

called to be
God's
people

Lent 2019





Luke 6:39-45

He told them another parable:
“For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, or are grapes picked from a bramble bush.

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

4th – 8th March 2019

Called to Forgive

Jesus said, 'Forgive them for they don't know what they do.'



Introducing the theme.

In this weeks theme we look at the “Fruit “of forgiveness. Forgiveness is one of the key messages of Lent. Even on the Cross, Jesus showed real compassion, praying words of forgiveness for those who had put him to death. God is forgiving: he loves us and wants us to be close to him, even when we mess up.

So this week we can begin Lent by thinking about the things we need to say sorry for, the people that we need to ask forgiveness from, and the people that we need to make peace with.

saying
“*sorry*”



Prayer for the Week

God of forgiveness,
we sometimes get things wrong
and hurt others by our thoughts,
our words and our actions.
At other times we are hurt by the way
we are treated.
As Lent begins, you call us to put right
anything that is wrong
and to forgive others too and so to
make things better.
Amen.

Monday 4th March 2019

Action: Say sorry to someone you've hurt or upset – and mean it

Thought : Forgiveness from the heart is better than a box of gold.
(Moorish proverb)

Reflection: Saying sorry is easy enough – meaning it is a whole other thing. That's why the little proverb talks about heartfelt forgiveness being so precious. If we're honest, there are times when all of us need to say sorry. Nobody's perfect after all! Take a moment together to think about anyone you've hurt or upset. Perhaps it was an unkind word, or making someone feel left out, or not giving time to someone... Today is a new beginning, a chance to start again. Ask God to give you the courage and the strength to put right any hurt you have caused.



Prayer for the Week

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Amen.

Tuesday 5th March 2019

Action: Use only positive words today

Thought: The start of an argument is like a leak in a dam, so stop it before
it bursts.
(Proverbs 17:14)

Reflection: Have you even been in a room with someone who is in a really bad
mood? It's like there are dark clouds hovering in the sky and
everything just feels so gloomy. It's a bit like that when we speak
negatively about someone or something – we just add to the storm
clouds. So the challenge to only use positive words is all about
creating a happy environment and a good atmosphere – it's about
letting the sunshine poke through the clouds! Things like, 'You really
make me laugh!', 'Your hair looks good', 'That was a brilliant class', or
'I really love homework...' – er, well, okay, maybe that's going a bit
far! Be positive, be happy, be affirming and *enjoy* your day: it is God's
gift to you.



Prayer for the Week

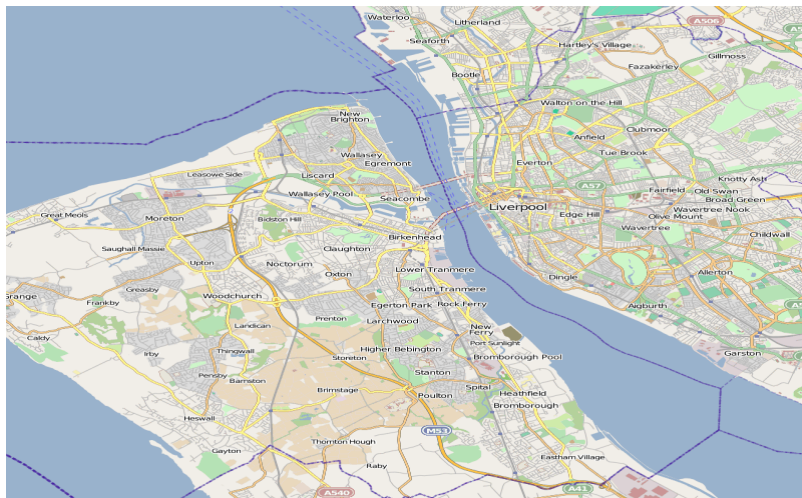
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Amen.

Wednesday 6th March 2019 (Ash Wednesday – start of Lent)

Action: It's the start of Lent: let your greatness blossom

Thought: 'Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great. You can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.'
(Nelson Mandela)

Reflection: Each year we are given the season of Lent to help us slow down a little bit and think about the really important things in our lives. Lent takes us on a journey with Jesus – a journey that leads us to the new life and hope of Easter, but a journey that must first take in the pain and agony of the Cross. It's a bit like, 'no pain, no gain.'
Today we'll all receive ashes as a sign of the start of our Lenten journey. Pray today that you'll use your God-given greatness to make a difference to our world.



Prayer for the Week

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things better.

Amen.

Thursday 7th March 2019

Action: Pray for needy people in your home town today

Thought: 'God knows better than you what you need. With a God like
this loving you, you can pray very simply.'
(Jesus in Matthew 6:9)

Reflection: Our country is a wonderfully varied place, with people from
different cultures, backgrounds and ways of life. It's also a place of real
need – where some experience real hardship or struggle. Take a moment
to think about your journey to school this morning. Think about the
different places you passed or the different people you might have seen.
Maybe there's just one face that you can remember? It could be
someone you know well, or a complete stranger. Take a moment to pray
for that person now, whatever their particular needs might be – whether
you know them or not. Ask God to be close to all of those in our local area
who might just find today a real struggle. And pray for those people who
will try to help them.



Prayer for the Week

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Amen.

Friday 8th March 2019

Action: Make peace with somebody you've fallen out with

Thought: 'Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst.'
(Jesus in Luke 6:27)

Reflection: We started this week thinking about saying sorry, and we end it too, with a call to make peace. When Jesus was on the Cross, he forgave the people who put him there. He could, quite easily, have been bitter or negative. But, fortunately, God doesn't work like that. Instead he saw a great opportunity to stretch out his arms in peace and forgiveness. Today our action is to make peace too. We often pray for peace in our world. But it'll only happen if it starts here and now with us.