As you give one to each participant say -*

Leader: The light of Christ is in you (name).

*Name each person in the group,
including any other adults present.*

Leader: Yes, the light of Christ is in all of us.

But sometimes we don't want to smile.

We don't want to be kind.

Sometimes we don't want to share.

We don't want to love.

Sometimes we don't want to forget

the hurt other people have caused.

Sometimes we say No!

Pause for silent reflection

We do not feel too good.

The light of Christ is not seen in us.

Blow out your candle

– others blow theirs out if they wish.

Extinguish the main candle and pause.

Leader: We want to tell Jesus we are sorry,

that we want to come back to him.

We want his light to be seen in us.

Hold up your unlit candle

so that everyone can see it.

Leader: Lord, have mercy, All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Light the main candle.

*From that light everyone's candle in turn,
saying to each one:*

(name) Jesus knows you are sorry.

See the light of Christ.

Pause

Jesus knows we are sorry, let us thank him.

When we didn't reach out in kindness

and love to one another there was

no light.

Now the light of Christ is with us again.

Thank you Lord Jesus, Thank you.

*Allow a little time for silent thanksgiving,
each holding his/her candle then invite everyone
to place their candle on the floor in
front of the icon/picture of Jesus. Leave the
candles lit if possible until everyone but you
has left the room.*

What you will need to do the liturgy on page 2!

- A basket or other container with candles for each participant, including yourself.
- A focus place or table easily seen by all with:-
- A cloth on it (violet?)
- A picture/icon/statue of Christ.
- A large candle, already lit.
- Matches placed discreetly nearby.
- The option of reflective music (Tape/CD)
- It might help to darken the room if at all possible.

The liturgy comes from the work of St Joseph's Pastoral Centre in Westminster Diocese which supports people with special needs and learning difficulties and their families and carers. For more information — 020 8202 3999.



Music & Resources for the Season...

Often the best way into a season musically is to look at the psalms the church provides as Common

Psalms in the Lectionary. These **Psalms** can be used to replace the given psalm at any celebration during the season. In Lent two of the psalms are Psalm 50 (51) *Have mercy on me, God in your kindness* and Ps 90 (91) *Those who dwell in the shelter of the most high*. One of the best known settings of Ps 90 is *On Eagle's wings* (CH, HON, L) by Michael Joncas but an easier, attractive setting is Marty Haugen's *Be with me, Lord* (L). The words of refrain, *Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble*, speak directly to children and the verse can either be sung or spoken over an accompaniment. The words of the psalms give us a language of prayer; prayers which Jesus himself used. The refrain would also make a good response to intercessions or a penitential litany. Another setting of this psalm is *Blest be the Lord* (CH, HON, L) by St Louis Jesuits. It is interesting how one text can inspire three contrasting settings. Christopher Walker's setting of Psalm 50 *Give me a new heart* (CH, L) comes from his collection of Psalms and Gospel Acclamations for Liturgy of the Word with Children.

Gospel Acclamations: in Lent we fast from Alleluias. To greet the Gospel try; Chris O'Hara (CH, L) or for a processional song: Peter McGrail's *Word of God* (L) or Bernadette Farrell's *Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour* (CH, L).

THE CLASSROOM IN LENT...

Classroom windows can be useful places for seasonal decorations. Lenten images are not too hard to imagine: How about constructing paper fishes in an array of purples? What about snakes? Or Phoenixes? And lets not forget those wonderful Lenten readings about Jonah, Esther and Daniel. Lent is overflowing with stories to hear, tell and act out. Look out for Twisted Willow which looks great in an earthenware vase. Stones can be very effective — remember Ezekiel 11:14-21. Ashes left over from Ash Wednesday or sand. Colours ought to be grey, browns and purples. Look out for sackcloth and unbleached heavy wool. Loose all your plants (time to re-pot them anyway) until Eastertime. If you are feeling creative make a countdown calendar of the season — a bit like an Advent Calendar.

Planning the academic year 2001/2002?

Here are some dates you may find useful:

2001

1 November All Saints – Thursday

2 December 1st Sunday of Advent

2002

13 February Ash Wednesday

31 March Easter Sunday

9 May Ascension Thursday

19 May Pentecost Sunday

30 May Body and Blood of the Lord

30 June SS Peter and Paul (Sunday)

Marking the Liturgical Year

A new Resource for Primary Schools published by the Diocese of Portsmouth. The book which is bursting with practical material contains suggestions for scriptures, liturgies and classwork for every major feast in the school year. Also guiding principles for both eucharistic and non-eucharistic celebrations and the place of music. Price £11.99 for 132 pages. Available from Cathedral Discovery Centre, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA (fax 023 9281 6870)

From the Directory for Masses with Children

41. Since the readings taken from holy scripture “form the main part of the liturgy of the word,” even in Masses celebrated with children biblical readings should never be omitted.



“But what if I won’t understand them?”

43. If all the readings assigned to the day seem to be unsuited to the capacity of the children, it is permissible to choose readings or a reading either from the Lectionary... or the Bible, taking into account the liturgical season.

24. With... consent one of the adults may speak to the children after the gospel, especially if the priest finds it difficult to adapt himself.

WORDS EXPLAINED!

Lectionary – This is a collection of readings used in public worship. We use 3 Volumes.

V1 Seasons and Sundays

V2 Ordinary Time Weekdays and Proper of Saints and Commons (eg: B.V.Mary)

V3 Rituals, Various needs and occasions, votive Masses and Masses for the dead.

(BG You may also come across a Book of the Gospels.)

44. In the choice of readings the criterion to be followed is the quality rather than the quantity of the text from the scripture. A shorter reading is not as such always more suited to children than a lengthy reading. Everything depends on the spiritual advantage that the reading can bring the children.



The complete text of the Directory for Masses with Children is now available on the Liturgy Office web site. (www.liturgy.demon.co.uk/sos.html)

Parts of the Mass explained: The Liturgy of the Word Introduced

79. The Mass is made up of the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the eucharist, which are so closely connected as to form one act of worship. In the word of God the divine covenant is announced; in the eucharist the new and everlasting covenant is embodied and renewed.

80. By hearing the word proclaimed in worship, the faithful enter into the unending dialogue between God and the covenant people, a dialogue sealed in the sharing of the eucharistic food.

The proclamation of the word is thus integral to the Mass and at its very heart.

81. The proper celebration of the liturgy of the word involves many elements and several ministers, but care is necessary so that the many human words do not obscure the divine word itself. In this dialogue with the Lord, the people listen to the word, reflect on it in silence, respond to it in song, assimilate it, and apply it to their lives. Moved by it, they profess their

faith and intercede for the needs of the Church and the world.



Spirit of the Season is put together by Paul Varey. Material for inclusion should be sent to: Trinity & All Saints College, Leeds, LS18 5HD. Tel: 0113 283 7201 Fax: 0113 283 7200 Email: p_varey@tasc.ac.uk

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