The Finger of Blame

 

When we point the finger at someone, there are three fingers pointing back at us. Think of one thing you’d really like to change or improve on this Lent. Write this in the pointy finger and three things *you* could do to make it better this Lent in the other fingers.

**Let us pray together:**

**I confess to Almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters…**

**Presider:** May the God of all peace and understanding have mercy on us, listen to our requests and help us to prepare our hearts for this sacrament.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation can now take place if a priest can be present for this ceremony**

**Closing Song:** *The Garden* (Take That)

**The Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He show His face to you and have mercy.
May He turn His countenance to you and give you peace.
The Lord bless you!

Lenten Reconciliation Service

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**“Come to me all you who are burdened**

**and I will give you rest.”**

**Monday, February 9, 2015.**

***Opening Song :***

***Footprints in the Sand***

*Bring you burdens to the Lenten garden to be healed.*

**A Reading from the gospel according to St Mark**

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

***The Lenten Path or Garden***

**This Lent we have prepared a Lenten path. Let us look at some of the items placed along this Lenten path, as we prepare for Easter.**

1. **Rubbish**. Have we let our lives or homes get messy? Do we need to get organised? Is there one way we could decide to do this?

2. **Weeds**: Are there some things in our lives which are out of place or are there thoughts, habits or resentments that we just need to get rid of. This Lent, perhaps we could decide on at least one thing?

3. **Poor Soil:** Plants need good soil in which to grow. Are we taking care of our physical and mental health? Could we cut down on sugar, take up exercise, catch up with friends?

4. **Seeds**: Now that we have prepared the soil, perhaps we could plant a seed by adding gratitude to our lives. When we are thankful for the good in our lives, we become less self-obsessed and we allow more good to follow. Write 5 things, every day, that you are truly grateful for.

5. **First signs of Life:** As we begin our journey towards God’s Love, we need to show kindness to ourselves and others. Could we decide on Acts of Kindness to do for ourselves or others?

6. **Water and sunlight:** As we follow the Lenten path we are reminded of the Life, Death and Resurrection of our Lord. We ask that the Word of the Lord be “a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.” Could we spend five minutes every day reading the Bible?