

Formed in Prayer



*Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.*

Dear Father,
Be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, ‘Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.’

He told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, “Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?” “Sir,” the man replied “leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.”’

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday’s Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

The parable of the barren fig-tree is only found in Luke’s Gospel. In the wider Gospel, this parable is told as Jesus is journeying towards to Jerusalem. To this point, Jesus has performed many miracles, yet here Luke his focus moves more to the greater reality which is the kingdom of God that is to come. Yet the Gospel also begins with an interesting story about the Galileans. This story sets the scene for the parable that follows. What we can see in both parts of this Scripture is glimpses of a God who loves us. God does not directly punish us for our sins by sending evil or disasters upon us, God is the patient gardener who tends to us, nurtures us and provides us with the space, time and love that we need to find Him. We are in our own Lenten journey at this time, we are heading towards the deepest mystery of our faith. It is a time for persistence, patience and openness to be transforme by God’s love and mercy. We do not know if the fig-tree ever bears fruit, but maybe we can.

(Janina Starkey, Assistant Principal (Acting), St Patrick’s Marist College, Dundas)

Prayer

Lord,
During this Lenten season
we ask for your love and mercy
as we look towards the hope, joy and transformation that Easter promises.
Grant us the strength to lean into the barren times
and in the midst of waiting, find deeper understanding of the richness of your love and mercy.
Amen.