

Prayer Network: Reflection on Social Justice.

Treating others as you would want them to treat you.

Invitation: Jesus Our Role Model.

Jesus is our role model when it comes to understanding social justice. Jesus stood out from the crowd because he practiced what he preached, where he was and with those he met each and every day. Social justice is about 'right relationships', a harmony that comes from fidelity to a right relationship:

with God,

with neighbour

and with the Land

Who is my Neighbour?

Scripture Reading. Luke 10:29 -37

".....And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii-and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "**The one who showed him mercy.**" And Jesus said to him, "**You go, and do likewise.**"

This is the Gospel, the Good News, of Jesus Christ.

What is mercy?



Mercy can be understood as having four aspects:

- Compassionate treatment, especially of those under one's power; *clemency*.
- A disposition to be kind and forgiving; *a heart full of mercy*.
- Something for which to be thankful; a blessing: *It was a mercy that no one was hurt*.
- Alleviation of distress; relief: *welcoming the asylum seeker and refugee was an act of mercy*.

Gospel Reflection Questions.

Have I experienced being in need of mercy? What was my experience?

Have I responded to someone in need of mercy? What was my experience?

Have I '*passed by on the other side*' when someone was in need of mercy? What was my experience?

Intercessions.

Our love for God and neighbour, particularly those we live with, is the fire in which the incense of our true worship burns. We pray.

For those who feel abandoned in their suffering; may we be compassionate companions to accompany them. R/ Enlighten us to do your will, O' Lord.

For those who struggle under the burden of sorrow; may we be compassionate guides to encourage them. R/ Enlighten us to do your will, O' Lord.

Jesus said, "In everything therefore, treat people the same way as you want them to treat you" (Matt 12:7). May we practice what we preach. R/ Enlighten us to do your will, O' Lord.

Own intercessions.....

Our Father

in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,



and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Final Blessing from the Book of Numbers 6: 24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance-upon you
and give you peace.