

Readings Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9



Fr Michael says:

A call to repentance and conversion.

The media are always full of natural calamities, political disasters and accidents, We do not tend to go for good news for some strange reason, as Martin Lewis found out when he tried to found a Newspaper, which concentrated on the good people did!

In today's Gospel, Jesus recalls similar disasters. The political killings of Galileans by Pilate in Jerusalem and the accidental deaths caused by the collapsing tower gave Jesus the opportunity to teach his disciples. First, Jesus rejects the popular belief that natural calamities and accidents which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sins. This is not true for Jesus; these people have not been punished because of their sins.

Instead, these sad events are an invitation for us to repent and to change our wrong ways. Jesus says: 'Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.' These words are addressed to us today. Jesus stresses the necessity and the urgency of repentance and tells us that such events are a warning that time is running out. We should not wait and loose time to make our decision to convert and become disciples of Christ. Let us not postpone our decision again and again. Tomorrow might be late. According to Jesus an unexpected disaster or a sudden death does not give us time to repent of our sins and to prepare ourselves to appear in front of the mercy seat of God. So as we receive merciful forgiveness, so should we share it with those around us, particularly reaching out to those who are affected by unexpected illness, dementia or tragic situations. We prepare ourselves regularly, by visiting, caring, listening or comforting people we know who need us.

We draw comfort from the parable of the barren fig tree Jesus where depicts for us the patience and tolerance of God. Like the owner of the fig tree who gives it a year of grace to produce fruit, God is merciful and patient towards us sinners. We are in the Year of Mercy to do as He does for us!

He is tolerant and expects us to be able to change. God in his mercy gives us a time of grace to turn away from sin. He gives us time to get right with him, but that time is NOW. May Lent be a time of grace for us. Let us be like Moses who changed his life radically. When called by God he gave up his little plans and accepted the Lord's proposal to go to Egypt and liberate his people.