

## Reflection Monday of Holy Week 2022

As we begin Holy Week it will help to realise that the Spirit given to the Servant in Isaiah is that same Spirit given to us. The same Spirit will be given to those received into the Church and confirmed at Easter. In reading Isaiah, we recognise how Jesus, filled with the same Spirit, fulfilled the mission of the Servant: bringing true justice to the nations; serving the cause of right; opening the eyes of the blind, freeing captives from imprisonment of sin, ill health, physical and spiritual disabilities, inner failings . . . We will not be the Covenant of the people because that is who Jesus is, but we can live in testimony to its truth and its reality.

Recall the many ways in which Jesus has helped us as we journey with him over these next few days of his life. Mary anoints the feet of Jesus because she wanted to do something for Jesus in response to the graces and blessings she received from him. *"This is something I can do for you!"* She shows her thanks in action rather than words. This raises the question of what we can do for Jesus as he faces the trials and challenges ahead?

### **The Anointing at Bethany** (Malcolm Guite)

Come close with Mary, Martha, Lazarus,  
so close the candles stir with their soft breath;  
and kindle heart and soul to flame within us  
lit by these mysteries of life and death.  
For beauty now begins the final movement  
in quietness and intimate encounter.  
The alabaster jar of precious ointment  
is broken open for the world's true lover.

The whole room richly fills to feast the senses  
with all the yearning such a fragrance brings,  
the heart is mourning but the spirit dances,  
here at the very centre of all things,  
here at the meeting place of love and loss  
we all foresee, and see beyond the cross.