



St Peter's Church, Phibsborough

Parish Newsletter

Third Sunday of Lent: 23rd March 2025

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 23rd March

Michael Gill (A)
Eamonn Finnegan (A)
Kay McCabe (1st A)
Lucy Collis (25th A)
Marie Carroll (A)
Sheila O'Beirne (A)
Paul Deegan (A)

Monday, 24th March

St Macartan, bishop
Bird, Flemming &
McMahon Family (SI & D)
Kay McCabe (1st A)
Agnes Moroney (RD)

Tuesday, 25th March

The Annunciation of the Lord
Myra Wall (3rd A)
Madge O'Hehir (D)

Wednesday, 26th March

Sr Gonzaga (D)
John Carty (A)

Thursday, 27th March

Charlie Harvey (BR)

Friday, 28th March

Kathleen, John & David Cullen (D)

Saturday, 29th March

John Cowman (RD)

EASTER CARDS

Mass Cards €10 & Novena Cards €5
available this week from the Parish
Office and Repository.

Mass times this week: 24th - 29th March

Monday - 10.30am and 7.00pm
Tuesday to Saturday - 10.30am and 6.30pm
(Stations of the Cross after 6.30pm Mass)



THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For three years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven't found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?' "Sir," the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.'"

Prior to this Sunday's reading, I must confess I knew very little about fig trees. After some hasty research I found out that they are apparently easy to grow in areas that offer a warm, sunny, and sheltered spot and usually bear fruit after 3 – 5 years.

The Fig tree is very popular in the Middle East, Turkey and North Africa. So, it is little wonder that they appear in today's readings.

Having read this gospel and thinking about the role SVP has in today's world my thoughts are as follows:

As we read the gospel, we note that the fig tree is planted in the vineyard. So, it's an outlier. Maybe, as members of the SVP, we could look at this parable and see the gardener as our fellow Conference members, the owner of the vineyard could represent the authorities in our society – the rule makers while the vines symbolise the vast majority of compliant people. The fig tree, however, signifies that person or persons who is unable to be part of our normal law abiding and productive society - due to issues in their own lives – unemployment, homelessness, mental issues, drug or alcohol addiction and can be deemed as troubled souls.

So, while owner (authority) after some time simply gives up on the fig tree and demands that it be cut down so that further vines can be planted, the gardener (our fellow Conference members) take on the challenge to help the fig tree (the troubled soul) by offering additional care, compassion and attention, confident that this will bring them back into society.

But we must always remember we can only do what we can do with the ongoing help of those who continue to support us.

Alan Markey, St Peter's SVP Conference



ONLINE - LENTEN TALKS



WEEK 3 (23rd March) - THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE - Alan Markey, SVP

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1EN7eSGLGN/>

What's Happening this week

- Monday - weekly Mass and Novena in honour of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal takes place at 7.00pm.
- Tuesday at 7pm - Retreat for women (Christ the King, Cabra)
- Wednesday - tea & coffee for all in the Chapel of Adoration after the 10.30am Mass.
- Saturday - Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament takes place after 10.30am Mass

LITURGICAL READINGS FOR: Sunday, 23rd March 2025

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up.

'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said *'and see why the bush is not burnt.'*

Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush.

'Moses, Moses!' he said.

'Here I am' he answered.

'Come no nearer' he said.

'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground.'

I am the God of your father,' he said **'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'**

At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said,

'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers.

Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.

After you have led the people out of Egypt, you are to offer worship to God on this mountain.'

Then Moses said to God,

'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them,

"The God of your fathers has sent me to you."

But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?'

And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am.

This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."

And God also said to Moses,

'You are to say to the sons of Israel:

"the Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Response: **The Lord is compassion and love.**



SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea.

They were all baptised into **Moses** in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was **Christ**. In spite of this, most of them failed to please **God** and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory and praise to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory and praise to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

GOSEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them,

'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans?

They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable:

'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard,

"Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"

"Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.

COLLECTIONS - Sunday 16th March

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Tap/Online/Payzone) = €1,264.16

Envelopes (incl. Online/Payzone) = € 450.00

Share (2nd Collection) = € 307.61

COLLECTION - St Patrick's Day 17th March

Parish (1st Collection, incl. Tap/Online/Payzone) = € 211.40

Thank you for your support to the parish and to the Diocese.

Members of Viatores Christi will speak at Masses in this week-end Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd March, 2025.

Viatores Christi (VC), is an association of Catholic lay missionary/development workers, founded in 1960. VC brings about positive change by improving access to healthcare, education and livelihood opportunities in the marginalised communities in which we work.

Why are they talking at The Masses?

To raise awareness about the missionary work of the Church and the role of lay missionaries, both at home and overseas. There will be envelopes available to support the work of VC.