

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

# THE CROSS

### EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

#### *Reflecting on the Gospel*

*Jesus foretells his death and resurrection to his disciples (Mark 8: 31-38)*

In Mark's Gospel Jesus begins to teach his disciples about his forthcoming crucifixion as soon as Peter has publicly acknowledged him as the Christ at Caesarea Philippi in the verses immediately preceding this passage. There are two other predictions of the crucifixion later in Mark's Gospel, each becoming more explicit and precise. On this first occasion the disciples fail to understand and the crowds are invited to take up their cross and to follow him.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *the cross*.

#### *Extracts from the Gospel passage (Mark 8: 34-35)*

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them,  
If any want to become my followers,  
let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  
For those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life for my sake,  
and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

#### *Gospel prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you suffered for our salvation.  
Help us to take up the cross,  
and to follow you;  
for you are our God.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Mark 8: 31-38**

**Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

## **ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME**

### ***Reflecting and meditating***

Reflect on how Jesus foretells his death and resurrection to his disciples (Mark 8: 31-38):

- 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 teaching about his death immediately after Peter has confessed him as the Christ?
- what do you make of Jesus' rebuke directed to Peter?
- how do you understand Jesus' invitation to others to pick up their cross?
- what is the cost of discipleship implied in this teaching?
- how can we best understand this teaching for today?

### ***Using your Bible***

Explore Mark's other two predictions of Jesus' death and resurrection:

- Mark 9: 30-32
- Mark 10: 32-34

Explore how Matthew and Luke make subtle changes to Mark's first prediction:

- Matthew 16: 21-27
- Luke 9: 22-26

Explore a major chapter in the Old Testament that has been linked to the idea of a suffering Messiah:

- Isaiah 53

### ***Exploring online***

- explore the three predictions of the Passion in Mark's Gospel
- explore different images of the cross
- explore Christian cross variants

### ***Drawing on experience***

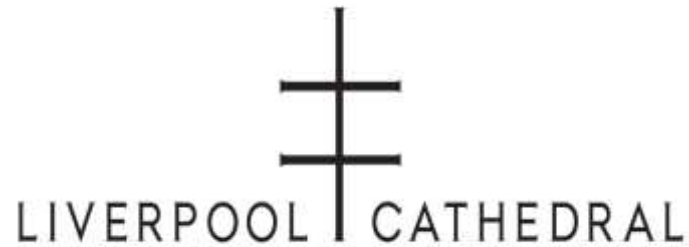
- reflect on your experiences of waiting before the cross
- reflect on your experiences of carrying your cross
- reflect on the different forms of crosses with which you are familiar

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021

### *Creating and making*

- make a poster of Jesus' sayings about his death and resurrection
- make a collage showing different types of Christian crosses
- make crosses to display in your home
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the cross

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2021



## **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](mailto: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.



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