

This Week at St Mary's

17th July 2022

THE COMPASSIONATE SAMARITAN

One of the stories Jesus told is so well known its name has found its way into popular speech - the good Samaritan. Ask anyone what it's about - more than likely, it'll be about putting yourself out to help a stranger in practical ways. All in favour of that! If it ends with people thinking Jesus taught that's what it takes to be right with God, not so great.

The word compassion (or mercy) comes up twice in the story. It describes the Samaritan's emotional response on seeing a fellow human lying bloodied and bruised at the roadside. Secondly, the lawyer's telling final comment about the true neighbour, opens up what it means to be right with God.

Compassion is when the will, mind, heart and body all combine in the face of someone else's suffering. Compassion shares the pain, is moved to act for and connects deeply with a fellow human being. This is what led Jesus to come to Earth. Christians are to be 'clothed' with this same compassion, a visible mark of the Holy Spirit's life at work in each of us and in our churches.

Becoming compassionate needs to be a major priority. Like many things (eg worship and prayer) it's **in the doing** that we learn. Pray to do something which will communicate compassion, often in the 'small' things like a phone call or text or card. We also have to be receivers of God's compassion so that we can pass it on. This will involve our needing to be willing to be **vulnerable about our own suffering**. The Christian will want to **connect personally with the story of Jesus**, by which the Holy Spirit will clothe us (in this case) with compassion. Here (Luke 10.25+) there are rich seams to mine. Wounds, oil, wine, donkey, inn, and more draw us close to all Jesus has done for us and how His grace reaches us.

Tom Gillman

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON A TRIP TO ISRAEL

After many years of pushing Israel to the bottom of my bucket list I finally plucked up the courage to go. And what a blessing. Exciting of course to be where Jesus taught and performed miracles, yet really so much more than that. A time of awe, at the enormous amount of history below my feet, accompanied by wonder at how archaeology has uncovered evidence of events recorded in scripture. A time of appreciation of the natural beauty, such as the Sea of Galilee in the dawn light, and the starlings that live in the hot, harsh desert environment. Above all though I had a great curiosity about everything, from the ancient biblical heritage, the current political situation in Jerusalem and Palestine, to opportunities for spiritual growth.

It was difficult at first to relate the modern city of Jerusalem to my images of those early Christian beginnings. But as I toured wider archaeological sites the significance of where I was seeped through. A particularly poignant moment was by the garden tomb, possibly near the site of the crucifixion. Hearing our group singing “When I survey the wondrous cross” was a powerful reminder of how the depths of Jesus' suffering touches all of us today.

Perhaps my deepest reflections were about how I see Jesus, and these were brought into focus around Galilea and Caesarea Philippi, near where Jesus asked his disciples:

“Who do people say I am?” After their reply he said,
“**But what about you? Who do you say I am?** (Mark 8,27-29).

And what about me? I asked myself as I sat on that rock pondering His question. If He was in front of me now I thought, **Who would I say that He is?**

JULIA W

SERVICES OVER AUGUST

Wed 6.15 Evensong - none after 20th July, resumes 7th Sept
Thurs 12.45 Communion - none after 4th August resumes 8th Sept
Sunday 6.30 Evensong - none after 24th July, resumes 4th Sept

NB There will be **informal Sunday Evening Worship at 6.30** on as many of the intervening Sundays as possible. More info to follow, please let Tom know if you'd like to participate.

Georgina has been one of our choral scholars. She reflects on this time -

I've been one of the Soprano choral scholars at St. Mary's for the last three years, and this summer I am graduating with a BA (hons) in Music from the University of Nottingham. Singing with St. Mary's, despite losing so much time due to Covid, has been an absolute joy and has taught me so much. Alongside my scholarship I have been part of a young artist's scheme with The Sixteen, and have been able to perform with high profile brands such as Burberry. I'll be taking some time off to travel over the next few years, and although I'll hopefully be back to visit soon, I'll always treasure everything I've learnt here!

LAST WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Saturday - Nottingham Symphony Orchestra with a programme of British music from the last 100 years

Wednesday - fascinating Insight by Rev'd James Pacey into his life as Hospital Chaplain

ST MARY'S CHILDREN CHOIRS launched this week, with rehearsals taking place on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Pupils from six different schools attended: they sang fun vocal warm ups, learnt a varied repertoire of sacred and secular music and participated in singing games. They already sound brilliant!

GIVING TO ST MARY'S We rely on your financial support. Kindly use online banking (NatWest 56-00-61, St Mary's PCC a/c 00834602); cash or cheque in the donations chest; the card reader; or via the website. Please use Gift Aid if you are a UK tax-payer. Standing order forms are by the south porch.

WORKPLACE WEDNESDAY each week, a third space to work away from home & the office. St Mary's is a unique setting with wi-fi & fresh coffee. 9 to 12pm, no fee or need to book.

MEADOWS FOODBANK please support with tinned fruit, meat & tuna; UHT milk; noodles; toilet rolls; shampoo; toiletries; bags for life. Tues 5.30-7.15, Fri 10-12, Sat 11-1pm NG2 2JD

Wherever you are, we extend a very warm greeting to you,
especially if you've recently discovered St Mary's

FORTHCOMING SERVICES

10.45am CHORAL EUCHARIST

also Audio Broadcast live via our website
(follow the link, including for Order of Service)

6.30pm EVENSONG Live & Broadcast

6.15pm WEDNESDAY EVENSONG

12.45PM THURSDAY COMMUNION

6pm THURSDAY EVENING PRAYER

On skype - contact Grant - gwalton@stmarynotts.org

ST MARY'S REMAINS COVID SENSITIVE,
especially to the most vulnerable,
in respect of the use of masks, distancing and sanitising.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Estelle Barks Jenny Du May & her husband Peter
Stephen Morris Kirsten Solway

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