

## In the week ahead

*For this week, you are invited to reflect on this famous quote from Blessed John Henry Newman:*

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

‘He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

‘Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.”

During the week, you might like to reflect and jot down things like:

- What attracts me to God and to faith?
- What barriers do I put up in the face of what I think God might be asking of me?
- What task(s) do I think God might be calling me to do?
- How can I learn to feel sure that God will be in it all with me?

## Closing Prayer – from Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place  
in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth  
and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Turn, O Lord! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning  
with your steadfast love,  
so that we may rejoice  
and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days  
as you have afflicted us,  
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,  
and prosper for us the work of our hands—  
O prosper the work of our hands!

Lent 2019 Year C

THIRD WEEK OF LENT

God's Gifts of Love and Mercy:  
Attraction and Call



Descendant of the Burning Bush  
St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai

# God's Gifts of Love and Mercy

## Opening Responses

Reader We gather in the name of the Father

**All Who called to Moses  
from the heart of a bush –  
that burned  
but was not consumed by flame;  
and set him on the path  
to saving God's people.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Son

**All Whose life attracted the good  
and the bad and the indifferent,  
and who called some of these  
to be his disciples and his friends.**

Reader We gather in the name of the Holy Spirit

**All Who opens hearts and minds  
to the attraction of God –  
and enables those who trust  
to respond to his call.**

Reader We gather...

**All (making the Sign of the Cross)  
in the name of the Father  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen**

## Setting the Scene

Moses was born to a Hebrew woman in Egypt and his life was saved as a baby by being put in a basket and placed among reeds in the River Nile where he was found by one of the Pharaoh's daughters and brought up by her. His easy life came to an end when he attacked and killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew man and he fled to somewhere in the Sinai peninsula. Here he settled down, got married, had children and, quite reasonably, could have assumed this was how the rest of his life was going to be... until he saw a bush burning but not being consumed by the flames. He could have walked away but was attracted to it and there follows a conversation which will change his life.

## To Ponder...

- When have you felt attracted to something and had a sense of God's presence?
- When have you sensed God wanting something from you but resisted because you felt you were not good enough?

## Reading—Exodus 3: 1-15

*As this is a long reading, please see separate sheet.*

As we look back at the Reading, we can see that Moses goes on a journey – or through a process. He begins by being attracted to something – and choosing to try to find out more. When he realises he is encountering God, he becomes afraid and hides his face – but God calls him to recognise that he is on holy ground but not to be afraid.

God has a mission for Moses – to take his people out of Egypt. Moses' first reaction is – “Who am I to do this?”

God promises to be with him – but Moses raises another objection – how will he convince the people that he really is coming from God? God does not really give an explanation but makes it quite clear that giving his name will not help very much – he is the God who is un-bound by time and space. This is not easy for anyone to get their head round let alone something they can explain to someone else but it obviously convinces Moses – perhaps because God refuses to be pinned down and remains a mystery.

## Sharing Reflections

- What are the things that attract us – and others – to God?
- When have we had a sense of being on “holy ground”?
- How do we recognise a task from God – something that God wants us to do?