

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Parishioners,

In today's Gospel we have a fig tree in an orchard that seems as good as dead. It has failed to bear fruit for three years in a row. The reaction of the owner of the orchard seems quite reasonable; have the fig tree cut down because it is only taking up space that could be used for other plants. However, the gardener had a different perspective. He looked at the apparently useless fig tree and he saw the possibility that it could still bear fruit. He had a more generous vision of the fig tree, a more hopeful vision. He felt all was not lost; there was still time for the fig tree to come good.

The parable may be saying that this is the way the Lord looks upon us. When the Lord looks on us, he sees not just what we have failed to do in the past but what we are capable of doing in the future. He looks on us with generous and hopeful eyes. That is the way we are to look at each other and, indeed, at every situation in life. Like the gardener, we need to be patient, to be prepared to wait, and to be able to see beneath the unpromising surface to the faint signs of new life that may be there. Let us never lose hope and put our trust in the One who can draw fruit even from stones!

God bless you all!

Fr. Rolando