

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS THIRD SUNDAY LENT 2024:

THE CLEANSING:

Covenant is a theme that keeps on recurring in our readings for the two last Sundays of Lent. The first Sunday we had **Gods covenant with Noah**, last Sunday covenant with Abraham and how Abraham trusted in God, this Sunday we hear of Gods **covenant with the Israelites as they travelled from slavery in Egypt to the promised land.**

God for his part of the covenant had promised, **liberty, land, prosperity, Special care and love**, in turn God expected the people to abide with the commandments as stipulated and given to Moses (**Ex.20:1-17**).

The commandments gives the guide lines on how to live as people of God with God and with one another, they are there to **lead, guide and give direction to the community.** The first three deals with the relationship between people and their creator, the rest deals with the relationship with the people themselves.

He is telling us in the first three commandments that **he is not distance from us, he is telling us to avoid, adoring other gods of materialism, pleasure and luxurious and to respect his name.**

He is telling us **not only to keep the Sunday holy but all days are holy.**

He is telling us **to love and respect not only our biological parents but all people deserve respect and their properties hence *love of Neighbour.***

He is telling us not to hurt others rather pray for those who curse and speak ill of us.

He is telling us to respect our **vocation whether religious, single or marriage and not to destroy other people vocation by being unfaithful and insincere.** He is telling us to avoid adultery by **thought, desire or even deed.**

The central call for the commandments is that they are beacons in our lives to direct us on our journey and help us in our worship.

It is in view of that we find Jesus **cleansing the temple** of those things which don't line up with **respect, love and worshipping place.** Jesus became so furious and couldn't hide his anger. His humanity could be

seen when people commercialized the worshipping place. Visualise what was happening there, **selling, buying, coins dropping, animals out of control, cheating with foreign exchange with different currencies, urgments and insincerities.** Jesus couldn't hold back, he had to act and to cleanse the holy place.

The church has given us these five weeks **to search, find, and cleanse the debris in our lives.** what do we need to **drive out, scatter or take away in our system this period.** What do need to **overturn, bitterness, anger Bad attitudes and judgements!** we need to look for the merchants and money changers within us. Lent helps us to overturn our tables,, think of our interests, priorities, passions. it reminds us that there are troubles within and needs cleansing. We need to examine the way we live and the intergrity of our relationship with Gods and our temples. we need to discover and uncover the obstacles which keep us away from living our faith and commitments to Christ.

Christ is telling us to get it out of the way. He will hand over the **whip and the cords to drive the obstacle away as he did in cleansing the temple.** He does this through prayer, fasting and through the sacrament of reconciliation and union with him in Eucharist, through good works of mercy in **ALMSGIVING.**