

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
FORTY FIVE DAYS TOWARDS THE CROSS
FROM DEACON CHRIS
LENT 2024

First Sunday of Lent: Fifth Station: Noah takes his family and the animals into the ark.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Genesis Chapter 7 verses 1 to 10

Tuesday Week 6 Year 1.

Reflection.

God was fed up with the way in which the world was going. He singled out Noah because he was a good man. An ark was built.

God told Noah to take his family and the animals into the ark. The song says that the animal went in two-by-two. It is interesting to note that he had to take seven pairs of all the clean animals. Seven being the perfect number. Of the unclean animals it was only two, male and female.

This is another demonstration of God’s great benevolence.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be. I love you, Jesus.....

Monday Week 1 of Lent: Sixth Station: The Dove returns with a new olive-branch.

“We adore you, O Christ etc....

Reading:

Genesis Chapter 8 verses 6 to 22

Wednesday Week 6 Year 1.

Reflection:

At the end of forty days Noah sent out a raven which didn’t return. Then he sent out a dove which returned. Seven days later it went again and returned with a new-olive branch. A sign that the waters were receding.

The reason for the clean animal becomes clear because Noah chooses from them and offers sacrifice to the Lord.

We have the rainbow as a symbol of what God did and how he promised that he would not strike down living creatures again. When we see the rainbow do we marvel at its beauty or does it remind us of the Covenant that God made with us or does it do both?

When we see the cross we see a sign of THE covenant he made with us.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be. I love you, Jesus...

Tuesday Week 1 of Lent :Seventh Station: Abraham and Sarah are told that they will be blest with a son.

“We adore you, O Christ etc...

Scripture

Genesis Chapter 18 verses 1 to 15

Saturday Week 12 Year 1.

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Reflection

The Scriptures tell us about three different women who have longed to have a child but for whatever reason this has not happened. That is until God steps in. The sons go on to do great things in the name of the Lord. Abraham and Sarah receive visitors and she hears one of the three men speak who says that next year she will bear a son. She laughs at this idea and goes through in her own mind the reasons why this is not possible. Little does she know that her mind is being read.

Sarah and Abraham will soon find out the accuracy of this prophecy.

But why do we question so much? Why do we doubt? Is it because we feel that we have been let down? Do we feel negative about ourselves?

We are encouraged to put our complete trust in God! Can we?

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Wednesday Week 1 of Lent : Eighth Station: Abraham is asked to sacrifice his son Isaac.

“We adore you, O Christ etc.

Scripture

Genesis Chapter 22 verses 1 to 19

Thursday Week 13 Year 1.

Reflection.

Abraham has had an eventful life. God has asked of him some very challenging things which he has done because he has faith. This is tested to limit. God has asked him to sacrifice his own son. Actually, it comes across as more of an instruction. The sacrificing of children to the gods was a fairly common practice in those days. The passage takes us through each step and when Abraham is asked by Isaac where is the lamb his reply is one that we should all put our trust in. **God himself will provide the sacrifice.** Isaac doesn't query this anymore. He walks with his father. We hear no protest from him when he is overpowered by Abraham and at the very last minute he is spared. Abraham has been put to the test and has come through it. The next time that a son is laid on an altar of sacrifice it will take place on Calvary.

What are we prepared to sacrifice to show our faith?

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Thursday Week 1 of Lent : Ninth Station: Joseph, the man of dreams is going to be sold into slavery by his brothers.

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Scripture

Genesis Chapter 37 verses 3 to 28

Friday Week 2 of Lent

Reflection

The passage that we have in the lectionary doesn't tell us that it was whilst Joseph's brothers were eating that the Midianites pulled Joseph out of the well and sold him on. The brothers then wondered what had happened to him and made up a story that he had been killed. They had lost their brother and the chance of making some money. Another episode of somebody being sold. This is a story of jealousy. Joseph is loved more by Israel (Jacob) than any of his brothers. Not a good thing to have in families. Joseph was a dreamer and his brothers couldn't cope with his interpretations of them.

The implications of what happened to Joseph will have far reaching effects.

Judah, one of Joseph's brothers, is mentioned in Matthew's genealogy of the Lord.

Too many people are eager to make money out of selling people to others (I don't mean sporting transfers) or offering a 'passage' to another country. A passage that is fraught with danger.

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Friday Week 1 of Lent : Tenth Station: A new Pharaoh knows nothing of Joseph and makes it hard for the Hebrews and orders the death of all boys at birth.

"We adore you, O Christ etc...

Scripture

Exodus Chapter 1 verses 8 to 22

Monday Week 15 Year 1

Reflection.

The Egyptians have prospered through the work of the Hebrews but now we see a new kid on the block and he wants more from them. He is also fearful that they will overrun his country. To stop this he put slave-drivers in place to wear them down. This had the opposite effect. Pharaoh then ordered that all males should be killed at birth. Eventually we will get the story of Moses. This is another story of one group or race doing its best to suppress another because they are afraid that they themselves will become the oppressed. Very topical! Do we try to oppress others? Are we bullies? Do we do our best to live in peace and harmony with our neighbour? If we do then surely we can make this sense of oneness spread?

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Saturday Week 1 in Lent : Eleventh Station: Moses sees the Burning Bush and receives his calling.

“We adore you, O Christ etc....”

Scripture Reading

Exodus Chapter 3 verses 1 to 12

Wednesday Week 15 Year 1

Reflection

Moses was looking after the flock of his father-in-law. The theme of a shepherd will be reflected upon several more times as we move through both Old and New Testaments. And again we have the sight of a bush. This time it is a bush that is ablaze but does not burn up. Moses hears the Lord and he answers, ‘Here I am’. God introduces himself and says that he has heard the cry of his people. The one to help them is Moses. In the film *The Ten Commandments* after this encounter Moses has turned white or grey. How willing are we to respond to God’s call as soon as we hear it?

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