



**Saturday 23rd October 2021**

**Saturday of the twenty-ninth week in Ordinary Time Year 1**

### **Gospel**

Lk 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

*Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.*

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

### **Reflection by Fr John Purnell**

In today's Gospel Jesus tells his listeners the parable of the fig tree that a man planted in his orchard. When the man came to pick the fruit, there was none to be found. The tree had not born any fruit. The owner said to the gardener, *"For three years I have waited patiently for this tree to bear fruit. However, it has not produced any fruit at all."* The owner then instructed the gardener to cut down the tree. However, the gardener politely protested. He said to the owner: *"Sir, leave it for one more growing season. I will work the ground and fertilise the tree. Then if it does not bear fruit, I will cut it down."*

Today may be a good opportunity to ask yourself these questions: How am I bearing fruit? Am I producing tasty fruit? Or is my fruit small and somewhat tasteless? Am I producing an abundant crop or a meagre crop? And what are the fruits that I share with the people in my life and with the world?

We may consider our fruits small or insignificant. However, often a simple act of kindness may be a loving gift to the individual who receives your kindness. Today, trust that you will bear fruit. And be thankful for the "fruits" other people share with you!

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