

Monday 5th March 2024  
Third Week in Lent



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“Take all of this out of here and stop turning my  
Father’s house into a market

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables.



He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.



“I believe that when it comes to the house of God, he doesn't take it for play. He values his temple. .... If you go to his temple with a dirty heart, or without forgiving somebody... holding grudges against your friend... your heart is not clear and you are not purified.”

The money changers and sellers are exploiting pilgrims who come to Jerusalem to worship. They make profit out of people's piety and change the Temple from a place of prayer to one of commerce.

Jesus is outraged. He will not have holiness become just another commodity that is sold.



Let us pray

Creator God, we pray for our world where so many people struggle to live in peace. We pray for those who have to search every day for food or walk long distances for clean water. We pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. We remember those who have fled their homes in fear, especially the people of Ukraine and Gaza. We thank you, for all the people around the world who are trying to bring about cease fires and peace agreements. Soften hardened hearts and help all sides to compromise.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**



Loving God, we thank you for those people who sustain us by their love, kindness and forgiveness. Thank you for the people with whom our lives are linked and who make up the fabric of our family and community life. Make us alert to each other's needs and quick to serve and encourage one another. May our gentleness with each other reflect your grace and gentleness with us.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**



In today's gospel we read how Jesus drove out the changers and the dealers from the Temple in Jerusalem. As Christians we recognise that each one of us are temples of God's love and pray that we too have the strength to drive out all unnecessary material thoughts and actions from our lives.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer next to a large cross against a sunset sky. The person is positioned to the right of the cross, with their head bowed and hands clasped. The cross is a simple, bold shape. The sky is filled with warm, orange and yellow light from the setting sun, with some darker clouds. The overall mood is solemn and reflective.

ON EARTH AS IT IS



## Reflection

God of wisdom,  
help us to build meaningful  
relationships with one another,  
with the earth and with you,  
so that together we may  
build a fairer world and  
proclaim to all people the  
greatness of your love.  
Amen.