

**March 20<sup>th</sup> 2022 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent– Year C – Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

<p>➤ <b>Read and re-read</b> – out loud and slowly the Gospel.</p> <p>➤ <b>Meditate</b> - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life</p>	<p>➤ <b>Pray</b> - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition</p> <p>➤ <b>Action</b> – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do)</p>
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In this week's gospel we read in part one about two tragic incidents. First Pilate murdering a group of Galileans as they were offering sacrifice in the temple and a tower falling and killing eighteen people. In the second part we have the parable of the man who had a fig tree in his vineyard and came looking for fruit on it but the tree had none. He complained to the man who looked after the vineyard that after three years there was no fruit so "cut it down". The man replied "leave it for one more year and I will dig around it and give it manure and if then it does not bear fruit you can cut it down".

Have there been times in your life when you felt like the tree in the parable - useless, maybe even a waste of time? Who were the people that believed in you and helped you to grow?

**Prayer:**

**Lord thank you** for the people who came to us when we felt useless and saw our potential. They prepared to renew the soil around us and give us the help we needed to grow.

**Forgive us Lord** for the times that we look on people as producers and are impatient and unkind when we do not get the results we desire from them

**Help us Lord** in this season of Lent to take stock of our heart and mind with a view to acknowledging our weakness and know that God is only waiting for us to call on him and he will help us to change and melt the hard places in our heart.

