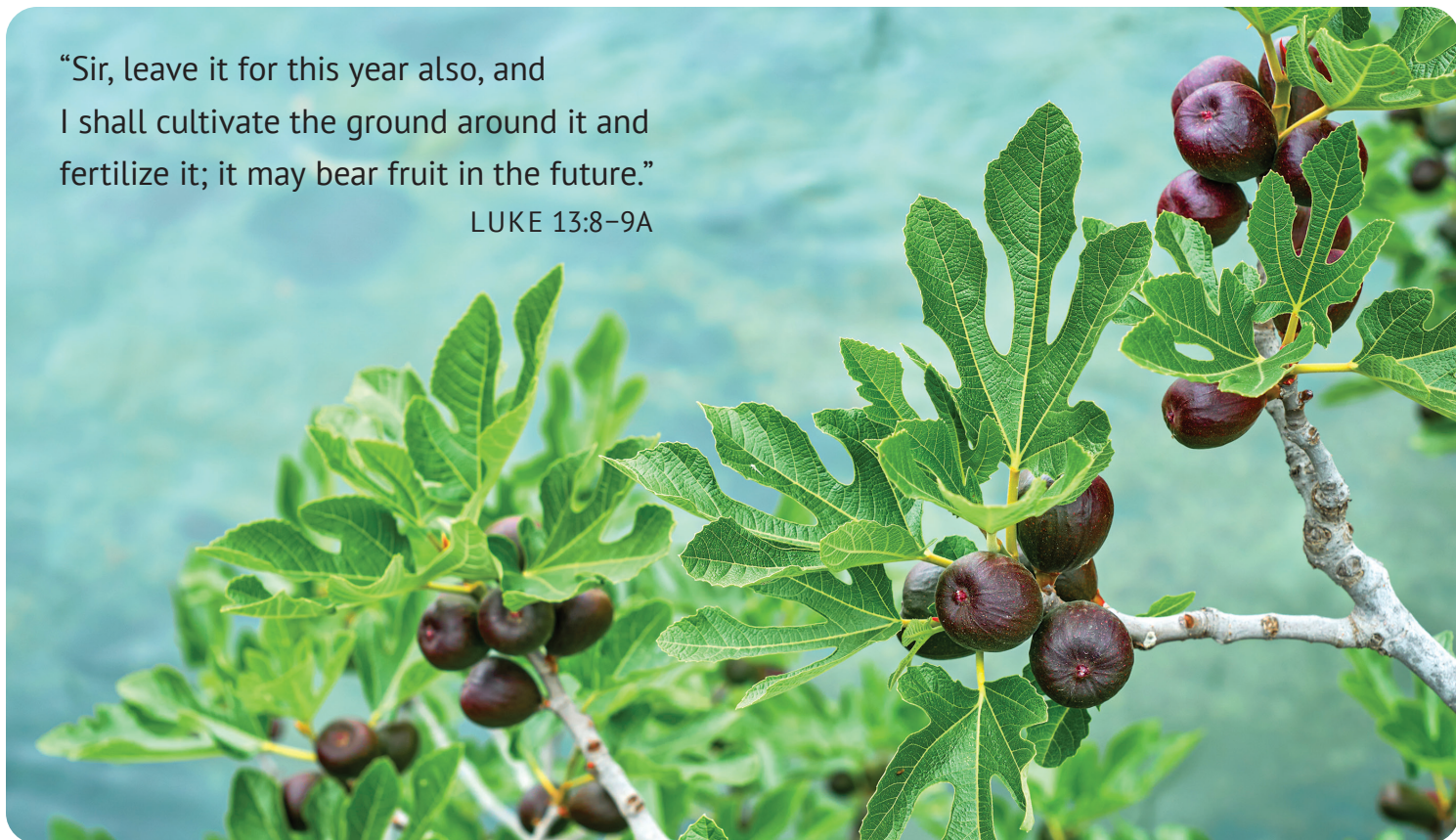




“Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future.”

LUKE 13:8–9A



A Gardener God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as

if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit. ●

Reflect

***What needs nurturing in my life,
and what needs weeding out?***



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
Telephone: (441) 234-2321

Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

Fr. Joseph Morley: Acting Pastor/Vicar General
Cell: 705-0236



Tentative Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass – April 4th Saturday	27 th April 2025
Kids & Youth Ministry	Sunday 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
Children's Mass	23 rd March 2025
Pastoral & Finance Council	Monday, 24 th March 2025
Monthly Coffee Social	23 rd March 2025
Second Collection	Second Weekend of the Month

DIocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak

www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	Gather Us In	Paper
Offertory:	I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	
Communion:	Into My Heart	Kids
Recessional:	Led By the Spirit	Kids
		#351

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 30th March 2025

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Servers
Music

Marisa Stones
Elizabeth Card
Joanne Smith
Annette Barclay
Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Eileen Davies, Jose Garcia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 22nd March For the people of St. Josephs
Sunday, 23rd March *Carla DeSousa

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Friday 14 th March – Stations	6	-
Saturday, 15 th March – Filipino Mass	21	145
Saturday, 15 th March 4:00 p.m.	7	60
Sunday, 16 th March 8:45 a.m.	41	415
Feast of St. Joseph – Wed. 19 th March	56	-
TOTAL:	131	\$620

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

BIRTHDAYS

Dennis DeMello 25th March
May God, our loving heavenly Father, bless you with many more special days



Feast of St. Joseph. We take this opportunity to **thank Bishop Wes, and all** who helped in any way to make the Feast of St. Joseph an enjoyable evening. It was a wonderful surprise, at the end of the Mass, when Bishop announced that the Diocese would be installing the ACs for us. We have been truly blessed.

AND

Another blessing: our Easter flowers are being donated, so now let us concentrate on carpeting and other much-needed things that need attention within our little church. If you would still like to donate in memory of your loved ones, the envelopes are at the back of the church; please remember to put their names on the envelope. The Intentions will be on Easter Sunday.



Please join us in the Parish Centre after the Mass this morning for our monthly **Coffee Social**.

Tickets for our Heritage Tea to be held on Sunday, 18th May are now available for purchase. See Liz after Mass or call 234-0872 or
Email: lizatstjosephs@gmail.com.

Our Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 24th March, at 7:15 p.m., in the Parish Centre.

There will be two **Lenten Reconciliation Services** this coming week:

Wednesday, 26th March, St. Patrick's Church from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, 27th March, St. Theresa's Cathedral from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Two additional priests from Canada will be there to minister the Sacrament together with our priests.

Moreover, there will be two additional opportunities for confession on Wednesday of Holy Week, 16th April, both at St. Theresa's Cathedral, in two sessions; 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.; and from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be one additional priest from Canada to help with this Sacrament.

Good Friday

Bishop Wes conveyed a message, earlier in the week, to say that Fr. Vivien will celebrate **Friday of the Passion of the Lord** at St. Joseph's at 3:00 p.m.

BISHOP'S CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

We all know that the three main works of mercy and penitence that we are invited to undertake in the Lenten season are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Also, I am sure that this Lent everyone has resolved himself/herself to observe these Lenten practices on a personal level. It came to my mind, however, that perhaps we should try to do something as a Diocese to assist a poorer church in a missionary country. I have given this project the title of "Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving." It would be beautiful if each year we were willing, as a community of faith, to show this kind of solidarity, support and mercy towards our sisters and brothers who are less fortunate than we are.

This year I would like to direct our Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving to assist Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In September 2023, Fr. Jacob Swapan Gomes spent some time in our Diocese promoting the construction of this Parish Church. You, my dear people, showed an amazing generosity with almost \$20,000.00 being collected for this

purpose. Thanks to your generosity the church has been constructed and was dedicated by the Archbishop of Dhaka in January 2025. You are able to view photos on the information boards in our churches.

Fr. Jacob is now trying to raise further funds to build the Rectory and the Parish Centre as well as a Parish playing ground to create a decent space for gathering mainly children and youth at the Parish. He will not be continuing with this project as he will hopefully come to minister in our Diocese, but he wants to leave a financial cushion to his successor.

Have a restful weekend and a blessed third week of Lent!

Bishop Wes

Relating to the above THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL COLLECTION ON 29th & 30th MARCH

in all our parish churches as a "Diocesan Lenten Almsgiving. You can also donate online to our diocesan account with Butterfield Bank; Account Name ORCC Special Account 20006060021098100, with the memo BANGLADESH. Thank you for your generosity!



3rd Sunday of Lent - Patient Stewards

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" - Luke 13:7

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have, or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts, He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous; we are called to develop and nurture our gifts as **Stewards**; and return them with increase. We are called to be generous with all our gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

WORDS OF LIFE -

"There is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big or small, which build up an authentic culture of life... Part of this daily heroism is also the silent but effective and eloquent witness of all those 'brave mothers who devote themselves to their own family without reserve, who suffer in giving birth to their children and who are ready to make any effort, to face any sacrifice, in order to pass on to them the best of themselves'... We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love! We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love. We thank you for the sacrifice of your life" (*The Gospel of Life* 86).

Dear Padre,

May I receive Communion if I'm divorced and haven't gotten an annulment?

Yes, you may. Divorce, in itself, is not an impediment to the reception of Communion. Divorce, although regrettable because of the many ramifications that may be part of the experience, is not in itself a sin. There are situations when divorce may be the most loving choice and make it possible for all parties involved to live the lives God is calling them to live.

Remarriage, when a person is not free to marry because of the presence of a previous bond, is an impediment to the reception of holy Communion. Although this situation is more and more common, it does not mean that the law of the Church, representative of the teaching of Jesus, can be set aside. As part of the process of healing from your divorce and moving on with your life, you may want to seek an annulment, particularly if you think you might want to marry again. The annulment process can often be healing and a source of great blessing. It also provides a rare opportunity to reflect on what was lost as a result of the original divorce and what can be learned as a way of moving forward and building a second marriage that is strong and life-giving. ●



STEVE LOVERGROVE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1–15b Lk 4:24–30	Is 7:10–14; 8:10 Heb 10:4–10 Lk 1:26–38	Dt 4:1, 5–9 Mt 5:17–19	Jer 7:23–28 Lk 11:14–23	Hos 14:2–10 Mk 12:28–34	Hos 6:1–6 Lk 18:9–14	Jos 5:9a, 10–12 2 Cor 5:17–21 Lk 15:1–3, 11–32



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”.... [God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 20, 2022

Our Sunday Readings

EXODUS 3:1-8a, 13-15
 PSALM 103:1-4, 6-8, 11
 I CORINTHIANS 10:1-6, 10-12
 LUKE 13:1-9

On the Brink

EXODUS 3:1-8a, 13-15

Entering the word

Imagine that you're Moses.

1. What time of day is it?
2. What do you hear, see, and smell?
3. How do you notice the bush?
4. What are you thinking as you approach the bush?
5. How do you react when you hear your name?
6. Why do you say, 'Here I am'?
7. What do you know about God?
8. Why are you afraid?
9. How do you feel about being the one to lead the Israelites?
10. Why do the Israelites need God's help?
11. How do you feel about going back to Egypt?
12. Are you satisfied with God's response to your request for a name?
13. What do you do next?

Living the word

14. What did you discover about God from this story?
15. What did you discover about yourself?
16. What encounters with holiness have you had?

THE FIRST READING

Back to Egypt

This story unfolds when the Israelites are enslaved in Egypt. Moses fled after killing an Egyptian for beating an Israelite. Moses then married and wasn't planning a visit back to Egypt.

LORD of history

God promised Abraham and his descendants a land of their own. God will now fulfill this promise by taking the remarkable step of leading his people out of one land and into another. People of that era believed that gods were confined to a place. The LORD God is not. He will instead bind himself to a particular people.

What the name means

God gives his name as *YHWH*, often written as *LORD* so that people don't say this holy name aloud. Because the precise meaning of *YHWH* is unclear, the name is a warning not to use God's name in an attempt to control God.

The name is also God's promise to stand with Moses and the Israelites, who in this moment represent the weakest, most vulnerable members of society.

LUKE 13:1-5

1. Think of a time when people suddenly experienced something terrible.
 - a. Did people deserve what happened?
 - b. Could you ever find yourself in a similar situation?
 - c. How do you interpret such events?

LUKE 13:6-9

2. What could be some reasons the fig tree hasn't produced figs?
3. What all might the owner feel about the barren tree?
4. What could be prompting the gardener to give the tree more time?
5. What will the gardener do for the tree?
6. Who could the owner of the orchard represent?
7. What all could the fig tree represent?
8. Who could the gardener represent?
9. Where is there hope in the parable?
10. Where is there warning in the parable?
11. What all might the parable mean for you?

THE GOSPEL READING

What happened?

Galileans were Jews from Galilee, a region north of Judea. Here they seem to have traveled south to sacrifice animals in the Jerusalem temple. For reasons now unknown to us, Pontius Pilate, the Roman administrator of Judea, had them killed.

Siloam (sigh-LOH-um) was a section of ancient Jerusalem. In the Gospel of John we learn that the area was trenched to hold water (John 9:7). It seems that a section of a tower built into the wall that enclosed the city collapsed, killing the people inside it.

What's your point, Jesus?

Jesus makes it clear that neither of the two groups of people deserved to die any more (or less) than his listeners. Death simply caught them off-guard. Jesus draws from these terrible circumstances to make the broader point that people should change their lives now, while there's still time.

More specifically, people should accept that Jesus is bringing about God's kingdom and they should conform their lives to God's rule while there's still time. Those who deny that God is establishing his reign through Jesus will ultimately be excluded from salvation.

Foreshadowings

Luke may also intend for verses 1-5 to point to future events.

- Like his fellow Galileans, Jesus will be killed by Pilate. (And Jesus is certainly not a worse sinner than his listeners!)
- When the Jews rebel against Roman rule during 66-70 AD, blood is spilled and walls fall as the Romans destroy the Jerusalem temple and parts of the city.

The fig tree

The parable clarifies the meaning of verses 1-5. People are given time to repent, but that time will eventually end. This is the main point of the parable, but it's not the only meaning to draw from it. Parables invite reflection and discussion because they don't mean only one thing.

PRAYER

adapted from prayers by John A. Hardon, SJ

Dear Lord,
 you have entrusted time to us
 for the upbuilding of our soul.
 Time is yours, not ours.
 On the day of judgment you will reward us
 according to the use we made of this gift.
 Teach us to value time.
 Show us the dangers of idleness.
 Keep us from wasting the time that we have.
 Make us diligent and hard-working,
 generous and self-giving,
 cheerful and patient.
 Above all, may we be motivated
 by our strong love for you and for others.
 We ask this in the great and holy name of Jesus,
 our Lord. Amen.