



# Dedication of the Lateran Basilica – Feast

## John 2:13–22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

## Some things to think about...

Jesus cleared out the temple because people had forgotten its true purpose and weren't being respectful.

Is it ever ok to be angry about something?

What are some things you do at church to show respect? Why is it important to be respectful?

## Activity

Create a "Guide to Mass" poster showing the different ways we can show respect at church (e.g. bow, kneel, be quiet etc.), and how we can praise God while still being respectful. Perhaps you can give a short talk to your school/parish?

## Teacher's Notes

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica commemorates the consecration of the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, Rome's official cathedral, by Pope Sylvester I on November 9, 324 AD. This marked an end to Christian persecution and was the first public Christian monument, symbolizing freedom, unity, and the foundation of the Church as the "Mother and Head of All Churches".

Jesus seems to be acting in a way that we don't expect, but Jesus was fully human as well as fully divine and so felt all human emotions, including anger. He felt so strongly about how the Temple was being treated that he showed his anger. This would be good to discuss with the children, so that they could think about why sometimes it's good to be angry when we see injustice and want to do something about it. This is the work of the SVP, to stand up for those in the community who face injustice.

Jesus reminded those who were using the temple into a market that the temple was a sacred place of worship. In the same way, our chapels and churches are to be treated with respect. Explain to the children that we recognise the presence of God in the Eucharist, so when it is present in church or in a chapel, we kneel (genuflect) as a sign of respect. We can also be joyful and sing loudly in a church but all this is to praise God – this is different to being at sports event or music concert.

The light referring to the Eucharist is the **Sanctuary Lamp**, a red candle kept perpetually lit in a Catholic church to indicate the real presence of Jesus Christ in the reserved Eucharist within the Tabernacle.

Notes: