

Mission Together

Lent Liturgy: Week One



This liturgy focuses on the Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Lent, when Jesus tells us that God is very near.

N.B. For this liturgy we recommend you print a copy of the Mission Together Lent calendar

LITURGY PLAN

Setting the scene

Please refer to our guide: *How to Pray with Children* missiontogether.org.uk/prayer-resources/

Opening hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: Taize - *Ubi Caritas*, or *Be still and know that I am God*.

Sign of the cross and opening prayer

Print the opening prayer on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Introduction

Print the introduction on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reading *adapted for children from NJB*

Print the reading on page 2 and ask a pupil to read.

Bible reflection

See page 3. We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Prayers of intercession

Print the prayers of intercession on page 4 and ask pupils to read.

Mission Together prayer

See to the right.

Sign of the cross

Closing hymn or recorded music

Our suggestions: Taize - *Wait for the Lord* or *Take My Hands*

Mission Together Prayer

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love
Now and forever. **Amen.**

Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission.

23 Eccleston Square London SW1V 1NU 020 7821 9755 missiontogether.org.uk missio.co.uk

Registered in England and Wales Charity No. 1056651

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Opening Prayer

Reader: Let us pray. God our Father,
through our prayers, fasting and acts of kindness this Lent
help us to grow closer to you.
Teach us how to bring the good news of your love to everyone, everywhere.
We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Introduction

Reader: During Lent we prepare for Easter.
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and it lasts for 40 days.
In Lent we remember how Jesus suffered and died for us.
When Jesus rose from the tomb on Easter Sunday, he showed us that death
is not the end.
God, our Father, wants us all to live with him in a new life of peace and
joy in heaven.
During Lent, we prepare for Easter in three ways: we pray, fast, and do
acts of kindness.
By doing these things we grow in love of God and other people.

Bible reading: **From the Gospel of Mark 1:12-15**

Reader: The Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the desert.
He was there for 40 days and was tempted by the devil.
He was with the wild animals, and the angels looked after him.
Then Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.
He said, "Repent! The kingdom of God is near. Believe the Good News!"

The Gospel of the Lord **R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Bible Reflection

We suggest this is delivered by a teacher / chaplain.

Q. Can you remember how long Jesus was in the desert?

40 days and nights. While he was in the desert, Jesus stayed close to God, his Father, by praying and fasting from food. Jesus was preparing for his work of bringing the Good News to people.

Q. What else have we heard about today that lasts 40 days?

Lent. Jesus was in the desert the same length of time that we spend in Lent. During Lent, we too try to stay close to God by praying, fasting, and doing acts of kindness and charity.

Q. In the Gospel we heard that Jesus proclaimed the Good News in Galilee. What was the Good News that Jesus was proclaiming?

The Good News that God is very near to us. Jesus meant that God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus to live with us, and Jesus is our friend and teacher. This is the Good News Jesus wants everyone to know and share.

Q. What else did Jesus tell the people in Galilee to do? He used an unusual verb that begins with 'R'.

Jesus told people to repent. 'Repent' means to change behaviours that prevent us from loving as we should. Behaviour like selfishness or meanness. When we change from being selfish or mean, we put God and other people first, then we are helping to build God's kingdom of love and peace.

With Jesus beside us, we can step into Lent with hearts full of love and courage. We can grow closer to God with our prayers, fasting and acts of kindness and charity. In these ways we get ready to celebrate Easter.

Mission Together is Pope Francis' charity that asks children to help children living in poverty overseas through prayer and sharing. What better way to prepare for Easter than to show the world God's love by praying and sharing for Mission Together this Lent?

As a class, discuss what you will do this Lent. Use the Mission Together Lent calendar to help. At the end of this liturgy there are also some fundraising ideas.



Prayers of Intercession

Reader: The response to our prayer is: **Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, help us to grow closer to you this Lent. May we do our best to spend more time with you in prayer and follow the example of your Son, Jesus, so that we might share your love with everyone, everywhere. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we ask for forgiveness for the times we have put ourselves before other people. May our prayers and sacrifices this Lent help us to be forgiving like you. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray that we may be kind with our time and our gifts during Lent, knowing that even small things can make a big difference. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for the children, families, and staff in our school. May we always see in each other the love you have for us. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: Heavenly Father, we pray for children overseas whom Mission Together helps: those who are scared, sad or lonely and those who are homeless, sick, or who are refugees. May they find hope in your love and may we always be ready to help them. We pray to the Lord. **R/ Lord, hear us.**

Reader: We end our prayers by saying together the ***Mission Together Prayer.***

**May all children
in the world
share love
share friendship and live
in the peace
of God's love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Fundraising ideas



Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio – the Catholic Church's official children's charity for overseas mission. Thanks to children in England and Wales, we can provide life-changing aid around the world in whatever form it's needed. That could be a new school, feeding programme, or a generator for a children's home. Mission Together helps all children, regardless of background or beliefs. That's how we show the all-embracing nature of the Catholic Church and the true meaning of 'mission'.

Fundraising is a brilliant way to involve everyone in raising money for Mission Together. Below are a few Lenten ideas but you can find other ways to get involved throughout the year by visiting our webpage <https://missiontogether.org.uk/fundraising-ideas/>

Please **share your** fundraising events with us @missioUK adding the hashtag #missiontogether

Ideas for Spring term

For ideas that require a prize, maybe your Governing body could donate a small something?

Pancake races: hold a Pancake Day event with race, with a small entry fee. Everyone gets to enjoy their pancakes after the fun – as long as they didn't drop them!

Pancake flip fundraiser: If lockdown measures prevent the traditional pancake race, try a Fundraising Pancake Flip. With an Easter Egg prize, pupils are invited to evidence their flipping skills online. Either request a participation fee or perhaps a donation per flip?

Spring flower sale: everyone loves the first signs of spring after winter! Why not pot some spring bulbs – snowdrops, mini daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths to sell to parents as Easter gifts?

Sponsored give something up: encourage pupils to give something up for Lent and either donate the money they save or get sponsored to do it. Alternatively, children can offer to take on extra chores or responsibilities in Lent for a donation to Mission Together.

Springtime Scavenger hunt: this is a great outdoor activity! Print off some sheets with springtime things to spot e.g. Snowdrops or crocus, tree buds, birdsong and birds nesting, cherry blossom. You can tailor the items to whatever suits your space and environment. Charge pupils to enter. Either get pupils to tick the items off or take pictures to prove they've found them! Every complete scavenger sheet is placed in a hat, with the pulled out winner receiving a prize.

Lent through a Lens: Run a photo competition for KS2. Challenge pupils to capture images of springtime. Charge for entry and provide a prize for the winner(s). Perhaps introduce different categories e.g. wildlife, nature, people. You could even have a category for grown up competitors!

Easter bonnet competition: charge pupils to enter a competition for the best Easter bonnet. Prizes for the most fabulous fashionista creations! Alternatively you could get everyone involved in egg painting or Easter cake designs, and sell them after for extra fundraising!

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