# CHILDRENS' SACRED SPACE

Trōcaire

## FIFTH WEEK OF LENT
### GOSPEL (JN 12: 20-33)

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**
Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him.

"Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

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

**ACTIVITY**

Think of how you can be more like Jesus each day of this week ahead....Holy Week. Write down your ideas on a chart as you brainstorm about different ways you can act like Jesus did from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday....eg courageous, brave, hopeful, forgiving and helpful!

**PRAYER**

*Holy God, like the grain of wheat, teach us to never lose hope and to always hope for the best in times of trouble. I hope that Mahlet and her family will one day live in peace and comfort with no troubles. Amen.*

### MAHLET'S STORY

Mahlet loves school. She says "School is the centre of knowledge. If you are knowledgeable, you will grow. I would like to study medicine to be a doctor and to help my family and my country." When Mahlet is hungry, it is difficult for her to concentrate at school. If she has water to drink, and to grow her crops, she is more likely to do well in school. Hopefully when she grows up, she will fulfil her wish and become a doctor.

**QUESTIONS**

- In today's Gospel, God calls us to serve. How can we serve others better?
- What sort of occupations serve people? Do you know anybody who serves others?
- How does Mahlet serve people?

**DID YOU KNOW**

Homes in Ethiopia are generally a traditional round hut called a Tukul. The floor is dirt, the walls are either sticks and/or mud, and the roof is made out of a long grass called Tef.

## PALM SUNDAY
### GOSPEL (MK 11:1-10)
### (PROCESSION GOSPEL WITH PALMS)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**
When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" So they went off and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them,

"What are you doing, untying the donkey?" They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the donkey to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!
Hosanna in the highest!"

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

**QUESTIONS**

- What animal did Jesus ride to get to Jerusalem?
- What did the people do when they saw Jesus? And Why?
- What do you think 'Hosanna' means? (save/ save us)
- Why do you think people were so cruel to Jesus

### MAHLET'S STORY

Mahlet and her brother look after their family's animals. They like to care for the animals. The animals provide meat and milk. Samuel and Mahlet prepare cactus for the sheep to eat. Before school, they de spine the cactus using fire. After school they chop up the cactus and give it to the sheep.

**DID YOU KNOW**

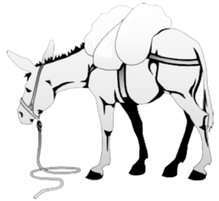
Ethiopia has the second largest number of donkeys in the world. Nearly five million donkeys live there. They carry people and also transport goods like building supplies, food, wood, maize and hay.

**PRAYER**

*Dear Jesus, Help us to welcome you into our lives like the people on the streets did in today's Gospel. Show us how to be brave and to trust in you even when we doubt you. Hosanna!*

**ACTIVITY**

Colour in



HOSANNA

## FIRST WEEK OF LENT
### GOSPEL (MK 1:12-15)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**
Right away God's Spirit made Jesus go into the desert. He stayed there for forty days while Satan tested him. Jesus was with the wild animals, but angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God.

He said, "The time has come! God's kingdom will soon be here.
Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

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

### MAHLET'S STORY

Mahlet is 13 years and lives in a small village in northern Ethiopia. She enjoys going to school and reading. She helps her father look after the animals on their small farm. Very little rain has fallen in Mahlet's village in the last year. There is very little grass for the animals to eat. Mahlet walks with the animals for hours to find grass to graze. As she walks, she also reads.

**QUESTIONS**

- Do you like school as much as Mahlet?
- Jesus was in the desert with the wild animals and Mahlet helps to take care of her families animals.....do you have any animals at home? How do you take care of them?
- What are you giving up for Lent? Why?

**DID YOU KNOW**

Ethiopia has its own calendar which has 13 months!

**PRAYER**

*We pray for our new friend Mahlet and her animals and family. That Jesus' strength in the wilderness will give them the courage to remain strong, healthy and happy when times are tough. Amen*

**ACTIVITY**

Draw a picture of what you are giving up for Lent. Cut it out and put ribbon on it. Write your Lenten promise on the back of the picture. Hang your promise on a branch and display it for everyone to see.

# SECOND WEEK OF LENT

## GOSPEL (MK 9:2-10)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**
Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him. They went up on a high mountain, where they could be alone. There in front of the disciples, Jesus was completely changed. And his clothes became much whiter than any bleach on earth could make them. Then Moses and Elijah were there talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good for us to be here! Let us make three shelters, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But Peter and the others were terribly frightened, and he did not know what he was talking about. The shadow of a cloud passed over and covered them. From the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!"

At once the disciples looked around, but they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and his disciples were coming down the mountain, he told them not to say a word about what they had seen, until the Son of Man had been raised from death. So they kept it to themselves.
But they wondered what he meant by the words "raised from death."

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

## MAHLET'S STORY

Mahlet lives in a village called Sebeya. This is in a mountainous area on the border between two countries, Ethiopia and Eritrea. It probably looks like the mountain Jesus went up. The elders in her village tell her that Sebeya once had trees, grass and swampy areas. Animals could graze and people could grow lots of crops. She imagines what it would have been like then. Today, there is very little green in her village. The land is dry and dusty. Animals wander high up into the mountains to get food. Farmers find it difficult to grow food in the dry soil. Soon, Mahlet's community will get a new water system which will collect rain water in the mountains and bring it to their village. This will bring lots of new life to the village. Fields will be green. Plants will grow. Animals and people will have enough water and food to grow and be healthy.

### QUESTIONS

- Why were Peter and the others so afraid on the Mountain?
- What other things might we find on a mountain if we went up there?
- Do you think Mahlet's community are looking forward to their new water system? Why?

### MEDITATION

**(Guided Meditation)**
**Read slowly with long pauses.**
Ask the children to find a comfortable place and to close their eyes. Now take a deep in-breath. When you breathe back out, feel your body relaxing. Take two more breaths like this...In...and Out... Deep breathe in and relax your legs as you breathe out. Deep breathe in and relax your arms and head as you breathe out. Feel the old stale air move down your arms and legs and out through your finger tips and toes.

Reach your hands out and let your finger-tips touch the ground. Imagine roots growing out of your finger tips and into the ground beneath you...through the floor, and deep into the earth. What does your roots sound like? Imagine your roots stretching across the world. Suddenly it gets more difficult for your roots to grow. The ground becomes hard and dusty. You put all your energy into pushing those roots onwards until you reach the surface..... you suddenly realise you are in Ethiopia where Mahlet lives. The sun feels warm on your face and you can smell coffee in the air. Mahlet appears beside you and she begins to show you around her village.....there are loads of high mountains around you and a dry dusty road ahead.

A donkey walks past you carrying a heavy load on his back on his way to market with his owner following behind. A villager passes by with a herd of goats and nods at you saying 'Selam' which means 'Hello' in Tigrinya. You and Mahlet continue to walk together along the same road the donkey has travelled. Mahlet points and waves to her father working in the fields, watering his crops. You keep walking along the road and pass her house. Her mum is outside washing pots and cooking utensils and she stops to wave over at you also. Further up the road you see three people sitting under a tree.

As you pass by you hear that they are praying and reading from the Bible. As you keep walking up the road Mahlet explains that she must leave because she has to help her parents take care of the animals. She waves goodbye to you and turns to go leave. You stand and watch as she skips back home, further and further into the distance on the dusty road. When you are ready, open your eyes and take a deep breath and a stretch.

- What did Mahlet's Village look like in your mind?
- How did you feel when you met the local villagers?
- What struck you the most about your visit to Sebeya village?

# THIRD WEEK OF LENT

## GOSPEL (JN 2:13-22)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**
Not long before the Jewish festival of Passover, Jesus went to Jerusalem. There he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves in the temple. He also saw moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he took some rope and made a whip. Then he chased everyone out of the temple, together with their sheep and cattle. He turned over the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins. Jesus said to the people who had been selling doves, "Get those doves out of here! Don't make my Father's house a marketplace." The disciples then remembered that the Scriptures say, "My love for your house burns in me like a fire." The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, "What miracle will you work to show us why you have done this?" "Destroy this temple," Jesus answered, "and in three days I will build it again!" The leaders replied, "It took forty-six years to build this temple. What makes you think you can rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as a temple. And when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered what he had told them.
Then they believed the Scriptures and the words of Jesus.

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

## MAHLET'S STORY

Mahlet's family often go to the market in their local village. They walk there. They do not have a car. They do not use a large amount of fossil fuels. Their lifestyle does not have a harmful impact on our environment. Yet, their environment is suffering because of Climate Change. Sometimes we do not realise that the harm we cause to our environment affects others.

### QUESTIONS

- In what way do we sometimes harm the environment around us?
- What changes can we make in our lives today to help the environment?
- Jesus said he could rebuild the temple in three days. If you had three days to help save the world from Climate Change....what would you do?

### ACTIVITY

Create a 'Superhero' badge that can be worn for the week ahead. Everybody must commit to doing one good thing for the environment...eg (turning off the lights every time they leave the room). Simply cut out the 'Superhero Badge', write your commitment, colour it in bright colours, stick a safety pin to the back of it and wear it with honour for the week!

### PRAYER

Dear Creator, thank you for creating the world! You made the world for us so that we could live and enjoy it. We are sorry for not always appreciating this. Help us to think about how our actions can sometimes harm the world and affect others like Mahlet and her family. Amen

### DID YOU KNOW

Coffee originated in a place called Kaffa in Ethiopia.

# FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

## GOSPEL (JN 3:16-17)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**
Jesus told Nicodemus: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die. God did not send his Son into the world to judge its people. He sent him to save them!"

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

## MAHLET'S STORY

It has not rained in Mahlet's village in a long time. Last year it rained just three times. This has made life difficult at times for her family. Without water their crops have failed and everybody, including the animals, has experienced hunger. Soon, the water tank that is being built in their village will ensure that everybody will get water. When the rains come, the tank will save the water. This water will give life to plants, animals and people in Mahlet's community.

### ACTIVITY

Find the following in the word search opposite: FAITH, JESUS, JUDGE, LIFE, MAHLET, RAIN, SAVE, WATER.

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### QUESTIONS

- Have you ever judged somebody?
- What does God ask us to do instead of judging others?
- Do you think it would be difficult to live in Ireland if it rained just three times in the year? What/Who would be affected the most?
- How much water do you use every day? (eg. Brushing Teeth, drinking, cooking etc)

### PRAYER

Holy God, thank you for the plants and trees around us. Thank you for the food that we eat and the water that we drink. We pray that every child across the world will not be hungry or thirsty. Amen

### DID YOU KNOW

Ethiopia is the only country in Africa with its own alphabet.