

## Walking with God through Lent 2025

### 3. Walking through an orchard (based on this week's Gospel reading)

Looking at the garden I can see two Figs. As close to an orchard as we get. The large, older one, remains in it's winter slumber but will undoubtedly bear fruit by September. It currently makes a good hanger for the bird feeders. The baby one (still labelled) has already pushed out buds for new growth, as it seeks to establish itself.



In this weeks Gospel passage Jesus creates a story around a fig tree, growing in the middle of a vineyard. Apparently the two were sometimes planted together. Walking through such orchards on a sunny day must have been rather beautiful. However, Jesus was not painting a summer scene, or giving a horticultural lecture. He was making quite a forceful challenge to those who were listening. The fig in question had produced no fruit for three years. It really needed cutting down. Yet, in the parable it is given another year. Another chance to fulfil it's main purpose for being alive!

Speaking, to the people who regarded themselves as the chosen ones, the message was clear enough. They needed to take stock and mend some of their ways. God had, and was being patient, but this should not be taken for granted. Action in thought and deed was being encouraged. As we walk through Lent, we too can ponder our own walk with God.

Are there things we have been putting off which need dealing with?

Are there things we should say to someone to mend any ill feeling?

Are there bridges we can build, with others, for the common good?

Whatever it may be, do offer it in prayer, to the God who never tires of walking with us. And who wants the very healthiest of outcomes.