

Reflection for Holy Monday

Readings: Psalm 36 and John 12:1 – 11

It might be difficult to concentrate these days to stillness, silence, meditation and prayer. It is understandable, after all, we live times none of us could have imagine a month ago. Yesterday was Palm Sunday, a day that marks the start of the holiest of Holy Week for Christians. It invites us to follow the journey of Jesus, from that triumphant arrival to Jerusalem, all the way to Golgotha and death on Good Friday, leaving us to wait in anticipation the day of Victory over death.

Today's Gospel reading is from John's Gospel, chapter 12, verses 1 to 11. It offers us a very homely scene. Jesus is having a meal with his good friends, Lazarus, Martha and Mary. Lazarus – in a good health, Martha busy serving – as was her way, and Mary attentively listening to Jesus – as was her way.

But then everything changes in this homely scene. Mary, the attentive listener does something rather unexpected. She takes a jar of expensive perfume and anoints Jesus' feet and then wipes them with her hair. This extravagant act angers Judas, but not Jesus. Rather we hear how Jesus is thankful for her attentiveness, for her compassion and comfort.

Something in Jesus' body language or words he said, but aren't recorded to us to read, Mary picked up that Jesus was going to do something unheard of, and she acknowledged it in her way.

I find Mary attentive discipleship remarkable. She is showing us what the call to be a disciple really means and she calls us to be as attentive as she was. At the times that we live right now, it is more important than ever before to be attentive. Attentive to the Word of God, but also to those around us with whom we share our daily lives.

So as we continue to follow Jesus' journey throughout this week, I hope that like Mary, we would find time to rest on Jesus' feet and attentively listen to the words that are spoken to us. But also remember to be attentive to those around us. Let us attentively bless every little moment of service, every gift of time or daily treasure shared with another.

Amen.