

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

HOUSE OF PRAYER

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Jesus enters the temple (Matthew 21: 12-16)

Jesus' disruptive action of overturning the tables of the money changers in the temple at Jerusalem is reported in all four Gospels, as a decisive and prophetic action. In Mark's Gospel the cleansing of the temple is placed immediately after Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday during the events that lead into the last supper, the arrest, trial, and crucifixion. In Mark's Gospel Jesus cited the whole text from Isaiah 56: 7, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'. Matthew follows Mark's chronology, but omits the words 'for all nations'.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *house of prayer*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 21:12-13)

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer"; but you are making it a den of robbers.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you entered the temple in Jerusalem
and restored it as a house of prayer.
Shape within us your house of prayer
to be a place of encounter,
for all people,
now and always.
Amen

CONSECRATION SUNDAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Jesus' actions and teaching in Matthew 21: 12-16:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you read Jesus overturning tables and chairs?
- how do you read Jesus' use of scripture, 'It is written'?
- what do you learn from the reaction of the priests and scribes?
- how do you read Jesus' use of scripture, 'Have you never read'?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

See how Matthew adds his own material (verse 14-16) to what he took from Mark:

- Mark 11: 15-18
- Luke 19: 45-47

Explore passages in the Old Testament that shape the background to Matthew's teaching:

- Isaiah 56: 7
- Psalm 122: 1-9
- 1 Kings 8: 22-30

Exploring online

- explore the stories of King Solomon's Temple and the Second Temple
- explore the place of the Daily Office within churches and cathedrals
- explore the connection between lighting a candle and praying

Drawing on experience

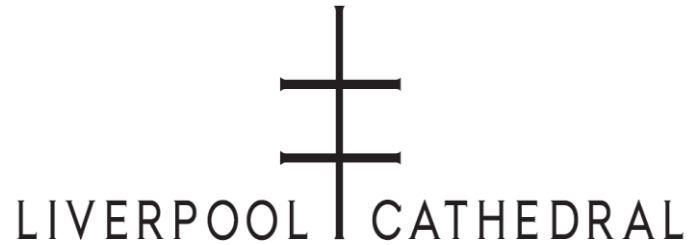
- reflect on times when you have prayed alone in a cathedral or church
- reflect on times when you have lit a candle to focus your prayer
- reflect on when you have been aware of daily prayer going on in the cathedral on your behalf

CONSECRATION SUNDAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020

Creating and making

- choose your favourite pictures of the cathedral to form a collage
- make a poster of the location in the cathedral that most inspires you to pray and add your prayers to that poster
- create a focus for prayer in your home
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer about the cathedral as a house for prayer

CONSECRATION SUNDAY (YEAR A) SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales and the St Christopher's College Trust.



The scripture quotations contained in these materials are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicised Edition, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and is used with permission. All rights reserved.

Copyright © Leslie J. Francis, 2020
Canon Theologian Liverpool Cathedral
with sponsorship and support from
St Christopher's College Trust
St Mary's Centre, Wales