

## Reflection for Passion Sunday

As a child I used to visit my Grandparents a few times a year. My development was marked by the items in the house which I was allowed to use. As I grew, I moved from plastic plates to china ones – but only those with significant cracks or chips. Once this stage had passed without mishap, I was allowed to move onto the daily-use china and, only then, to the better plates. The very best china was for looking at, displayed neatly in a closed cupboard. After my Nanna's death, it became clear that this hierarchy of belongings had extended to many items: sheets, towels and linen. Sadly when we unfolded the beautiful hand-embroidered table cloths, we discovered that many of them were unusable due to varnish stains, moths and the decay of time. I wondered why these things had been kept shut away. Perhaps my Nanna simply enjoyed knowing that she had such fine things after childhood poverty. Sadly, they all had to be thrown away.

Today's reading suggests another way of viewing our resources. The woman in today's gospel pours eye-wateringly expensive perfumed oil over Jesus in anointing. The oil has been 'wasted'; it cannot be used again. Whatever was she thinking?!

*Revd Sarah*



**Sunday Evening** Worship during Lent will be via Zoom. The codes are given below.

Meeting ID: 864 2705 6965 Passcode: 478637

Or dial by your location using the same codes as above.  
0203 481 5240 0131 460 1196 0203 481 5237

**NEXT SUN 13.04.2025** Palm Sunday  
Main service: 10.30am starting in the Hall

**READINGS:** OT Isaiah 50: 4-9a  
NT Philippians 2: 5-11  
GOSPEL Luke 22: 14 - 23: 56



### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**6th April 2025**

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

**9.55am Rosary Devotions in Church**

**10.30am in the Hall**

**5pm Evening Worship by Zoom**

### Today

#### **Sung Eucharist**

*Hymn Numbers*

*426 Praise to the Holiest in the height*

*32 And now, O Father, mindful of the love*

*500 There is a Redeemer*

### Tuesday 8th April

**7.30pm** House Group. 'Saved & redeemed'  
John 3: 16-18

### Wednesday 9th April

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday 10th April

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots

**10.30-12noon** Knit & Natter. 19 Maple Rd  
Details from Jenny. 01392 498725

### Friday 11th April

**9.30am** Morning Prayer

**10am** Staff Meeting

**11.30am** Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 12th April

**9am** Men's Breakfast in the Sawyers

## Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Isaiah 43: 16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

## Philippians 3: 4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the

sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

## John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

## Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

## NOTICES

Next week, we are starting **Palm Sunday** in the Hall with the Palm Gospel and blessing Palm Crosses. We will then process into the Church for our Eucharist, which marks our return to worship in the Church building.

We are going to start revising the **Year's Mind list** as it has become rather lengthy. We recognise that it is a sensitive matter and all those currently on this list from the year 2000 will be retained automatically. If you would like an older St Thomas name kept on this list please contact Ian or Fr David. Please note that if your relative or friend was a worshipper at Emmanuel or St Andrews, there are no dates with these names. So please speak to Ian or Fr David even if the date is 2000 onwards.

**Electoral roll revision** Every 6 years we are required to complete a full revision of the church electoral roll and this is due to take place at least 2 months before our APCM on 25 May. This is also a great time for any new members to be added. New and existing members will need to complete and return an application form to Carolyn Bryant, Ian Totterdell or a member of the clergy by 10 May at the latest. The new roll will be displayed on the noticeboard for 14 days prior to the APCM. Carolyn and Ian have copies of the application form available and if you need help or have any questions please speak to Carolyn after the service or on 07780 707183.

**Cleaning the Church** Volunteers are needed. Areas can be cleaned whenever it suits as long as there are at least two people. Speak to Ian.

**Easter Flowers.** If you would like to contribute towards the flowers in memory of a loved one, please speak to Mary Naish.

**Spring edition of Noticing Nature Walk.** Saturday 3rd May at 11.-1200. Meet at the Church Hall entrance. This will be a seasonal slow, mindful walk in our local green spaces. Will travel to Princes Gardens if Wisteria is in bloom. Liz

