



Lent 2024 – Sacred Space

At the heart of our Lenten activities each year is a desire to grow closer to God, to become a true follower and disciple of Jesus, and to reflect God's love more radiantly in our world. This year, let's take the opportunity to spend Lent coming to know who God is for Jesus, letting ourselves be touched by the God of compassion.

Resources for Sacred Spaces

Ash Wednesday

Clear the place you will use for this purpose....leaving it bare ...in the centre of the space, place a poster, *Creating a space for God in our lives*.....perhaps in one area, there could be rocks/stones.....in another, an unlit candle....Place a sign near the sacred space and invite people to write what they are clearing from their lives to give more space to God....

Week 1

Begin to create a path with your rocks/stone...sand.... sacking cloth...Light your candle in the centre [place it in a lantern], with a purple cloth beneath it. Place a picture of the Father embracing the Prodigal Son.....Allow this image to take centre stage. You might place phrases from the Gospels of how Jesus reflects God's compassion and forgiveness *e.g. Jesus said, Go, your faith has saved you; Jesus said, Of course, I want to heal you; Jesus said, What do you want me to do for you? Jesus said, Neither do I condemn you; Jesus said, Whatsoever you do for others, you do to me. Jesus said, Love one another as I have loved you...* .. copies of these phrases could be left in a basket for people to take with them....

Week 3

Add the Trócaire box to the space and also a bowl of water. Malawi is a country with extremely high levels of poverty, where life is already a struggle for many. Climate change means flooding and droughts are becoming both more extreme and unpredictable. People are losing their homes, their livelihoods and even their lives. This year our attention is brought to Trócaire's work for water justice as a response to the effects of climate change.

[Trócaire Resources](#)

Week 5

We see in the Gospel that when people encounter God's compassion and love, they respond generously and courageously. Today is the feast of St Patrick, a man of mission,

inspired by the God he came to know as he shepherded sheep. Place a globe or a map of the world in the sacred space...Invite people to come to know the work of Trócaire, supporting local partner organisations in different countries. Place the names of countries where war and famine prevail – invite people to pray, fast or give alms in solidarity with those in need.

Leave copies of the excerpts from St Patrick's prayer for people to take home...

St Patrick's Breastplate

*Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down,
Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of everyone who
thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who
speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the
invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.*

St Patrick's Breastplate

*I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me
From snares of devils,
From temptation of vices,
From everyone
who shall wish me ill,
afar and near.*