



CELEBRATING AT HOME

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Towards a love beyond labels (Luke 10:25-37)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus, you are the Way that leads to life.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Truth that sets us free.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Love that fills our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Scripture Reading (*Luke 10:25-37*)

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus. 'Do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour

to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'

Reflection - *Towards a love beyond labels*

Pope Francis said society creates "an adjective culture" that prefers to immediately label people as good or bad. Jesus, he said, breaks the mentality that separates, excludes, isolates and belittles the person.

A good example of what the pope said is found in the parable in today's Gospel. The very fact that we know the story as, 'The Good Samaritan' seems to imply that he is the exception, that most Samaritans are 'bad'. That's certainly how Jesus' audience would have viewed Samaritans.

Ideas of hospitality, welcoming the stranger and caring for those in need held a very high place in Jewish scriptures, spirituality and practice. The practise of these virtues was long recognised as responding to the Word (God's Law) placed in the believer's heart. That is, acting after God's own heart.

Asking who is my neighbour (who is 'in' or 'out') is the wrong question according to Jesus. Rather, one should ask, "How should a member of God's chosen people act?" In the parable it is not a member of the Chosen People who acts after God's heart, but an outsider, a Samaritan. It is he who shows how a member of God's people should act towards those in need. He does not ask, "Who is my neighbour"; he shows himself to be a neighbour and a person after God's own heart by the lavish way he helps the man in need.

This is 'loving with all one's heart'. Can we go and do the same?

**This encounter of mercy
between a Samaritan and a Jew
is highly provocative;
it leaves no room for ideological
manipulation
and challenges us to expand
our frontiers.**

The Joy of the Gospel n. 272

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Prayers of Intercession

Move us beyond hesitation and fear.
**Help us to reach out with your love
to touch and heal.**

May your spirit of wisdom
guide us in the ways of peace and reconciliation.

Summon your gifts of care and compassion,
**so that we can continue to care for our
sisters and brothers.**

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy 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.**

Closing Prayer

In your everlasting kindness,
Lord, our God,
touch us with your love,
that we may be your compassion in the world,
now and always,
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
carry us gently through the week ahead.
Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
Australia & Timor-Leste

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