

### Gospel (Luke 10:25-37)

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself." And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, 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 while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day the Samaritan took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'" Jesus asked, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" The lawyer said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

### Scripture Reflection

In the crowds gathered around Jesus there were those who were captured by his personality. He must have been very charismatic. People were caught up with his story and his teachings. Others were there because they were cynical, suspicious

perhaps even jealous. Jesus responded to the question from the lawyer "Who is my neighbour" with a story that would have been so shocking for the people of that time. Jesus chose an outsider, a Samaritan as the hero of the story. This fact alone would have had the people reeling with horror. Jesus was trying to highlight that the compassion and love of God can never be limited or contained but is abundant and for all.

Being confronted with assisting someone left abandoned and hurt by the side of the road may never happen to us. The characters in the Good Samaritan story were hell bent on getting to their destinations uncontaminated. They had very good reasons for avoiding being interrupted. They had commitments and obligations to fulfil. Their lack of compassion was shown through their focus on other "holy things". They were unable to see the sacredness of a human being. Harsh judgements can be made about their lack of compassion. They were busy people.

In the busyness of our lives a question for us to ponder is "How do I cope with an interruption when I am focused on a conclusion?" How is my behaviour different from the characters in the story? Is it different?

### Pilgrimage: A journey of justice

Pilgrimage is a step out into the unknown. The unknown at once raises both fear and doubt, and the excitement of adventure. I hear the stories of those who venture out in confidence only to find pain and suffering. But I've heard other stories too of simply generous service.

Who will I meet on the road? Who will meet me? Who will I pass by, and with whom will I walk? Who will pass me by? Do I see who I pass by?

Pilgrimage will be an encounter with my neighbour, and my neighbour with me! Who is my neighbour?



## Pope Quote

“The unbreakable bond between love of God and love of neighbour is emphasized. One is so closely connected to the other that to say that we love God becomes a lie if we are closed to our neighbour or hate him altogether. Saint John’s words should rather be interpreted to mean that love of neighbour is a path that leads to the encounter with God, and that closing our eyes to our neighbour also blinds us to God.”

Pope Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est (God is Love), #16

## WYD Action

When at WYD you quickly realise that your neighbours are made up of people from all over the world. During this time, Australia will go out of its way to welcome and embrace young guests from around the world. But what about those young people who are guests in our country under different circumstances?

Each year thousands of people are removed from their homes and become refugees in countries all around the world. What needs to be done to extend this same welcome and hospitality on a continual basis? Get in contact with refugees in your local community. Can you establish a tutoring program? Can you write letters to refugees? Can you write letters to the government with your ideas and suggestions on better treatment of refugees? Can you also make connections with the

marginalised in your immediate, everyday community, eg your school, work, uni, family, etc. What can you do to make them feel more welcome in their environment? How can you be a supportive, friendly, accepting presence for them? What can you do to make them feel special, lovable and important? Do something during this week to start making this happen. Make this an act that is ongoing.

## WYD Cross and Icon

Best known now as the World Youth Day Cross, it also goes by the names the “Holy Year Cross”, the “Jubilee Cross”, the “Pilgrim Cross” and the “Youth Cross”. It had its beginning in 1984, when celebrating the Holy Year of Redemption, Pope John Paul II desired that there should be a cross - the great symbol of our faith - near the main altar in Saint Peter’s where it could be seen by everyone.

At the conclusion of the Jubilee Year Pope John Paul II closed the Holy Door, and the Cross, 3.8m high and 1.75m wide, that had made its home inside, was taken outside and entrusted to a group of young people to be carried out into the world –

My dear young people, at the conclusion of the Holy Year, I entrust to you the sign of this Jubilee Year: the Cross of Christ! Carry it throughout the world as a symbol of Christ’s love for humanity, and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption.

Taken from the WYD 2008 website: [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org)

## Ritual and Prayer

### Preparation

Establish a prayer focus incorporating:

- coloured material
- an open bible
- a large candle.

Have small candles available for each person.

### Ritual

Invite group members to gather around the prayer focus.

Hand out smaller candles to group members.

Light the large candle in the prayer focus.

Read the scripture to the group gathered.

Invite the group to spend time in reflection.

After a few minutes one person picks up the large candle and lights the candle of the person to their right saying "God's love belongs to each of us". The person receiving light responds "May we journey together in peace." This continues until everyone's candle is lit.

Once all candles are alight, the group prays the final prayer together.

### Prayer

God of all creation,

As we journey through life, and in particular towards World Youth Day, grant us the ability to care for, accept and understand all people we come across, regardless of their beliefs, religion or race.

May we learn to live with the same unconditional love and compassion you have shown the world in your son Jesus Christ.

Grant us the strength, guidance and faithfulness of Mary as we seek to live a life of loving response to you.

Amen



## Sacred Places

Take time out from your busy life to make a sacred space where you can reflect on your life each week. This place is your sacred place where you can come and not be disturbed while you reflect on your life in the presence of God.

- What has been revealed during this time of reflection?
- Where have I encountered God in those around me?
- What have I learnt from these encounters?
- How can I be more aware of God's presence in my life?
- How will I respond to God's call this week?