

LENT 2021

Newsletter for children and families



DEAR PARENTS and CARERS

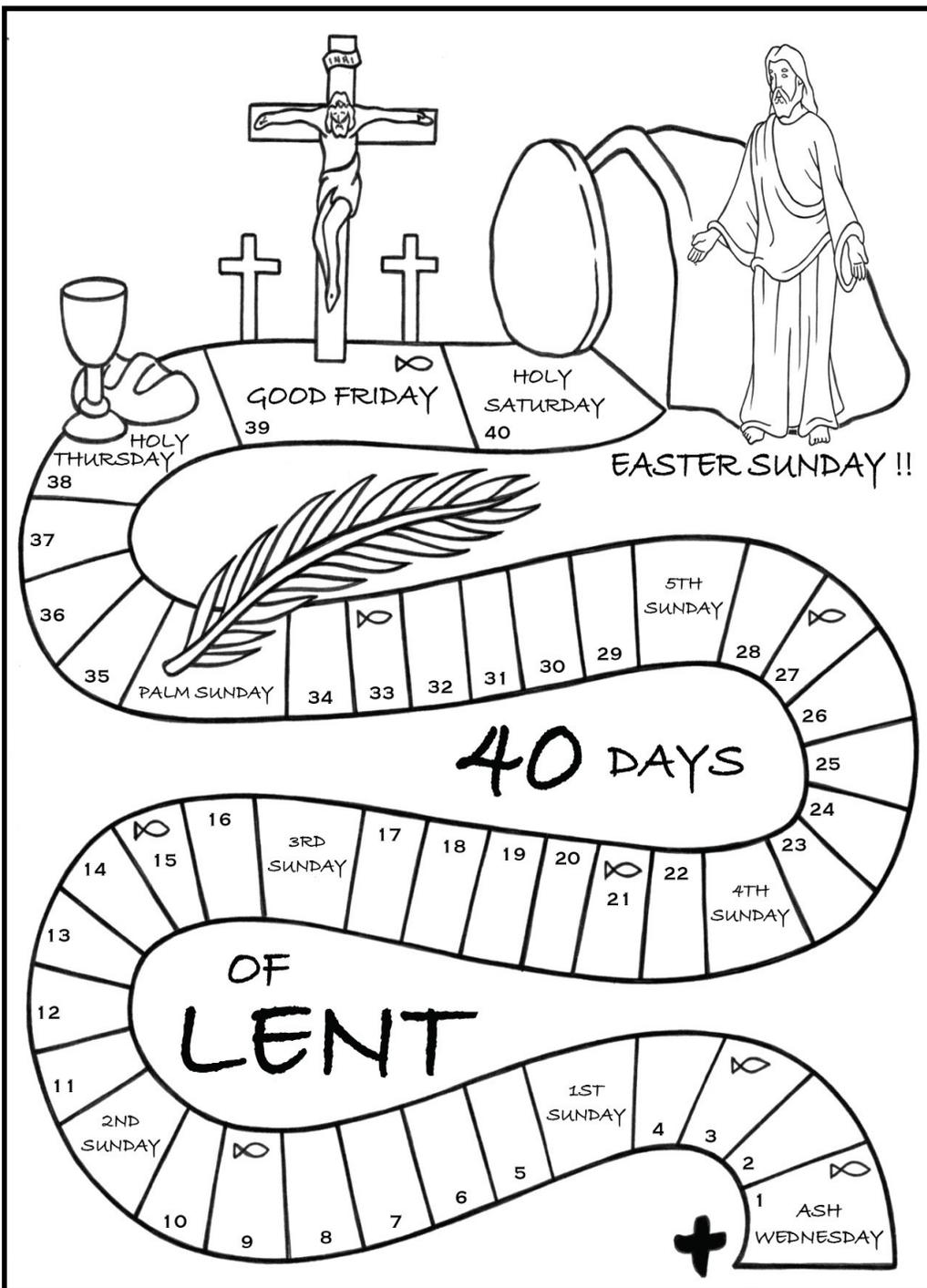


As we begin Lent this year, life is challenging for many of you as you balance work, home-schooling and all the other anxieties the pandemic brings. For this reason you are very much in our prayers. However, slowly the situation is improving, and we all hope that children will be able to return to school soon as well as see family and friends. At Saint Michael's, we have really missed having children in church and look forward to welcoming you back as soon as it is possible and safe to do so. This newsletter is intended to help you and your children keep the season of Lent together whether at home, at church, or a mixture of both. In particular we've tried to -

- ◆ Emphasise things that are **outdoors** and away from screens.
- ◆ Provide you with **easy and simple** things to do.
- ◆ Share ideas that will appeal to **different ages** and the **whole family**.

One description of Lent is as the 'springtime of faith'. We hope that the signs of new life around us will truly be signs of hope and joy that will lead us to Easter Day with greater joy than ever.

Father Stephen (*Vicar*) and Clover Summers (*Children's Ministry Leader*)



Colour in the picture above and mark off the days of Lent one by one.

SEEDS OF HOPE

We have prepared some seed packets with calendula seeds which we will send to you. These are very easy to grow and should germinate in about a week!

- ◆ As you plant the seeds you might like to **read the Parable of the Sower** in Matthew 13.1-9 and think about what it might mean for you.
- ◆ Please **take photos of yourself with your growing seeds** and send them to the Parish Office for Fr Stephen to share online.
- ◆ Pot them up and **bring them to church on Easter Day** to decorate the Easter Garden.



“Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”
Matthew 13.9

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Outside:

- ◆ Go for a walk and pray about the things you see on your way.
- ◆ Look for signs of Spring and say thank you to God for our beautiful world.
- ◆ Find two sticks and tie them together with string to make a cross.
- ◆ Visit the church and light a candle for people who are sick with or have died from corona virus.

Inside:

- ◆ Save your pocket money for a week (or more) and give that money to a charity of your choice.
- ◆ Colour in the Lent Calendar on the back page of this leaflet.
- ◆ Think about something you can ‘give up’ or fast from - be creative and thoughtful about what it might be (not just sweets or chocolate!)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

a seasonal trail for children and families

Before Christmas, many of you enjoyed our outdoor Nativity trail, following the Christmas story by looking at pictures and Bible verses in people’s windows and front gardens. In a similar way we will be telling the story of Jesus going to the Cross in an age-appropriate way through fourteen ‘stations’ (or stops). If you live within about 15 minutes of the church and would like to volunteer please let us know – there will be a map with the trail to follow. We hope this will be up and running from 1st March until Easter.



Above: The first three stations - Pilate washes his hands of Jesus. Jesus receives the cross. Jesus falls for the first time.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES

Restarting 14th March

From **Mothering Sunday** (14th March) onwards we intend to restart the 11.30am Children’s Service. On that day posies of spring flowers will be blessed and given out as we give thanks for Mary, for the Church, our own mother and all who care for us with love.

Other upcoming special services for families and children include:

- ◆ **Palm Sunday** (28th March): Children’s Service, 10am, Vicarage Garden.
- ◆ **Good Friday** (2nd April): Children’s Service, 3.00pm
- ◆ **Easter Day** (4th April): Children’s Service, 11.30am.