

Difficult text series

During Lent, I will be embarking on a ‘difficult text series’ to help our Lenten journey and deepen our understanding of how God works in our lives.

Entering the ‘difficult texts’ of our Biblical account can be confounding, dis-comforting and irrational – certainly as we depart from the Lectionary set for the Lenten period. I have tried to link the five texts with the Lectionary readings as closely as possible – so that we are not completely walking away from the Biblical texts proclaimed in churches around the world on that particular Sunday.

Sometimes, I believe, facing ‘difficulty’ rather than avoiding it allows us to understand God’s influence in our lives with a new perspective – especially as we wrestle with God in honesty and trust (faith) – as we seek healing and try to liberate ourselves from texts written in a very different context than our own.

This document will give people an opportunity to know the themes for each week.

- Lent 1:** 18th February – Testing of Faith and Covenant with God
Genesis 22 – The binding of Issaac
- Lent 2:** 25th February – Confronting Genocide
Joshua 6 & Joshua 10 (selected verses)
- Lent 3:** 03 March – Sexual Violence: Law and Lore
Genesis 34: The Rape of Dinah & 2 Samuel 13: Ammon & Tamar
- Lent 4:** 10 March – Refining Fire
James 1:2-4; James 5:7-11; 1 Peter 1:6-7
- Lent 5:** 17 March – The Mysterious Nature of God
Isaiah 55:8-9 (John 12:20-33); 1 Corinthians 1:27-29

In addition, I am planning to provide an opportunity for parishioners to conduct a ‘Retreat in Daily Life’ again this year. I had some good feedback from those who engaged last year – and I hope you will find that this particular week enhances your prayer and praise and faithful Lenten journey.

Retreat in Daily Life: 10 March – 17 March

More details will follow, as I work out what this week may look like and provide an opportunity for people to meet for fellowship and/or maybe have a Q&A style gathering during the week.

Get in touch if you want more information.

Regards, Rev James