

The Third Sunday of Lent

Theme: “Compassion, Renewal and Spiritual Awareness”

Scripture: He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; if not, you can cut it down.” (Lk 13: 8-9)¹

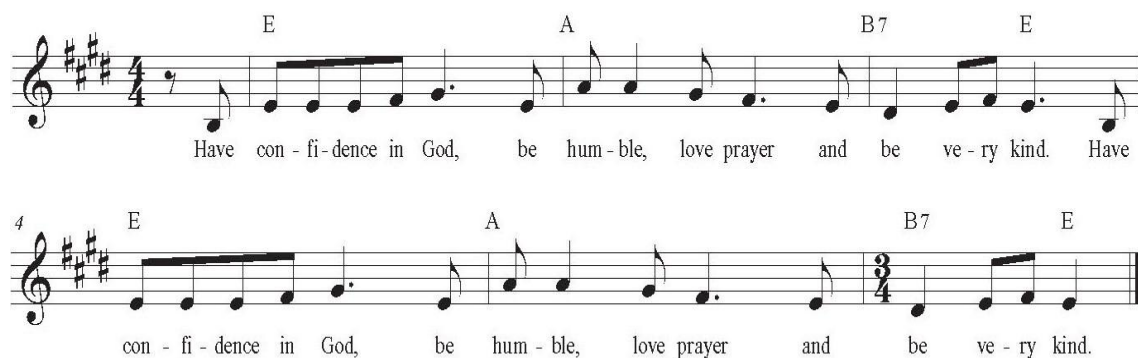


Reflection: Lent encourages us to reflect on our spiritual growth and to consider the needs of others. As we let go of what we often take for granted, we become more aware of how our choices affect those around us. Euphrasie said, “Let us all take care of ourselves when necessary and help one another in the intimacy of the family, with much charity and kindness.”²

The parable of the unfruitful fig tree may initially seem harsh, but it also conveys a sense of compassion through the second chance given to the tree to bear fruit. We are all at different stages in our spiritual journeys, and God is always by our side, no matter where we find ourselves. This idea of varying stages aligns with the compassion illustrated in the parable of the unfruitful fig tree. At times, we may face spiritual distress or struggles in our lives. However, compassion, prayer, hope and being fully present in the present moment can guide us toward greater spiritual awareness and healing. We welcome the chance for renewal and transformation, enhancing our awareness and openness to the Divine. Revitalizing the unproductive fig tree requires mindful practices such as fertilizing and nurturing it. In this context, we can reflect on what "fertilizer" might represent for RNDMs, promoting both personal and communal growth.

Prayer: Loving God, we express our gratitude for the grace and guidance You have given us. We appreciate the moments of reflection, the opportunities for growth, and the lessons learned through prayer and sacrifice. May our hearts remain attuned to Your voice, and may our actions embody Your love. Please grant us the strength to continually nurture our spiritual awareness, to seek out those in need, and to serve as bearers of hope in our world.

Song: Have confidence in God³



Have con - fi - dence in God, be hum - ble, love prayer and be ve - ry kind. Have
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Prepared by Sr. Rita Kyi Kying Aung RNDM

¹ Lk 13: 8-9, NRSV.

² 365 days with Euphrasie Barbier (28th March).

³ Adapted from Euphrasie Barbier’s Letters 26 Nov 1867; also, 20 August 1867 Based on 1 Thes 5: 23-24.