



DIocese OF SHREWSBURY EDUCATION SERVICE

- committed to encouraging 'fullness of life'

GOSPEL REFLECTIONS YEAR B Pack 2

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Additional Resources:

- Tom Wright - Mark for Everyone (SPCK)
- Sylvester O'Flynn - The Good News of Mark's Year (Columba Press)
- Denis McBride CSSR - Seasons of the Word / Parables (Redemptorist Publications)/The Gospel of Mark
- Arthur Branowski - Faith Sharing for Small Church Communities. (St. Anthony Messenger Press)
- Diane Bergant - Preaching the New Lectionary, Year B (Liturgical Press)
- Joseph Donders - The Fullness of Time

These sheets are offered for both individual and group reflection and prayer on the Sunday Gospel. They are intended for photocopying.

Some parishes

- leave copies available at the back of church for parishioners to take to prepare themselves for the following Sunday
- use them with prayer/Scripture groups
- take them to sick housebound parishioners
- include them as resources for Children's Liturgy of the Word, RCIA, Confirmation
- print the following Sunday's Gospel on the newsletter with the 'For Conversation' topic. They invite every family to talk about it, and ask every parish group to spend the first 10 minutes of their meeting sharing reflections on the week's 'Conversation topic'.

***If you no longer wish to receive these Gospel Reflections please let us know.**

1st Sunday in Lent (Year B)

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

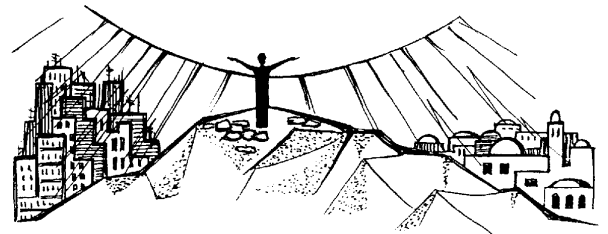
After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine Jesus there in the wilderness...tempted...looked after... What insights do you glimpse about Jesus?
3. Imagine yourself there in the wilderness for forty days... take time to pray for the grace to deepen your awareness of the temptations that face you each day...for the grace to know for what it is that you want to repent this Lenten season...

For Conversation:

One obstacle to love (in your locality) that you/your community might overturn this Lent.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

2nd Sunday in Lent (Year B)

Mark 9:2-10

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine yourself there with Peter, James and John...notice their reactions...become aware of your own thoughts and feelings... What do you come to know about Jesus?
3. Place yourself alongside Jesus coming down from the mountain...talk with him about all that has happened...about how the experience has affected *you*... about the impact it has on your Lenten journey towards Easter... Listen to his response...

For Conversation:

Sharing moments when you have glimpsed God's glory.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

3rd Sunday in Lent (Year B)

John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Notice all that Jesus said and did...notice how different people reacted...and how Jesus responded to them...
3. What does the story tell you - about Jesus? - about discipleship?
4. The body of Christ ...human beings 'temples' of Christ...Take time in prayer to reflect on the people to whom you show most/least respect...the way you reverence the presence of Christ in others...

For Conversation:

The ways you/your community work for justice for the downtrodden.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

4th Sunday in Lent (Year B)

John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God;'

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Place yourself with Nicodemus...hear Jesus speak these words to *you*. Notice your response - your thoughts, your feelings.... Notice what you learn about Jesus through listening to him...
3. Take time in prayer with Jesus...talk with him about his immense love of all people...of you...of the times you avoid his light...

For Conversation:

Those walking in God's light who inspire you on your Lenten journey.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

5th Sunday in Lent (Year B)

John 12:20-33

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him'. Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine yourself with Philip and Andrew...listen attentively to the words spoken to you...Notice your response...What do they tell you about Jesus...about what Jesus wants for *you*...
3. Take time in quiet prayer to respond...

For Conversation:

The people you, your community might help to see, to believe in Jesus.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Passion Sunday

Mark 14:1 - 15:47

Take time to slowly read through Matthew's account of the Passion and death of Christ

Imagine three circles around the Cross:

- An inner circle made up of those who remained closest to Jesus
- A middle circle of those who remained with Jesus but from a distance
- An outer circle of bystanders, observers.

Place yourself in the shoes of the different people who are mentioned in each of the circles. Notice your thoughts and feelings. Notice with whom you identify.

Spend time in quiet prayer before the crucifix contemplating all that Christ suffered - for you, for all humanity.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

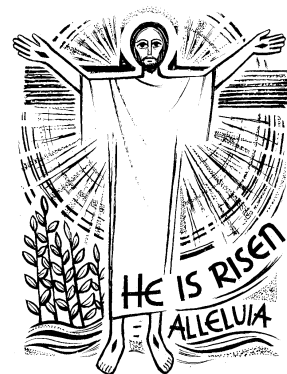
So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

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1. Spend some time reading and rereading the passage, pausing at the words/phrases that draw your attention
2. Imagine the scene... A new day dawning after some terrible events ... read through the passage slowly, placing yourself with Mary, with Peter ...notice your feelings, your responses...
3. *He saw and he believed.* Take time in prayer of adoration before the Risen Lord.

For Conversation:

The things for which you want to shout. Alleluia! Praise God!



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Second Sunday of Easter (Year B)

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe'.

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said.

Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage.
2. Note the words/phrases that draw your attention.
3. Place yourself in the scene noticing what you see, hear, think, feel.....
4. You find yourself in conversation with Jesus...What do you say to him...? What does Jesus say to you...?
5. What Gospel word/phrase might be your 'motto' for this week?

For Conversation:
Moments when you, like
Thomas, have said
'My Lord and My God'.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Third Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Luke 24:35-48

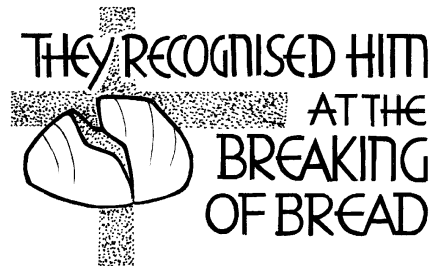
Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of the bread. They were still talking about all this when he himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet, yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourself; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled'. He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Picture the scene. Place yourself there. What are you thinking and feeling as you hear Jesus talking to you? What is your response when you hear Jesus say 'You are witnesses to this?' Take time for quiet prayer.
3. What does the passage say to you about Jesus?

For Conversation:

What word does the passage offer the parish community?



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year B)
John 10:11-18**

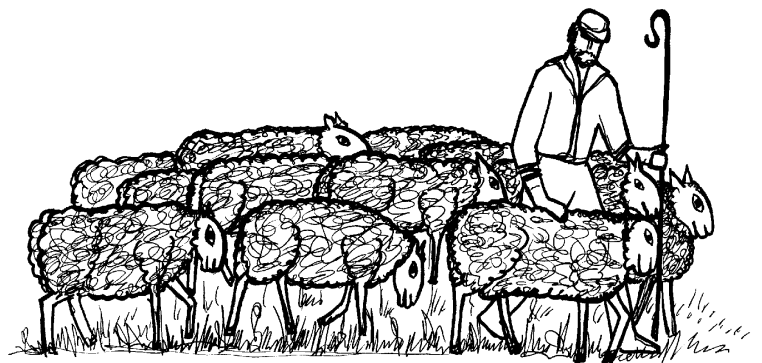
I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd. The Father love me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. As you hear Jesus say these words to you, what do you think, feel, hear...What do you say to Jesus in response?
3. What does this passage say to you about Jesus? About discipleship?

For Conversation:

What word does the passage offer the Parish Community?



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

John 15:1-8

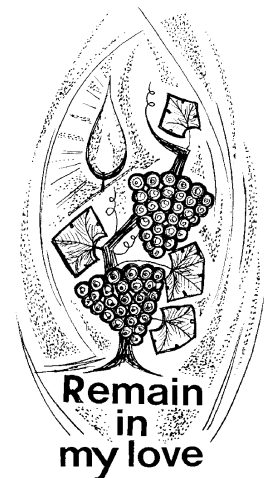
'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw your attention.
2. Imagine yourself as one of the disciples hearing Jesus speak these words to you. Notice what you think and feel as you listen to him. Take time to talk with him about all that is in your heart and mind.
3. What phrase/sentence could be your 'motto' for the coming week?

For Conversation:

What word does the passage offer the parish community?



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage, noting the words/phrases that draw you attention.
2. Place yourself amongst the disciples. As you hear Jesus speak these words to you, what is your response?
3. What phrase/sentence could be your 'motto' for the coming week?

For Conversation:

What word does this passage offer the Parish Community?



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

The Ascension of the Lord (Year B)

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven, and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; Proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the words by the signs that accompanied it.

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1. Spend time quietly reading, rereading the passage, noting the words that draw your attention.
2. Imagine yourself with the Eleven...what are you thinking and feeling as Jesus leaves you?
3. What do *you* feel about being called to 'Go out to the whole world'? What is your experience of responding to this mission?
4. Take time for quiet prayer before the Risen Lord.

For Conversation:

What Heaven means to you.



To prepare for this prayer, spend a few moments asking the Holy Spirit to open your mind and heart to hear this Word being spoken to you today.

Pentecost Sunday
John 20:19-23

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven: for those whose sins you retain they are retained.

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1. Spend some time quietly reading and rereading the passage noting the words and phrases that draw your attention.
2. Picture the room, the disciples there...notice their mood...their conversation...your mood...Jesus is suddenly there amongst you all...speaking...what do you see...hear...think...feel?
3. How do you respond?
4. What do you notice about Jesus?
5. What does the passage offer the parish community?

For Conversation:

Times you have witnessed the presence of the spirit at work in the world.

