

Ash Wednesday Prayer Service

Leader: Let us begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Welcome to our school family gathered here today. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of a special time called Lent. On this day, we put ashes on our foreheads to show our commitment of faith and humility.

Reader 1: Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

- Prayer helps us to get closer to God and remember the promises made at our baptism.
- Fasting is where we give something up to show our love for God and to be more aware of those living in poverty.
- Almsgiving means to give to others to show we care about justice and are thankful for what God has given us.

Reader 2: Lent gets us ready for Easter, the most important time in the Church. Through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we remember Jesus's death and resurrection.

Reader 3: May the ashes we receive today remind us that all people are equal in your eyes. This Lent, help us to unite against poverty, to work for justice and to care for all creation.

Reader 4: In this Year of Jubilee, may we be pilgrims of hope. We ask this in Jesus's name.

All: Amen

“During this Lent then, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord, ‘Make our hearts like yours.’” (Pope Francis)

Directions: Add the ashes to the foreheads below.



Gospel Reading (Matthew 6:1–4)

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Leader: Jesus said to his disciples:

Reader 1: When you do good deeds, don't try to show off. If you do, you won't get a reward from God in heaven.

Reader 2: When you give to the poor, don't blow a loud horn. That's what show-offs do in the meeting places and on the street corners, because they are always looking for praise.

Reader 3: I promise you that they already have their reward.

Reader 4: When you give to the poor, don't let anyone know about it. Then your gift will be a secret. God knows what is done in secret and God will reward you.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ

Distribution of Ashes

Leader: Let us pray. Bless us Lord as we receive these ashes as a reminder of our humility. We ask for the forgiveness of our sins as we recall times when we have turned away from you and have not shown compassion to others. We ask you to help us to be fair and peaceful.

All: Amen.



Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Lord, we begin our Lenten journey marked with the sign of the cross as a symbol of your love, hope and compassion for us. We come together in prayer, asking for your blessing and guidance.

Reader 5: We pray for our Church leaders: Pope Francis, our bishop and our priest that they may follow you and be leaders of love and peace in the Church and the world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader 6: We pray for the Catholic Church as we celebrate the Year of Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope. We pray that we are ready to find the direction towards peace and love. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader 7: We pray for our sisters and brothers who experience poverty and injustice wherever they are in the world. May we unite to end injustices for everyone, everywhere. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Leader: Let us now pray together in the words that Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Closing Prayer

Leader: God of all life, Bless our efforts this Lent to walk humbly with you as we put our faith into action. Guide us on our journey with our brothers and sisters around the world as pilgrims of hope. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us conclude, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us go forth signed with ash and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God



ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH

T	L	Q	S	E	H	S	A	T	X	H	T	V	T	V	P	P	Y	A	R
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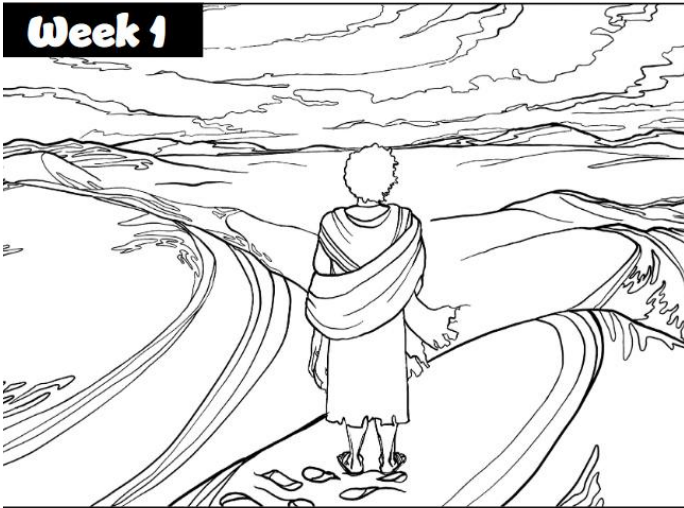


ASHES
CHURCH
CROSS
EASTER
FAITHFUL
FAST

FORTY DAYS
GOSPEL
HOLY THURSDAY
HOLY WATER
JESUS
JOURNEY

LENT
PALMS
PROMISES
PURPLE
SEASON

Week 1



Gospel Story: Luke 4: 1-13

First Sunday of Lent

We pray for greater respect for the environment. May we care deeply for Earth, the place that God has entrusted to our care. May we celebrate the Year of Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope, ready to find the direction towards peace and justice that God wants for us.

Lord, hear us.

Create: This week, design a poster or collage, paint a mural or build a model based on the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent.

WORD SEARCH

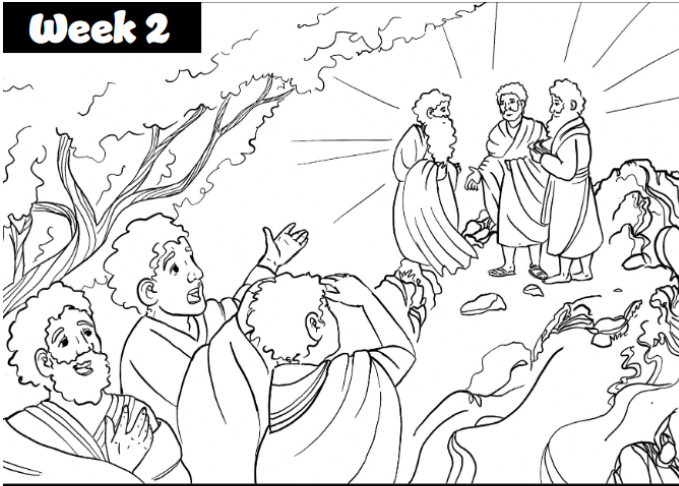
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s j t x b v d s z a q v w w x
e h e i r o x t r e s e d n z
j j r f l o g d j o h n y o b



Angels
Animals
Desert
Forty

God
Good News
Jesus
John

Week 2



Gospel Story: Luke 9: 28-36

Second Sunday of Lent

We pray for all those whose access to food and water is insecure. May the whole human family respond generously to distribute life's necessities.

Lord, hear us.

Create: This week, write a short story, letter or diary entry based on the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Lent.

Week 3



Gospel Story: Luke 13: 1-9

Third Sunday of Lent

We pray for those driven away from their homes by violence or poverty, especially children. May our hearts be open to do all we can to rebuild the lives of others. May we be instruments of God's peace and pilgrims of hope.

Lord, hear us.

Create: This week, act out a short drama based on the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent.

Week 4



Gospel Story: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

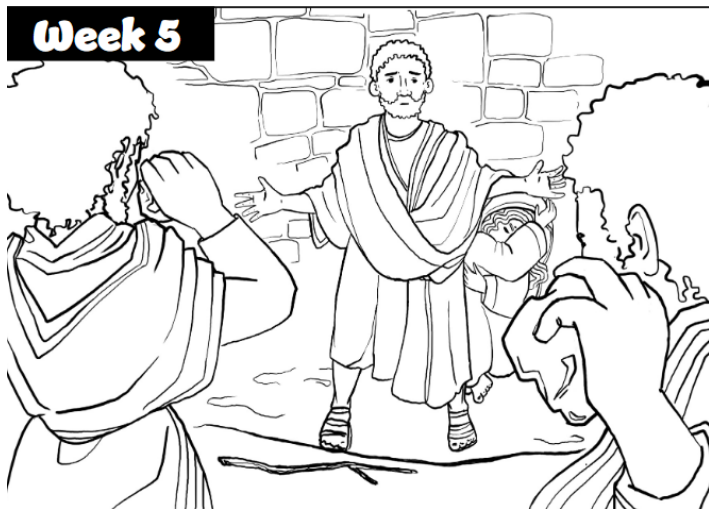
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mother's Day used to be called Mothering Sunday and we have celebrated this special day in Ireland for hundreds of years. A long time ago, children from poor families were sent to work as servants for rich people. They were only allowed to go home once a year and this was on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The servants were given a day off to visit their 'Mother Church' or the church in their hometown. After visiting the church they went home to visit their mothers. Some of the children brought presents of flowers that they had picked on their journey home.

Create: MOTHERS DAY ACTIVITIES

- Write down five things that you know and love about your mum or the person who cares for you at home.
- Ask your mum or the person who cares for you at home to make a list of five things that you could do to make her life easier. Then promise to do these things for her.
- Make a card
- Make a collage of all the ways you love your mum
- Give her a hug
- Write a prayer thanking God for your mum or the person who looks after you at home. Ask God to look after mothers all over the world and to keep them safe.

Week 5



Gospel Story: John 8: 1-11

Fifth Sunday of Lent

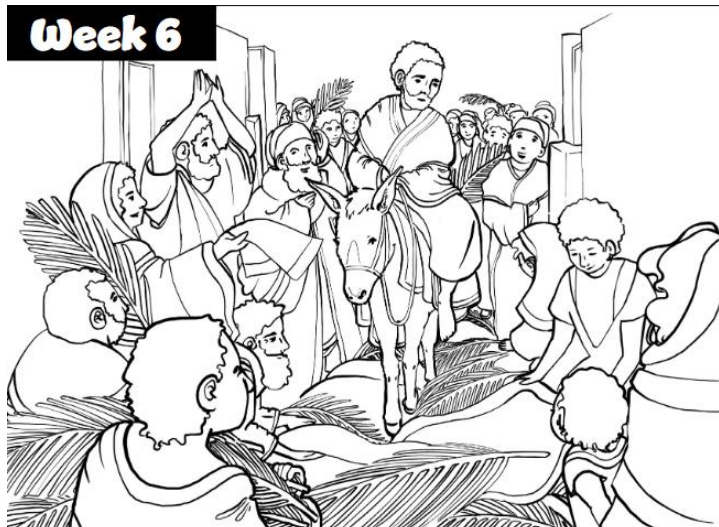
Lord, we ask that our hearts may be changed. Teach us your way of mercy and compassion.

Help us to see beyond appearances and discover your image in those we meet.

Lord, hear us.

Reflect: Think of a time when you wanted to blame someone or throw a stone. Quietly ask God to help you to show mercy, peace and compassion towards others.

Week 6



Gospel Story: Luke 19: 28-40

Palm Sunday

We pray for a renewal of our faith during Holy Week. May we learn more deeply what it means to be pilgrims of hope in this Year of Jubilee. May we live out the motto of Missio, *Children Helping Children*, and walk alongside our sisters and brothers towards the new life of Easter.

Lord, hear us.

Create: This week, write and perform a song or rap based on the Gospel for Palm Sunday.

HOSANNA WORD SEARCH



I B B K E U M F K S M C Y Y Y
 S P C J N G X S E H T O L C K
 S A A T N F A L N J J Y S Q S
 B W I S H X P L E W K E K L B
 C E T C S I H M L A P K S A R
 A S K E C O T Z I I H N D U S
 H B L S S N V I U B V O A C S
 V D I A Y B D E C B F D O Q R
 O D N F P E A Z R R H B R C S
 P N Y F L I V P R A I S E O I
 A K D P O N I I G N D J D U L
 R J O P L Y D N O C N F H W C
 D E A S J A K V J H L K G C J
 P H X J Y Q Y K S E W V G O D
 F Z C B A J E R U S A L E M N

Back	Jesus
Branches	Lord
Clothes	Palm
David	Passover
Disciples	People
Donkey	Praise
God	Road
Hosanna	Untie
Jeruslaem	Village

Activity: Cut out the story below and put the sentences into the correct order in your religion copy.

"God bless the coming kingdom of our ancestor David."

In front of Jesus and behind him, people went along shouting,

The disciples led the donkey to Jesus.

Many people spread clothes on the road, while others went to cut branches from the fields.

"Hosanna in heaven above!"

They put some of their clothes on its back, and Jesus got on.

"Hosanna! God bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"