



A Lenten Reflection

*Forgiveness is the answer to the child's
dream of a miracle by which what is
broken is made whole again, what is
soiled is again made clean."*

Dag Hammarskjöld

Opening Prayer

As we gather together as a school community today, help us to focus both on what is good in our lives and on the challenges which keep us from reaching our full potential. May we always strive to be closer to you, God, by word and deed and may our Lenten observance strengthen us in this resolve. May we always value the gift of forgiveness in our lives. **Amen**

Lent



As the days lengthen and spring brings new growth to the earth after the winter, the six weeks of Lent provide us with an opportunity to grow in our awareness of God's presence in our lives. It is a time during which we strive towards an inner conversion of heart by opening both our hearts and our minds to self examination and self discipline during these weeks before Easter

The season of Lent is traditionally the time for those wishing to become members of the Church to prepare for Baptism. In the early Church the whole Christian community accompanied these 'Catechumens' in their spiritual journey and, in so doing, each person also prepared themselves to renew their own baptismal vows at Easter.

By making space for our own spiritual growth we will be able to encourage the students we teach and to accompany them in their spiritual journey towards a deeper understanding of the Paschal Mystery, the great mystery of Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

In the Gospels we hear that:

Jesus said to the crowd: “Whoever obeys my commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called great in the kingdom of heaven:

Matthew 5:19-20

And:

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back”.

Luke 6:36-38

Let us pray:

1) During this season of Lent, we give thanks to God our Father for this time of grace. Let us ask him to cleanse our hearts and strengthen us in love through the Holy Spirit.

(R) Give us Lord Your Holy Spirit.

2) Lord your Word is life; may our lives be nourished and sustained by every word you speak (R)

3) In the life of Jesus you have shown us the way of love; teach us to follow this way in the great and small events of life.(R)

4) Grant us a spirit of self denial – and move us to help our brothers and sisters in their need. (R).

5) Guide us Lord as we reach out to our students during this holy season. Let them learn from us of your love and care for them, and let the gift of their Baptism become a reality in their lives. (R)

Our Father ...

Concluding Prayer

Through our annual Lenten observance, Lord, deepen our understanding of the mystery of Christ, and make it a reality in the conduct of our lives.

Renew us in spirit. Give us the strength to purify our hearts,
To control our desires, and so serve you in freedom.
We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

