

HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS MONDAY MISSION

THIS WEEK'S WORD:

John 2:13-22

It was almost time for the Passover Festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem.

There in the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the moneychangers sitting at their tables. So he made a whip from cords and drove all the animals out of the Temple, both the sheep and the cattle; he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins; and he ordered those who sold the pigeons, "Take them out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that the scripture says, "My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire."

The Jewish authorities came back at him with a question, "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?"

Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again."

"Are you going to build it again in three days?" they asked him. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!" But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. So when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said.



REFLECT

Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover. When he visits the Temple, Jesus finds it full of money changers and people selling animals to be used as sacrifices. Jesus is not happy that in this holy place people are buying and selling and trying to make money out of the worshippers. So, he makes a cord whip, turns over the tables and chases everyone out. Some people challenge Jesus, wanting to know what right he has to take such action. Jesus gives them a strange answer, telling them if they destroy the temple he will raise it again in three days. No one understands yet that he is talking about himself as a temple, not the magnificent building in front of them. We need to remember it is the people who use this church building who make it important, not the other way around. Church with a capital C is the people and with a small c is a building.

We are also celebrating Remembrance Day this week, we remembering all those who have suffered and died in war. Remembrance honours those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. We remember the sacrifice of the Armed Forces community from United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. We pay tribute to the special contribution of families and of the emergency services and we acknowledge innocent civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism. A red poppy is a symbol of both remembrance and hope for a peaceful future.

LET US PRAY

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May them rest in peace. Amen

Lord Jesus,
today we commit ourselves to:
choosing love over hate,
choosing service over selfishness,
choosing sharing over greed,
and choosing peace-making
over trouble making. Amen.

MISSION

This week, as we mark Remembrance Sunday, we pause to honour those who gave their lives for peace and freedom. Their sacrifice reminds us of the importance of love, unity, and hope. All people are held in the circle of God's love. It is up to us to make that love real this week – through our actions, our words, and our prayers. Each day this week, do one thing that strengthens the invisible cord of love between you and others. This could be:

- A kind word to someone who feels left out
- A prayer for peace and those affected by war
- A moment of silence to remember those who served
- A helping hand to someone in need
- A thank-you to someone who cares for you