

# PARABLES OF MERCY

## The Good Samaritan

*Luke 10 : 25 - 37*

*The one who showed compassion*



# Year of Mercy

Pope Francis has initiated this Year of Mercy as an opportunity for pilgrimage, reflection and commitment to action that will enable Mercy to be made concrete and practical in our own local communities.

Thank you for your willingness to enter into this time of prayer and reflection. May it be an experience of Mercy which will enable you to further respond with Mercy and compassion in your local community.

## Lectio / Visio Divina

**Lectio Divina** is a Latin term meaning “Reading with God”.

**Visio Davina** is a Latin term meaning “seeing or looking with God”.

We hope that the parable windows will be a Lectio / Visio Divina for the community of pilgrims in the Year of Mercy so that we may also “See with God”.

The practice of sacred reading has been practiced in the church for centuries, and has its origin in the monastic life as a pathway for prayer with scripture. It leads us gently into a deeper relationship with Christ as we open ourselves to him. It is the ultimate DIY spiritual project.

There are four steps in the traditional practice of Lectio Divina.  
But they do not need to be followed in this particular sequence.

**1. Lectio Visio (reading-looking)**

Look at the window slowly,  
read the scripture ...become aware of a particular  
word - phrase - colour - object or character.  
*(There is a page for your jottings inside the back cover.)*

**2. Meditatio (reflection)**

Let the significant word / object / colour / character fill  
your mind without straining to analyse them.  
You are in God's presence,  
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding.

**3. Oratio (prayer)**

Allow your heart to speak to God,  
in words or emotions inspired by the parable  
or the thoughts that have come to you while reflecting.

**4. Contemplatio (rest)**

Let go of ideas and words and allow yourself to rest in the  
presence of God in simple wordless contemplation.

(Adapted from the  
Lectio Divina pamphlet - NZ Catholic Bishops Conference 2011)



# The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

Who is my neighbour?

When the Samaritan saw the man,  
he took pity on him and bandaged his  
wounds.

1. Look and be open to the parable window.  
Look for a particular colour, character, object,  
concept or word that may seem significant.
2. Let that which is significant  
fill your mind without analysing;  
you are in God's presence -  
let the Holy Spirit lead your understanding.
3. Allow your heart to speak to God  
as you are inspired by the parable.
4. How am I called to respond?  
Allow yourself to rest  
in the presence of God.

At each of the parable windows, there are three basic questions:

- What do I notice  
as I look at the parable window?  
Why does it move me?
- Where do I see love, mercy, faithfulness,  
compassion or forgiveness in this parable?
- How am I called to respond in my life?

## A space for journaling:

*(Please jot down your thoughts and insights for further reflection)*

You may like to enter the parable window through your imagination, as a character or an object ... actually allowing yourself to experience the Mercy and Love of God.



On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “What is written in the Law?” he replied. “How do you read it?” He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’”

“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live?” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?”

In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

*Who do we not see?  
Who do we pass by?  
Who is the Samaritan that we despise?*