

# LORDSBRIDGE TEAM OF CHURCHES

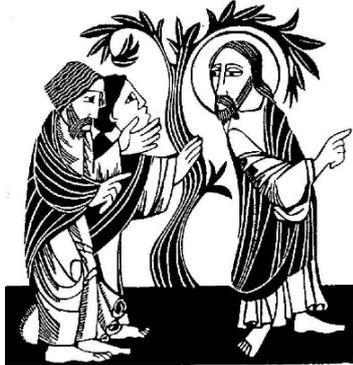


**Fifth Sunday of Lent – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

**Read John 12.20-33**

***You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.***

Some Greeks who are visiting the area have asked to speak to Jesus. Perhaps they are curious because of the crowd of people surrounding him. Their request is passed through the disciples before it gets to Jesus. Jesus speaks to them and welcomes them. He tries to make them understand what he has been teaching the crowd. Imagine how the Greeks must have felt. They were from another country. It would have been difficult for them to understand the language that Jesus was using. They may have felt nervous about joining this large group of people around Jesus.



Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever been an “outsider” trying to get to know a new group of people? How did you

feel?

Jesus welcomes the Greeks. He makes everyone feel welcome. But what he has to say is quite disturbing. He speaks about his death, using the image of a seed which must die in order to produce the fruit for which it is designed. He finishes by saying that all people will be drawn to him, no matter where they are from, no matter what their background.

Young people have just gone back to school after a long time of home schooling. How did you feel? Did it seem strange at first to be back in class? Were you nervous about it or excited to see your friends again? How did the teachers help you to settle into the routine of school again? We will soon be returning to services in church, after a long time of worshipping at home using audio services or services on zoom. Some people may feel nervous about coming back into church and being with a larger group of people after spending so much time at home with just their family. How can we welcome people back to church? Jesus welcomes everyone by being kind and considerate. We need to act like Jesus, welcoming everyone and helping them to feel relaxed and safe.

## **Activities**

- If you can get hold of some seeds you could plant a seed this week and watch it develop over the next few weeks. You could plant a pea seed in a glass jar with some damp kitchen paper. You can see the seed start to sprout and grow through the glass of the jar.  
Or you could plant a sunflower seed in a pot in the garden. You will need to be patient in watching it grow but it's fun to see how tall it gets to be.
- The head of a sunflower is absolutely jam packed with seeds. Each one potentially another plant that can grow



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until it too has a head full of seeds. Sunflowers can produce up to 1400 seeds per head! Think about how quickly you could multiply sunflowers!

Now think about your impact on the world around you. If you were to be friendly and kind to two people, and they in turn another two each, how quickly would the world become a more positive place? This week, make it your daily mission to be friendly and encourage someone in something they are doing

## **Prayer**

**Lord of all, thank you for giving your all and including us in your love.**

**Help us to follow your example and be like you.**

**Make us ready to receive and welcome all who come to us so that they too may “see Jesus”. Amen.**