

# Generosity: blessed and broken

*Read: Mark 6:35-44*

## *Reflect*

The disciples gave the people bread, first blessed and broken by Jesus. Our giving is the same. We give gladly and gratefully because all we have is God's blessing. We give faithfully and sacrificially, because we share in the life of the crucified and risen Christ.

## *Pray*

Lord, at holy communion I wait with empty hands to receive the sacrament of all you have given in Jesus. So, may I receive all that you give gladly, hold it lightly and gratefully and share it generously. For the Bread of Life was and is broken for me.

*Amen.*

## *Act*

Be generous: commit to give realistically, meaningfully, sacrificially of the first and best of all God has given to you.

# This Lent: *live and give generously*

## **1. Review your giving to our church**

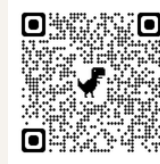
Please pray about your giving. Are we giving in response to God's love for us? As you are able, increase your gift to sustain and grow the ministry of our church.

## **2. Join the Parish Giving Scheme**

It's the most effective and efficient way to give to our church. You can:

### **Join online:**

Scan the QR code to find your church's PGS page.



### **Join by phone:**

Call 0333 002 1271. Find your unique church code at [www.parishgiving.org.uk](http://www.parishgiving.org.uk).

### **Join by paper form:**

Ask your treasurer for a PGS Gift form.

## **3. Leave a 'gift of life' to our church**

Leaving a legacy of generosity in our will is part of our story as Christians. You may wish to take advice from a solicitor or an accredited professional will writer. You can leave a gift to our church in your will by:

**Updating your current will** with your solicitor to include a gift to your church

**Writing a new will online**, at [www.farewill.com/diocese-of-liverpool](http://www.farewill.com/diocese-of-liverpool): a partnership of Farewill and the Church of England. The will writing service is FREE.

# GENEROUS LENT

Reflections for Lent:  
*Meeting our generous  
God in the desert  
places*

## Baptism: named, loved, valued

*Read: Matthew 3:13-17*

### *Reflect*

Before offering a parable, miracle or teaching Jesus hears God's word: 'My Son, loved and valued'. Lent begins with us knowing who we are: named, loved, valued by God. Generosity begins with us knowing that all we have is God's gift. Our giving flows from God's gifts to us; the response of grateful hearts.

### *Pray*

Lord, when I am tired, tempted, troubled or in tough times may I hear your word of love to me and know your delight in me. Give me grace to receive your gifts gladly and to share generously.

*Amen.*

### *Act*

Be grateful: practice an attitude of gratitude, saying thank you for something every day.

## Temptation: a quiet presence

*Read: Matthew 4:1-11*

### *Reflect*

The Temptation story is a promise and a challenge for generous disciples. The promise: God knows our needs and is with us, always.

The challenge: to trust God's provision for us; to resist the desire for the world's wealth, lest it capture our hearts. May God's word be, for each of us, the bread of life.

### *Pray*

Lord, gently, lovingly test my heart and teach me to trust you for my needs. Give me the grace of a grateful heart. Guard my heart from always wanting more. Grant to me the gift of learning to be content.

*Amen.*

### *Act*

Be content: practice by listing three or four good things that have happened today.

## Reflection: time with Jesus

*Read: Mark 6:30-34*

### *Reflect*

Within the busyness of life and ministry Lent invites us to step aside; to be with Jesus; to reflect; to learn as we live the hard yards of daily discipleship. Generous Lent invites us to choose to live each day as generous disciples; faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us.

### *Pray*

Lord, when I am rushed off my feet give me peace of heart and mind. When the world shouts loudly may I hear your still, small voice. This Lent give me grace to pause and to pray; to choose wisely and well.

*Amen.*

### *Act*

Be aware: practice curiosity about how the messages of a busy, consumer culture makes you feel.