

Reflection Friday after Ash Wednesday 2024

The focus of the Ecumenical prayer/discussion groups for Lent this year is the Journey of Jesus to Jerusalem, offering an invite to make our Lenten journey with Jesus over the last few days of his life. In this way Jesus will speak to us on our journey and bring us closer to him and to the Father. In coming together for these weekly reflections, we discover that the Lenten Journey is not one we make alone but with others and, in listening to each other, gain insights and help we would not discover alone. Pre-empting Isaiah who spoke to us this morning, we recognised the value and importance of reaching out to others with caring and self-giving as key to living the faith. Something that shone brightly through Jesus' life.

Recently the Church has been promoting the social teaching of the Church and living it more radically. It is now being introduced into all the subjects taught in our Catholic schools. The Prophet Isaiah spells out what this social teaching is in very clear terms.

The Movement, 'Citizens UK', begun by a non-believer, used the social teaching of the Church as his benchmark in his efforts to help reshape society with the poor and give them a more powerful voice. It was through their efforts that all political parties now back the Living Wage which should really be called the **Just Wage** for workers.

Despite the glass-half-full scribes and pharisees complaining about Jesus not fasting, given that Jesus and his disciples were continually moving from one town to another, they did not have much time to 'live-it-up' and probably ate less than the Pharisees who were fasting!!