

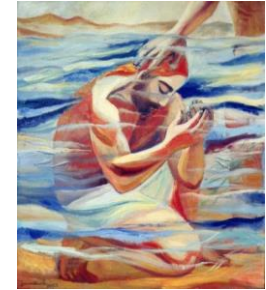
St Mary's C of E First Academy

The life of Jesus

Spring 1



Week 1	Epiphany (Incarnation)
Week 2	Jesus' childhood - Jesus grew up (Incarnation/Gospel)
Week 3	Preparation for ministry (Gospel/Kingdom of God)
Week 4	Purpose: why did Jesus come? (Gospel/Kingdom of God)
Week 5	Jesus heals - different types of healing (Gospel/Kingdom of God)
Week 6	Teachings of Jesus (Gospel/Kingdom of God)



The life of Jesus

These plans are based on the stories taken from the 'Gospel' panel from the Understanding Christianity © Big Frieze.

The stories are taken from passages across the 4 gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and are in chronological order as far as possible. I hope that by exploring these stories through worship, everyone will have a better understanding of the Gospel message that Jesus brought when he came to earth as God in human form (Incarnation)

Collective Worship Plan

The Life of Jesus - Gospel					
Liturgy 1 color	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 Epiphany	Wise men visit Mary and Joseph Matthew 2: 1-12 6th January is the celebration in the Christian calendar called Epiphany. This is when the Christian church remembers when the wise men came to visit Jesus. The word 'Epiphany' comes from Greek and means 'manifestation'. It celebrates 'the revelation of God in his Son as human in Jesus Christ'. What other word do Christians use to describe God in human form as Jesus? Incarnation. Retell the story of the wise men visiting Jesus from Matthew 2:1-12 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22SMUUMsx0o You could use this video clip. Or use this or similar piece of artwork to discuss the what the children know about this story.  The wise men came from lands far away from Bethlehem. they did not worship the God of the Israelites, yet God chose them to bring worship and special gifts to Jesus which we will think more about in the next act of worship. I wonder what important message the visit of the Magi (wise men) has for us. (God sent his son Jesus to Earth for everyone, not just the Israelites).	Gifts from the East - prophecy about who Jesus is. Matthew 2: 11 I wonder if you like giving gifts to people Think back to a few weeks ago, how did it feel when someone opened a present you had bought or made for them? When Jesus was still a baby, he was visited by some very special people, who brought him some unusual gifts. I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt when they arrived and presented Jesus with Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh <i>The gifts were symbolic of the importance of Jesus' birth, the gold representing his royal standing; frankincense his divine birth; and myrrh his mortality.</i> I wonder if you think that these are normal gifts to give to a baby. I wonder what these gifts might tell us about who Jesus was going to be? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y2ckzOIJA&t=63s I wonder what gifts we might offer to Jesus.	Mary and Joseph escape to Egypt Matthew 2: 13- 16 <i>'That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and child to Egypt.'</i> 2:14 Retell or explain to the children what happened when the Wise Men left Mary and Joseph.  This picture shows Mary and Joseph entering into a land that was completely alien to them. Give the children time to reflect on it. what do they notice about image. I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt entering and then living in a place so different to where they had come from. Share together. It might well have been really hard, scary and difficult for them to get used to another culture and language. Are there any similar situations in our world today? <i>If you have families who have had to flee their homes in your school be sensitive to their feelings when exploring this image and story. Change the reflection below to suit the context of your school.</i> Reflect on the millions of people across the world who have to leave their home and live in an alien place. What could we do as a community to support, love and include everyone? Pray together for all those who are working to support Refugees around the world and here in Britain.	Singing Worship Whole school use this prayer to close your time of prayer together. <i>Lord, make me an instrument of your peace Where there is hatred, let me sow love Where there is injury, pardon Where there is doubt, faith Where there is despair, hope Where there is darkness, light And where there is sadness, joy</i> Amen.	Celebration Worship You could use this as a time to celebrate the diversity of cultures within your school community and locality as appropriate. Father God, yours is a world made glorious by its rich diversity. Give us the patience to build on what unites us, to celebrate our differences and to learn from them. Give us the courage to offer refuge to those in need, to challenge prejudice and seek justice for all. Help us see that you created us in your image. Neighbour or stranger, always our brother or sister. Amen.

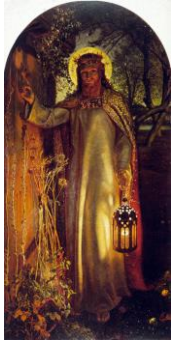
Collective Worship Plan

Week 2 <i>Jesus' Childhood</i>	Mary and Joseph present Jesus in the temple. Saying thank you for our families. Luke 2: 21-24 Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple, which was part of their Jewish custom. They thanked God for their baby and offered a sacrifice of two doves in thanks to God for baby Jesus. https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0114plq I wonder what your parents did when you were born. I wonder what they did to celebrate. Christians today thank God for their babies during the service of baptism or thanksgiving. I wonder if you have thanked God for your family and siblings/cousins etc. Allow the children time to reflect on and think about their family, whatever it might look like, and all the things they are grateful for. This Psalm is often used to pray a blessing over ourselves and those we love. God ordered his angels to guard <i>my family</i> wherever you go. If they stumble, they'll catch <i>my family</i>: their job is to keep you from falling. Psalm 91 verses 11-12 Close your time of worship by inviting children and adults to say thank you prayers for those in their family, whatever this might look like.	Simeon meets Jesus Blessing - Waiting for the Messiah Luke 2: 25 - 35 There is a lot of waiting in the Christmas story - can you think of people who had to wait? God's people had waited a long time for the promised Messiah, and then finally Jesus was born, but hardly anyone knew about him or who he was. When Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the Temple they met a man named Simeon. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mrhyc-FbuY Who was Simeon? Simeon was a man who followed God and was waiting for God's promised Messiah to come to Earth. The Bible tells us that as soon as Simeon saw the baby Jesus, he knew it was the promised Messiah. I wonder how he knew. This is quite a remarkable thing! There must have been something very special about Jesus for Simeon to know he was the Messiah. I wonder what you think Simeon meant when he said: 'Your mighty power is a light for all nations, and it will bring honour to your people Israel.' v33 Mary and Joseph were surprised at what Simeon said and amazed. I wonder how they felt when they heard all these things about their baby. Simeon had waited a long time for the Messiah, but finally God had kept his promise. It isn't easy to wait for things. I wonder if you are waiting for anything. We can ask God to help us to be patient like Simeon and trust in God that he does hear our prayers for his help.	Jesus in the temple - what does this tell us about Jesus? Luke 2: 41-52 You could watch this video from 1.33 to the end. It tells the story of Jesus getting lost and being found in the temple. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2Z06a6VmV4 Try acting this story out with your class. I wonder how Mary and Joseph might have been feeling when they couldn't find Jesus and then when they found him in the Temple? v48 'your father and I have been very worried about you.' I wonder why everyone was so surprised. Why do you think Jesus was so knowledgeable? v47 'Everyone who heard him was surprised at how much he knew and the answers he gave.' I wonder what Jesus meant when he said, 'Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?' v52 Jesus became wise and he grew strong. The Bible says that Jesus grew in wisdom and strength. Use this verse as a prayer - ask God to bless each child to grow as Jesus did, in wisdom and strength	Thursday Whole School singing worship	Celebration Worship This week we have been learning about times in Jesus' early life when God watched over Jesus, blessed him and helped him to grow. Pray that this might be the case for us: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmylZ7Cj7Hs The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; The Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace (Numbers 6:24-26)
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Collective Worship Plan

Week 3 <i>Jesus prepares for his ministry</i>	John the Baptist prepares the way – following the example of John Luke 3: 1- 20 I wonder if you can remember one of the stories from before Christmas. We learnt about a man Zachariah and his wife Elizabeth. I wonder what you can remember of this story. (Luke 1:5-23) Like Jesus, John grew up and began teaching people about God, so he could prepare the way for the coming Messiah. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= O084K9RuF0 This video clip clearly explains who John the Baptist was and the message he was sharing with people. I wonder what job was givn to John by God and why people called him John the BAPTIST. v11 John says ... “If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn’t have any. If you have food, share it with someone else.” I wonder what this means and how this was similar to the ‘Good News’ that Jesus brought to the world. I wonder how you could be like John. I wonder how we might share the good news message that John and then Jesus brought. Maybe through our actions? Pray together – Ask God to help us to be generous and share what we have so that others will better understand the good news that Jesus brought.	Baptism of Jesus Luke 3: 21-22   Look at these images together. I wonder what Bible story we are going to be looking at today. What strikes you in these images? Read the passage of Jesus’ baptism together. https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustration/s/john-baptist-jesus/ I wonder what things in this story are amazing or unusual. I wonder why these things happened and what they tell us about Jesus. I wonder why Jesus wanted to get baptised.	Baptism of Jesus – saying sorry Luke 3:21-22 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88JYcN2-FiQ This video clip recaps the story of John and Jesus. You might like to do a mini quiz about what they know from the birth stories to the baptism of Jesus Who has had a wash today or last night? Why did you do that? Why do we wash our clothes? Could we do these things without water? Christians today, like they did in Bible times, believe that when they get baptised they become a new person, someone who has ‘washed’ away their old life and all the things that they have done wrong. <i>“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”</i> 2 Corinthians 5:17 I wonder if there is anything you would like to say sorry for, something you would like to wash away. God promises that when we say sorry, he will ‘wash away’ all the things we are sorry for. You might like to take this metaphor of washing away things we have done wrong, by washing something dirty in front of the children. You could listen to or sing this song together. You forgive me by Lifetree kids. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO-2fm7IKcU	Jesus begins his work on Earth – sharing the good news (Gospel) Luke 4: 16-22 Today’s story from the Bible explains what Jesus did when he first began his job of spreading God’s good news message. He went to the synagogue to read from the scriptures (The Torah). He read some passages from Isaiah, which are prophecies about the Messiah. <i>“The Spirit of the Lord is in me. This is because God chose me to tell the Good News to the poor. God sent me to tell the prisoners of sin that they are free, and to tell the blind that they can see again. Isaiah 61:1 God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly, Isaiah 58:6 and to announce the time when the Lord will show kindness to his people.” Isaiah 61:2</i> I wonder why Jesus chose to read these passages out loud in front of all those who were listening. Jesus then said to all those who were listening <i>“What you have just heard me read has come true today.”</i> I wonder what Jesus might have meant by this? Christians have always tried to follow the example of Jesus by caring for those who most need help and kindness. I wonder how you might follow this example. Look at the statements that Jesus made again – I wonder which example you might be able to do or follow. You might like to listen to this song together Help me be your eyes Lord Jesus by Doug Horley. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA0LEP3T1gQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N94BBGiq_vQ (with actions) <i>(Be aware it does include the line ‘Lord I love you’)</i>	Celebration Worship Celebrate those who have shown that they understand the example of Jesus in the context of school life: <i>God’s Spirit is on me; he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor, Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, “This is God’s time to shine!”</i> (Luke 4 from The Message)
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Collective Worship Plan

Week 4 <i>Purpose: Why did Jesus come?</i>	Prophecy foretold – Jesus the light of the world Matthew 4: 15-17 Today we are going to read another prophecy from Isaiah (we read one at the last week too). It is amazing that God was sharing the promise of the Messiah almost 700 years before Jesus was born! Share verses 14-16 with the children; ‘So God’s promise came true, just as the prophet Isaiah had said’ ... I wonder who this prophecy is pointing to, who is the bright light that will shine on everyone. What is the bright light going to do? (Shine light into the darkness) I wonder what the ‘darkness’ is. I wonder how this makes you feel knowing that Jesus came to bring light, joy and hope into the ‘dark’ areas.  Spend some time reflecting on this image, Light of the World by William Holman Hunt. I wonder what you can see/notice. After some quiet reflection, pray together. Ask God to send his light and hope into the ‘dark’ places in our lives and the world.	Jesus calls the disciples – who do you follow? Matthew 4: 18-22 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VqTwnAuHws You could watch this video together. What does it show? (A team working together to play something beautiful in an unconventional way.) Working in a team is a great thing. Jesus knew that, so he had to get a team around him as he had a lot of work to do on earth. I wonder what the word disciple means. This was the name given to those who followed Jesus. https://thebricktestament.com/the_life_of_jesus/peter_andrew_james_and_john/mt04_22.html Alternatively, gather some children to act out the story of Jesus calling his first disciples. I wonder what amazes you about this story. (The fishermen just followed Jesus, they didn’t ask any questions ...) I wonder what you would ask Jesus and the disciples during and after this event had happened. I wonder what might have been so special about Jesus that they would want to follow him. I wonder who you might follow and why? Reflect on those you follow. Are they a good influence on your life? Christians believe that Jesus is the best person to follow as he gave an excellent example of how to life a good life. I wonder what particular example of Jesus you might follow.	The miraculous catch of fish – follow the example of Jesus Luke 5: 1-11 Who has been fishing? How easy is it? What do you need to be a successful fisherman? (correct equipment, patience, water!). Today we are going to reading a story from the Bible about fishing. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F120aeswBxQ I wonder what you think a miracle might be? Jesus performed many miracles, I wonder why. (To show the glory of God to those around, to help them understand more of the nature of God so they may feel they could put their trust and faith in him.) I wonder what this showed Peter about Jesus. I wonder why Jesus performed this miracle. I wonder what this story might teach you about Jesus. (suggestion: he provides what people need) I wonder how you could follow the example Jesus set. I wonder who could you help and provide for day by day. 	Wedding at Cana – follow the example of Jesus John: 1-11 Who has been to a wedding? What happened there? Jesus went to a wedding with his Mum and disciples. Retell the story of the wedding at Cana and the miracle Jesus performed. <i>(Try illustrating the water turning into wine – have 2 jugs, a clear one filled with water and another jug you can’t see through with blackcurrant squash at the bottom. Then when you pour the water from one jug to another, it will turn into ‘wine’. Then pour the wine into an empty glass for the children to see.)</i> What was your reaction when the water turned into wine? I wonder what the bridegroom and his family thought when the best wine came out at the end of the wedding. Why do you think Jesus performed this miracle? I wonder what this story tells you about Jesus? (Suggestions: Jesus was human just like us, went to weddings etc. Cared for people as it would have been very embarrassing for the family if the wine had run out. He provided what was needed) This song expresses what Christians believe about the God that lived on earth as Jesus https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnTf4sMIKtw	Celebration Worship Invite the children to take an image of stone jar. Give them time to reflect on a place in the world or local area that needs something provided for them. (food, help, a home, peace, safety) Then pray together, asking God to hear our prayers and provide for those we have thought about. Place the stone jars in a basket or bowl and place them in your reflection areas as a reminder to keep praying for these people/places. 
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Collective Worship Plan

Week 5 Jesus heals	Jesus heals the leper – pray for the Leprosy Mission. Mark 1: 40 – 45 I wonder when you were last off school for a couple of days because you were poorly. Were you pleased to come back to school? Imagine that you were so poorly you couldn't come back to school or live in your house anymore. This is often what happens when people develop a terrible condition called leprosy. Many people suffered with it in Bible times, but there are still people today with it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tc8l_bv1-1Y&feature=emb_logo If you feel it is appropriate, watch this video that explains about the problems people still face today who have leprosy. Jesus met many people who had leprosy. They were all incredibly sad as they had to live on the outskirts of the town as people thought they could catch it if they went near or touched them. They could not be with their families, friends or go to work. Tell the story https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WbAt1XTPf58 v41: 'Jesus felt sorry for the man, So he put his hand on him...' 'Instantly he was healed.' I wonder why Jesus put his hand on the man to heal him. I wonder what this tells you about Jesus. Pray together for the work of the leprosy mission. Ask God to take care of those who have leprosy, to help those who care for those suffering and for those who educate communities about the treatment and care of those with leprosy. You can find out more about the work the leprosy mission does here. https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/ https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/get-involved/resources/6/Childrens-Resources There are some prayers and follow up activities on here.	Jesus heals the paralysed man – helping others Luke 5: 17-26 <i>"Massive crowds continually gathered to hear Jesus and to be healed."</i> Everywhere Jesus went, people would follow him just to get close to hear his message. The story today is one of these days when huge crowds had gathered. You might like to watch this video or act out the story of Jesus healing the paralysed man. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LqHYKGU4Zg <i>"My friend, your sins are forgiven; get up and walk."</i> What difference did Jesus make to this man's life? He went away thanking and praising God. I wonder what he might have said to Jesus after he had been healed. The paralysed man's friends went the extra mile for him. They brought him to Jesus because they knew he could be healed. Without the help of his friends, the paralysed man would have stayed paralysed and couldn't have lived a full life. I wonder what kind of friend you are. I wonder what you would do for your friends if they needed your help. I wonder if you would go the extra mile to help them, like the friends in the Bible story? Reflect together on the type of friend you are and how you might be able to be an even better one. <i>Pray together – Thank you God for my friends and the care they show me. Help us to be better friends and to go the extra mile for each of my friends. Amen.</i> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p8x2eK4Sfy I am a friend of God. You might like to sing or listen to this song. 	Jesus heals blind men – have faith Matthew 9:27-31 I wonder why Jesus healed people. (Matthew 9: 35 – 'Wherever he went he demonstrated God's power by healing every kind of disease and illness.') What does this tell you about Jesus? (suggestion: cared for people, showed compassion, didn't like to see people suffering) Share today's story with the children, it is quite a short one, but describes how Jesus healed two blind men, who had great faith. <i>"Do you believe? ..."</i> <i>"Yes we believe!"</i> They both had huge faith in Jesus and knew that he would heal them. I wonder where their faith came from. I wonder what it means to say you have faith in someone. What difference did Jesus make in the lives of the 2 people in the Bible passage. I wonder if he still makes this difference today. https://www.cbmun.org.uk/what-we-do/saving-sight/ CBM is a Christian charity which supports some of the poorest communities around the world. They train up doctors and nurses to treat those who have become blind in special clinics funded by the charity. (Explain that many of the people they help have become blind due to infections or cataracts, rather than were born blind.) The people who started this charity had faith in God to help them raise the money and begin the work across the world. Thousands of people have been healed through their work. <i>Pray together for the work of CBM and ask God to continue to bless their work to support those who have become blind due to poor health or diseases.</i>	Jesus showed compassion - praying for others. Matthew 9:35-36 v36: <i>When he saw the vast crowds of people, Jesus' heart was deeply moved with compassion, because they seemed weary and helpless...</i> What does compassion mean? (A feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.) Can you give me an example of when you have been compassionate to others? What do these verses tell you about Jesus? These verses remind me of when I see the hundreds of homeless people who live on the streets in our towns and cities. Like Jesus, I feel deeply moved and filled with compassion. However, I do sometimes feel really hopeless and unsure how to help. I wonder what situations fill you with compassion. I wonder if you feel a bit helpless sometimes too. I wonder what we could do to help. Luke 5:16 – 'But Jesus often slipped away from them and went into the wilderness to pray.' The Bible says to bring all situations to God in prayer, sometimes this is all we can do. I wonder what things we could pray for. (Safety, food, help, shelter, medical care, love, for those who help homeless people.) Invite the children to write post it note prayers using some of the ideas from above. Then stick the prayers around images of the homeless people throughout the world and place them in your prayer/reflection space. You could also add some thoughts about how we could help those living on our own streets. 	Celebration Worship I wonder what you have learnt about Jesus this week. I wonder how you could follow the example he gave. I wonder if you could thank someone in school for being like Jesus for you this week.
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Collective Worship Plan

Week 6: Lent

JESUS IS TEMPTED Matthew 4:1-11



At the start of his three-year public ministry, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Immediately afterwards he went into the desert of Judea, where he remained for forty days, not eating or drinking at all ('fasting'). He needed to be quiet, to be alone and to pray at the start of the work for which God had sent him. He was tempted to use his powers to make people follow him; he was tempted to do things the easy way and not God's way, but he did not acquiesce.

Think about the Bible account:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc-x4-qKX6Wc>

or Bible images

<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-014-jesus-temptation/>

I wonder how Jesus resisted the temptations put to him? I wonder how we can resist doing wrong things if tempted in different ways?

Dear God, may Lent be a time of quiet and reflection that makes me more able to look with honesty at myself and with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Songs for the week

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/z6qshbk>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/articles/zd89jfr>

SHROVE TUESDAY Daniel 9:3

This Bible verse refers to Daniel, who chose to stay to God by fasting which is one of the ways in which some Christians mark Lent.



This looks a bit like a pancake, doesn't it?! In the past, people were supposed to use up all the rich foods in their kitchen, such as butter and eggs, before Lent starts, which is why we have pancakes. This was to prepare to fast during Lent and, in this way, to come closer to God. Explore the idea of pancakes in the way that suits you best!

During the 40 days of Lent, people who are Christians sometimes choose to give up something that they really like (reflecting the idea of 'fasting'), such as chocolate, or TV, or computer games. I wonder how doing this over Lent relates to the episode of Jesus in the wilderness from yesterday? I wonder if we could give up some of the ways in which we behave that are not as loving or kind as they could be?

On this Shrove Tuesday, Lord help us to enjoy and give thanks to you for the very many good things you provide for us and remind us to share your gifts with others. And as Lent begins, prepare our hearts and minds to reflect upon the temptation of Jesus for 40 days and nights and what that might mean for us. **Amen**

ASH WEDNESDAY Psalm 103: 13-14

Your school may mark Ash Wednesday in particular ways in partnership with your local church. The traditions of Ash Wednesday for some Christians are also explored here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQQ04WHzhCcI>



Living in ways which help Christians to draw nearer to God during is often hard work, because as human beings, we often find it easier to think about ourselves. But as we have learnt from the life and teaching of Jesus in our collective worship times, this is the example and challenge which we have been set. I wonder how we can set challenges for ourselves and our school community this Lent?

Say these words to encourage and challenge each other:

"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."
[attributed to hymn-writer John Wesley]

MY RESPONSE TO LENT Matthew 4:1-11



Christians see Lent as a time to stop and take stock of life and to make resolutions to do better in future. I wonder why they think that this is a good idea? I wonder if we can make some resolutions for the period from now up to Easter and check regularly to see if we are keeping them?

A very simple prayer/reflection space could be created with an empty bowl to represent what we are giving up to be filled with the things we are going to take up for Lent with some simple words of encouragement (possibly the words from Wednesday's worship)

CELEBRATE

The ways in which we have been encouraged by those around us this week



The good news is that we're not doing this alone: we have others around us to help us, and we can encourage one another to keep doing good.....We can ask God to help us too

*Loving God, Help us to work together to share what we have, so that everyone has what they need. Help us to build a better world, where each of us can become the best person we can be. Help us to live differently during this season of Lent. **Amen***

[based on a prayer written by CAFOD]