

Achievement Objective 1

Children will be able to: recognise Lent as a time when Christians are reminded to repent, pray and do penance as they make a forty day journey to Easter.

Learning Outcomes:

The children will:

- 1 recognise *Lent* as a season of 40 days beginning on *Ash Wednesday*
- 2 explain the meaning of receiving the ashes at the celebration of the Eucharist or in a special ceremony on *Ash Wednesday*
- 3 identify at least one purpose of *Lent*

Preparation for the Lesson:

- *Liturgical Year Calendar*, enlarge copy and colour, page 3 or Photograph Resource - *Liturgical Year Calendar*
- Columban Calendar
- Art materials for plaques
- Children's Home Activity, page 23 - copy for each child

Teacher's Note: *Lent* begins on *Ash Wednesday* but the four days prior to the First Sunday of *Lent* are like a prelude to the Season. The evening celebration of the Eucharist on *Holy Thursday* is the beginning of the Easter or Paschal Triduum which reaches its high point at the Easter Vigil and concludes on the evening of Easter Sunday. The feast of *Pentecost* concludes the *Easter Season*.

Teacher's Notes:

The season of *Lent* begins with *Ash Wednesday*. *Lent* is a forty-day journey - hikoi when the whole Christian family - Te whanau a Te Karaiti sets out to prepare to celebrate the great feast of Easter. The number forty was an important number in the Bible. The People of Israel spent forty years wandering in the desert, learning how to live God's ways before reaching the Promised Land. Jesus spent forty days in the desert praying and fasting in preparation for his work of teaching and healing among the people.

The forty days of *Lent* is a time for Christians to have a serious think about how well they are following Jesus. It is a time for them to repent or be sorry for the ways they are failing to follow Jesus. It is a time when people do some penance to grow strong and turn away from sin and wrongdoing. It is a time for a change of heart. It is a time to grow in friendship with God - Te Atua through prayer - karakia.

People can begin *Lent* on *Ash Wednesday* with a special time of prayer by celebrating the Eucharist. After the homily the sign of the cross is marked on everyone's forehead with blessed ashes. This is a reminder for everyone to turn away from sin and follow Jesus more closely.

In the early days of Christianity people who had turned away from the Christian message but wanted to return to the community used to dress in sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes to show that they were sorry for failing to follow Jesus. This was a very public way of saying sorry to God and the community. This way of repenting and doing penance soon died out, but the ceremony of marking the forehead with ashes continued.

See, now is the acceptable time: see, now is the day of salvation!

2 Corinthians 6:2



Teaching and Learning Experiences:

- Children look at the *Liturgical Year Calendar* from the Teacher Resource, page 3 and find *Lent*. Talk about how it is preceded by *Ordinary Time* and is followed by the Season of Easter.
- Children look at the Columban Calendar, find *Ash Wednesday* then count the days of *Lent* beginning on the first Sunday of *Lent* and finishing on *Holy Thursday*.
- Children form small groups and do a Roundtable exercise, see Instructions page 47, to write as many endings to the following sentence starter as they can: The 40 days of *Lent* is a time for Christians to ...
- Children share Roundtable charts. Teacher records ideas onto one chart ensuring the following ideas are included: The 40 days of *Lent* is a time for Christians to
 - think about how well they are following Jesus
 - repent / be sorry for the ways they fail to follow Jesus
 - do some penance and turn away from sin
 - change and become stronger followers of Jesus
 - grow in friendship with God through prayer - karakia.
- Children create a wall plaque to remind them about the purpose of *Lent*. Decorate the plaque with Lenten colours and symbols.

This Lent

Repent

Do Penance

Pray

Change

Follow Jesus

Consolidation and Extension Activities:

- Children's Home Activity

Suggested Assessment Examples:

- **LO 1** Tell a partner how long *Lent* lasts and when it begins
- **LO 2** Tell a partner the meaning of the ashes on *Ash Wednesday*
- **LO 3** Refer to children's plaques

