

# Welcome to Week 3!

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent Gospel - Luke 13:1-9

*'Leave the fig tree one more year'*

Jesus reminds us of the shortness and fragility of our life. He then gives us the parable of the fig tree which bore no fruit, whose owner commands the gardener to grant it a reprieve to see whether it will fruit next year.

*Do I let God prune me in order that I become more loving and fruitful?  
Lord, help me to use every day you give me to bring forth the fruits of  
your kingdom.*

The Annunciation 25<sup>th</sup> March

The Feast of the Annunciation is exactly nine months before Christmas, Jesus' birthday, because Mary was pregnant with Jesus for nine months. On this day, the Angel Gabriel visited the young virgin, Mary. Gabriel told her that, if she was willing, she would conceive and bear a son, the Son of the Most High, who would rule over the House of Jacob for ever and ever. Mary did not understand how she could have a baby because she was not married, but the angel told her that the power of the Holy Spirit would conceive Jesus in her womb. Mary herself had been conceived without sin, and had never sinned in her whole life, and so, because of her goodness and purity, she was able to agree to all of this, even though it was frightening. She said she was willing with the famous words *'be it done to me according to thy word'*.

Mary has many titles, some of which begin with 'Queen' such as 'Queen of Heaven', or with 'Mother' such as 'Mother of Mercy'. If you want to know more about her titles, look up the Litany of Loretto.

*Do I love Mary as my heavenly mother? Do I need her help to follow her example and give my own 'yes' to our loving God? Do I need her help, to say sorry when I do something wrong? Immaculate heart of Mary, pray for us.*

## Activities

- ❖ How can you be more fruitful for God? Can you be more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, gentle, faithful, self-controlled? Choose one you find difficult, to practise this week!

## Prayer

- ❖ Pray for all the children making their First Reconciliation next weekend
- ❖ Pray a decade of the rosary for peace in the world. The Annunciation is the first Joyful Mystery.

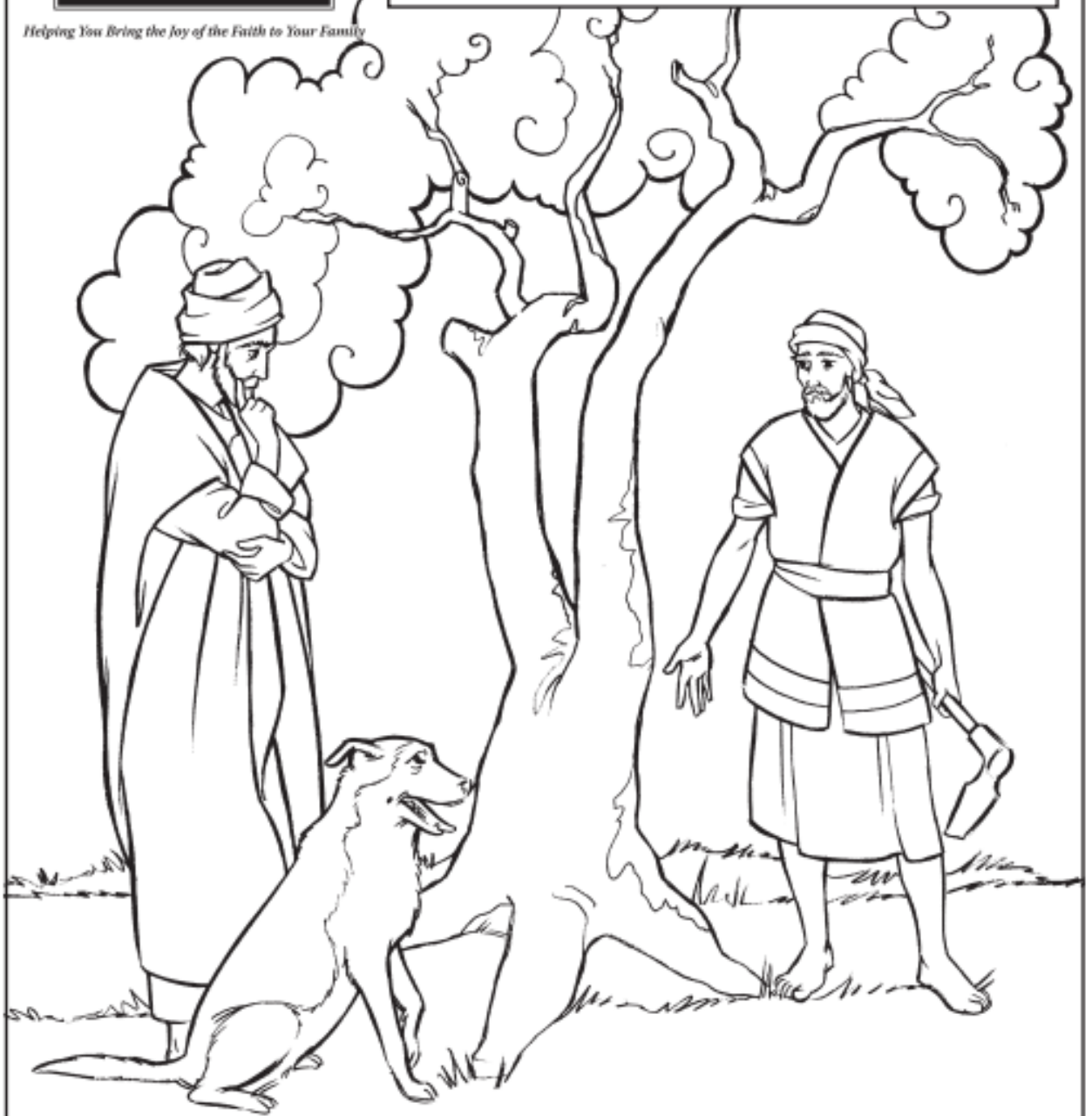
You could watch this short video about how to pray the rosary and to join in to pray one decade, the first Joyful Mystery which is the Annunciation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zWSSYHuq3zg>

Here is another video where Sr explains how to pray a decade of the rosary as a family: <https://youtu.be/EwOa84NecbE>

Of course, you could pray all 5 Joyful Mysteries if you like! They are:

- The Annunciation
- The Visitation (Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth)
- The Nativity (the birth of our Lord Jesus)
- The Presentation of Child Jesus in the Temple
- The Finding of the Jesus in the Temple



"And He told them this parable: 'There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, "For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. [So] cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?" [The gardener] said to him in reply, "Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down."' (Luke 13:6-9)

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# Word Search

## The Parable of the Fig Tree

" 'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more year, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.' "

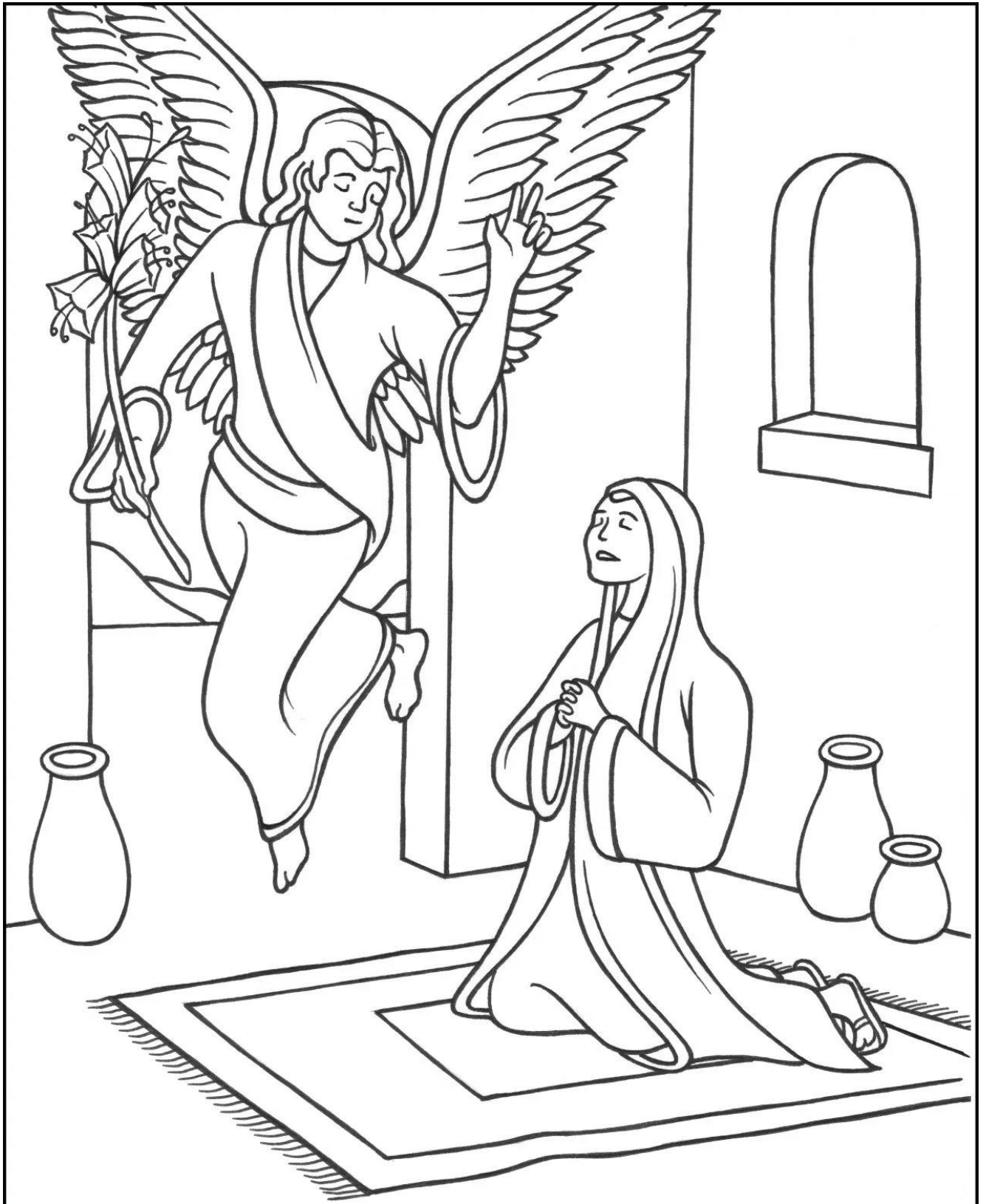
Luke 13:8-9 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 13:6-9 (NIV).



U S B F E R T I L I Z E T T A  
Y Q N D O W N O W L U O V Z T  
B A R N T P H T C E S L I I R  
R U F L H A A O S A E U N M E  
Z E R A R R S L Y V Q W E A X  
J F U B E A J D H E A P Y K N  
S B I X E B Y O F T P L A T U  
P J T G T L V E S O I L R O L  
A W R Q P E J J A H T R D J P  
T L C G C U T F O R U P F K Z  
X R O F I N D Q I F S M O G S  
P Y E N E A I S V A E O F N Q  
M O S E E M G Q B Z L R H S L  
D A P L A N T E D N L X V J D  
K Z N L U L G S B O L U C W M

YEARS	THREE	LOOK	LEAVE	FRUIT
DOWN	FIND	VINEYARD	MAN	TOLD
PLANTED	USE	SOIL	ALONE	FIG
FERTILIZE	DIG	PARABLE	TREE	CUT



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