

### 3rd Sunday Lent B

Often we hear or perhaps even say that money is the root of all evil. However, this is not actually what scripture tells us. What the first reading from Book of Exodus and the gospel of Jesus driving the traders and money changers from the temple warns us about is the danger of putting our trust in money and wealth instead of trusting God. We remember from the Old Testament that the Jewish People turned their back on God and began to worship a calf that they had made from gold. Today, we may not be worshipping a golden calf. But we can become so attached and precious about what we have and own, that they can possess us rather than the other way around. They can often have an unhealthy hold over us. Perhaps the readings ask us to consider what is precious to us and where our heart is at this stage of our Lenten journey. As we continue on our way through Lent, we are being asked to consider what is essential to us in our daily lives with each other. What do we treasure most in our lives? We are also being asked to consider our relationship with God. We need to avoid a calculating mentality in Divine worship: Our relationship with God must be that of a child to his parent, one of mutual love, respect and a desire for the family's good, with no thought of personal loss or gain. The theologian Karl Rahner put it this way: "The number one cause of atheism is Christians. Those who proclaim God with their mouths and deny Him with their lifestyles are what an unbelieving world finds simply unbelievable."

We need to remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity and injustice. We are expected to cleanse our hearts of pride, hatred, jealousy and all evil thoughts, desires and plans. Reminiscent of what Jesus did in cleansing the Temple, we, must, with His grace, cleanse ourselves of attitudes and behaviours that prevent us from seeing and responding to hurt wherever we find it. We need to love our parish Church and use it: Our Church is the place where we come together as a community to love and praise God. In this building many prodigal sons and daughters have met the merciful Lord in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and have been welcomed back to our community. In this building, tears have been shed by those in pain and grief. Let's look around our Church this day and treasure it. When we pass our Church, we might take the time to make a brief visit. Let us make our Church even more of a holy place by adding our prayers and songs to parish worship and offering our time and talents in the various ministries. Lent, a time for facing the darkness within, a time for spiritual renewal.