

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Homily Helps, Petitions, and Bulletin Notices for the 3rd Sunday of Lent, Cycle B (March 7, 2021)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Exodus 20: I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

Psalms 19: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart.

1 Corinthians 1: For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom.

John 2: Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace.

† Comments for the Day:

The theme of liberation runs through this Sunday's readings. God has liberated Israel from Egypt and Israel's response is to live life as God intended. God strongly prohibits idolatry and demands the keeping of *Shabbat*. These laws are for the welfare of the community. Paul sends a challenging message to the Corinthians: As Christians we cannot look at life through the lens of accepted wisdom. We must follow Christ to freedom from false values. Jesus is not trying to "cleanse" the temple. He is acting against an unjust economic system that burdens the poor; he asserts that God also lives in his body and that human bodies are temples of God.

Our culture today also has idols: celebrities, internet influencers, the wealthy, the fashionable, movie and TV stars. Our desire to imitate them leads to the consumerism that Pope Francis decries, that leads to pollution of the earth and exploitation of the poorest of the poor. He also asks that Christian educators and families inculcate values that are earth-friendly and humanitarian.

The unjust economic system that Jesus acted against exploited the Jewish obligation to visit the temple and offer sacrifice at Passover. Jews from around the Mediterranean crowded into Jerusalem. They needed to change the money they brought into local money. During the feast change rates were highly inflated, as were prices for unblemished animals to sacrifice. In our day exploitation takes the form of land grabs from indigenous people, union breaking, and other unjust practices. As Christians, we are called to speak out against these practices.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

In reality, those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up dipping here and there, always on the look-out for what they do not have. They experience what it means to appreciate each person and each thing, learning familiarity with the simplest things and how to enjoy them. . . . Happiness means knowing how to limit some needs which only diminish us, and being open to the many different possibilities which life can offer. (223)

In order to continue providing employment, it is imperative to promote an economy which favours productive diversity and business creativity. . . . To ensure economic freedom from which all can effectively benefit, restraints occasionally have to be imposed on those possessing greater resources and financial power. (129)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That our families, schools, and churches teach ecological responsibility by word and example, let us pray to the Lord...

Option 2: That businesses strive to make decisions that are ecologically and humanely ethical, let us pray to the Lord...

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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