

Theme: Lent 4 ... A New Temple

*How often have we ever got cross with someone only then to end up giving them a hug? Sounds like parenting to me! How many times do we initially react in a manner that we later regret or think to ourselves that with hindsight that we would have (or should have) reacted differently? Too often our initial reaction can be based on raw emotion and then only in the light of day, when the red mist has departed, do we take a very different response.*

*Whilst God probably doesn't suffer from 'red mist', He too can take a different response to His people. In our scriptures this week, we see God 'getting cross' and allowing His people to be punished for their sin. And then later, God loves His people so much, regardless of their sin, He sends His only Son as a sacrifice for them. In both cases, God loves His people. And yet His actions are very different. As we journey through Lent we are focused on Jesus as the new Temple ... this new Temple represents a the different approach that God takes towards His people ... one of love. The new Temple [Jesus] is all about unconditional love.*

[Mr Doust]



ENGAGING WITH GOD



Jesus and the  
New Temple

### **Prayer:**

We praise you loving and eternal God for your love of all people expressed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We praise you for his commitment to justice, his zeal for true worship of you and his willingness to replace all other sacrifices with the sacrifice of his own life.

In his name we offer you our worship.

Amen.

### **Scripture:**

*“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world guilty, but to save the world through him. He who believes in God’s Son is not judged guilty. He who does not believe has already been judged guilty, because he has not believed in God’s only Son. People are judged by this fact: I am the Light from God that has come into the world. But men did not want light. They wanted darkness because they were doing evil things. Everyone who does evil hates the light. He will not come to the light because it will show all the evil things he has done. But he who follows the true way comes to the light. Then the light will show that the things he has done were done through God.”*

### **Pope Francis:**

*‘Christ is Himself the universal meeting place - for everyone! - between God and mankind. For this reason, his humanity is the true temple where God is revealed, speaks, is encountered; and the true worshippers of God are not only the guardians of the material temple, the keepers of power and of religious knowledge, [but] they are those who worship God “in spirit and truth”’*