

**Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March (Monday)**

# **Inspire us O Lord**

***When everything seems to be going against you, remember the aeroplane takes off against the wind not with it.***

***Henry Ford***

As we carry on through our Lenten journey this week we will continue to look at the little things that other people do, that may inspire us to be more thoughtful, generous and kind to those around us not just in our school community but in our wider communities, both here and abroad and in our homes.

Luke 6:38

give, and it shall be given to you.  
Good measure, pressed down, and  
shaken together, and running over,  
will be put into your lap. For with the  
measure you use it will be measured  
back to you.



Think about the gifts that you have received that have meant a lot to you. Were they the ones that were most expensive? Or were they the ones that were most thoughtful?

When we take time to give part of ourselves to others, we can receive so much more back in return. We might learn something new, make a friend or deepen an existing relationship. Or we might just come away knowing we did a good act that brightened someone's day.



Our relationship with God is the same. As we get to know God more deeply, we become more open to receiving the graces God longs to give to us.

Lent is the ideal moment to commit to spending a little bit more time with God in reflection and prayer. Who knows what changes that might inspire in us?

By giving God more time and space in our lives, we can be inspired in turn to be different. To follow Christ's example of compassion for all people, and to reach out in love to our global family.

Let us ask God to inspire in us the Spirit of generosity as we say together;

**God of love,  
may I be compassionate as you are compassionate,  
and generous as you are generous.  
Through me, may others know of your love.  
Amen.**

**Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March (Tuesday)**

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***Henry Ford***



***Anyone who wants to be great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be your slave.***

***Matt 20:26-27***

So often we are drawn into believing that if we were only better than the next person, we would be satisfied. We strive for the next step up the ladder, the newest trainers, the better clothing, the latest phone etc.

And yet, once we get there, we look for something more. We are still dissatisfied.

Jesus tells his disciples that if they want to be great and powerful, they need to be humble. They need to serve others. This goes against the norm.

Perhaps we also need to go against the norm. Rather than trying to get the newest and the best stuff, we can step out of the race, and make time and space for people instead.

To focus on building good relationships with our neighbours, with God, with ourselves and with creation is the way to true happiness and fulfilment.

In turn we may then find it easier to serve others, rather than being slaves to our own desires. In this way, we can help others reach their full potential and build a happy and dignified life.

**God of joy,**

**help me to see that true happiness comes from you.**

**Fill me with your love and lead me to serve others in whatever way I can.**

**Amen.**



**Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March (Wednesday)**

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***Henry Ford***

***There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate, there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.***

***Luke 16:19-21***

As this piece of scripture continues we hear how both Lazarus and the rich man die. Lazarus joins Abraham but the rich man is condemned to torment. The rich man ignores the suffering of Lazarus in his lifetime but calls out for his compassion when the tables are turned after death. Abraham tells the rich man that it is too late.

The present-day economy is one that devours everything. People are taught to consume, consume, consume. Companies continue to take what they want, and many people have not thought about future generations.

There are communities who already have lost everything: trees, rivers, homes.



The time for us to act is now. Pope Francis tells us that we must not ignore the suffering of creation, for "our earth, burdened and laid waste, is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor". We and our governments must act decisively to address the current climate emergency. We can learn from some of the poorest communities of our world, who have deep wisdom to share about how we can better care for the earth and live sustainably. We must not be like the rich man who left it too late to change.

**God of life,**

**help us not to put off until tomorrow what we should be doing today.**

**May we listen to the wisdom of our sisters and brothers who live in harmony with creation and learn from them how to alter our lifestyles, for the sake of everyone and for the sake of our common home.**

**Amen.**

**Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March (Thursday)**

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***Henry Ford***





***The Lord is compassion and love.***

**Psalm 102:8**

In the response for tomorrow's psalm, we are reminded that God doesn't just act compassionately and lovingly, but God is compassion and love.

This is intense, inescapable. There is no distance between God and love. God doesn't have to strive to feel love for us, or to show compassion for us. That is the state of God's being. No one is beyond the reach of God's love.

God created us out of this love and for love. We are called to love God and one another in our turn.

Dr Guy Byavulwa is working in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the frontline of the latest Ebola outbreak that has claimed more than 2,200 lives. He is risking his own life as part of an emergency response team from CAFOD's Church network.



His faith motivates Dr Guy in his work: "As a doctor and a Christian, my mission is to alleviate the suffering of God's people. It is extremely hard to see families suffering and I am fearful for myself and for my family. But I will never abandon my mission."

This Lent let us reach out to our sisters and brothers around the world. Let us seek to be compassion and love.

**Lord, you are compassion and love.**

**Work through us so that we may bring your love to those we meet, and to those we might not meet but whose lives and stories still touch our own.**

**Amen.**



**Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> March (Friday)**

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***Henry Ford***



***A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her,  
'Give me a drink'.***

**John 4:7**

This Sunday's gospel, Jesus sits at the well and strikes up a conversation with a Samaritan woman who has come to draw water. The exchange quickly deepens to challenge her whole way of life.

The power of the spoken word is huge. It has the ability to build someone up or cut them down..... We have the power to build someone up or cut them down.



In this Year of the Word 'the God who speaks', our encounter and exchange with the Word of God can change our outlook and inspire us to consider living in a whole new way, as happened for the Samaritan woman when she conversed with Jesus.

As we finish this week of reflections let us ask God to inspire in us words of knowledge, Words of wisdom, words of encouragement and words of love.

Let us Pray

**Word made Flesh, speak to us as we read the scriptures.**

**Teach us to listen to the people we encounter so that we can understand their reality and work together to build a fairer world.**

**Amen.**