

# THROUGH THE EYES OF CHILDREN

14 February 2016

Ash Wednesday to Easter is known as the Lenten journey. We travel with Christ and his disciples as his ministry moves from the temptation in the desert on the first Sunday, when Jesus goes on a personal retreat to prepare himself through his eventual anointing at the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and the Palm Sunday entrance in Jerusalem. But what does that look like, or sound like, to little children?

At All Saints' Marseille, Father David Greenwood asked two of his young charges, Anna (8 years) and Julia (7 years) to draw the Easter scriptures. Both Julia and Anna are avid artists and can be regularly found at the new "artists' table" by the front doors of All Saints at the foot of the baptismal font.

To prepare for this, special age appropriate language translations of the scriptures were made and the girls' father, Michael, read them to the girls. They heard the stories afresh through young ears and produced a series of drawings which will now be used by All Saints as the bulletin covers throughout Lent. On one, for the Second Sunday in Lent, Abram and Sarai leave Ur by camel on their way to explore the concept of monotheism. With them are the cattle, sheep and goats that will form the original covenant sacrifice once Abram encounters God in the desert and is promised offspring and generations as numerous as the grains of sand in the desert or the stars in the sky. In another, baby Moses floats downstream in a reed basket to be "drawn out" and rescued by Pharaoh's daughter; obvious in her princess regalia. And sadly, in another, some very sad faced Galileans are before Pilate. Jesus speaks about them and their tragic sacrifice in the gospel for the fourth Sunday in Lent.



Abram and Sarai depart UR with their flocks, by Anna age 9.

The drawings in the collection, "Through the Eyes of Children" will be featured on the All Saints' Marseille FaceBook page and on their Webpage. They were an educational exercise for artists and an offering by them to their wider church congregation. They will be an education for the congregation as well and an evangelism tool for all those who will encounter the photos on the web... those who will again see the Lenten story through the eyes of a child.



Jesus arrives in Jerusalem riding on a donkey while palm branches and cloaks are put on the road as a welcoming carpet, by Julia age 7.