

## Reflection John12:1-8

There is a challenge laid before us in the Gospel and the Epistle readings for today. What is really important as we continue in our Mission here at St Thomas? So often Churches can focus on problems.

Sure, we could all agree that spiritual growth would be high on our list as we look for solutions. We come into Church where we are fed and nurtured spiritually, and then we go out into the community to do our Ministry where we live, or where we work, and then we come back into Church bringing others and then the cycle starts again.

Well, that's the theory, but what about the practice? How many do we turn off by focusing on the problems we face? Mary focused on Jesus, Judas's motives were very different.

Spiritual growth and nurture should be the focus. Paul says it very simply in v 14 of the Epistle "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ" If we can grasp that, then I believe everything else will fall into place.

*Fr Terry*

**Codes for Zoom Compline on Sundays during Lent**

**Meeting ID :** 767 2850 1397

**Passcode:** QxdMw1

**Telephone numbers:** 0203 481 5237,  
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

**NEXT SUNDAY 10.04.2022 Palm Sunday**

**SERVICES:** 10.30am in Church. 8pm Zoom

**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

**3rd April 2022**

**Lent 5**

**10.30am in Church. 8pm Compline by Zoom**

### Today

**10.30am** Sung Eucharist

**8pm** Compline by Zoom

### Tuesday 5th April

**7.30pm** House Group by Zoom (see Ian)

### Wednesday 6th April

**10am** Holy Communion (BCP)  
followed by coffee and Lent Group

### Thursday 7th April

**9.30-11am** St Thomas Tots with Breast  
Feeding Support  
**10.30am** Knit & Natter at 19 Maple Road

### Friday 8th April

**11.30am** Stations of the Cross

### Saturday 9th April

**9am** Men's Breakfast at 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

even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh. 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

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is not now compulsory but we would still advise it while infection numbers remain high. If you are coming to coffee, we also recommend wearing a mask until you are seated in the Hall.

**Knit and Natter April 2022** We shall be meeting every Thursday from 10.30 to midday at 19 Maple Road. Details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

**House Group.** We are meeting every Tuesday throughout Lent. We will be following the C of E 'Living in Love and Faith' course. New people very welcome!

**Community Larder** is receiving donations on Tuesday 5th April from 10-11am. (Earlier finish time than usual)

**DBS renewals and checks** a message from Carolyn Bryant, Parish Safeguarding Representative. As a result of recent changes DBS checks now need to be renewed every 3 years instead of 5, so everyone will need to complete a new online application. All PCC members will need a DBS check in their capacity as trustees of an organisation working with and supporting children and vulnerable adults. There are also others in connection with their work with children, taking communion to people in their homes etc. Please look out for an email from me with instructions and a link to the online application form over the next couple of weeks and speak to Jane Vowles or me if you have any questions. We appreciate that not everyone has access to email or may need additional support with the application process, providing acceptable ID etc and we would be happy to help if required.  
Carolyn Bryant 07780707183  
Jane Vowles 07759263410

**St Andrew's, Exwick.** Please note that Fr David and Rev Sarah are covering some of the Sunday morning services at Exwick after the retirement of Jerry Bird.