

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

SPRING CLEANING

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

The old temple is replaced by the new (John 2: 13-22)

The narrative of Jesus cleansing the temple occurs in all four gospels. The story is treated very differently by John. While the other three gospels place the story after the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week, John places the story at the beginning of Jesus' ministry. The key image for John is that Jesus not only cleanses the temple but replaces it. Just as the temple was the meeting place between God and the people of God in the old order, so, after the resurrection, Jesus is that meeting place in the new order. Here is one of the images of Messiahship held out during Lent.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *spring cleaning*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (John 2: 13-16)

The Passover of the Jews was near,
and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.
In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves,
and the money-changers seated at their tables.
Making a whip of cords,
he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle.
He also poured out the coins of the money-changers
and overturned their tables.
He told those who were selling the doves,
Take these things out of here!
Stop making my Father's house a market-place!

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you cleansed the temple in Jerusalem.
Sweep away from our lives all that offends you,
that we may be temples to your praise and glory;
now and for ever.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 2: 13-22

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on John's account of Jesus cleansing of the Temple (John 2: 13-22):

- 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

- why does John mention that the Passover was near when Jesus went up to Jerusalem?
- what do you make of Jesus using a whip of cords?
- how do you understand Jesus likening himself to the Temple?
- what do you understand by the idea of 'sign' in John's Gospel?
- how can we best understand the narrative for today?

Using your Bible

Explore the idea of signs in John's Gospel:

- John 2: 11
- John 20: 30-31

Explore the different location of the cleansing of the Temple in the synoptic Gospels:

- Mark 11: 7-10, 15-18
- Matthew 21: 8-13

Explore the prophecy in the Old Testament:

- Psalm 69: 9

Exploring online

- explore images of Jesus cleansing the Temple
- explore the cleansing of the Temple by Malcolm Guite
- explore spring cleaning in *Wind in the Willows*

Drawing on experience

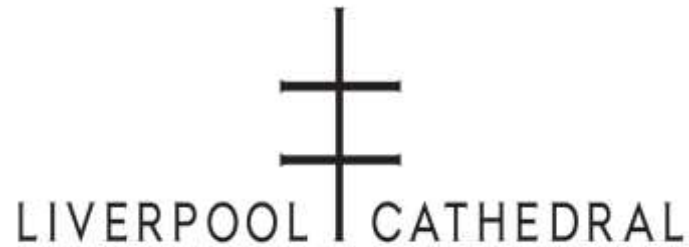
- reflect on your experience of spring cleaning
- reflect on your experience of joining Mole in *Wind in the Willows*
- reflect on your experience of Jesus using a whip of cords

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) SUNDAY 7 MARCH 2021

Creating and making

- create a poster of Jesus cleansing the Temple
- create a collage of spring cleaning
- make a display of brooms, dusters, and spring cleaning materials
- create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the cleansing of the Temple

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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.



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