



JESUS IN DISGUISE?

St Mary's Way Value: Social Responsibility, Actions Not Words.

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes as King and all the angels with him, he will sit on his royal throne, and all the nations will be gathered before him. Then he will divide them into two groups, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, putting sheep on his right and goats on his left.

Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, all of you who are blessed by my Father! Come and take your place in the kingdom which has been prepared for you ever since the creation of the world. And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me, shivering and you gave me clothes; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me.'

The sheep will then answer him, 'When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we ever see you a stranger and welcome you, or shivering and clothe you? When did we ever see you sick or in prison, and visit you?'

The King will reply, 'I tell you, anything you did for any of my people, you also did for me!'



Practical suggestion:

It's Acts of Kindness week! Try to do as many acts of kindness as you can this week. It might help to make a list of who you want to show kindness to and what you can do for them.

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWSkdx-XwWY>

This video "for kids" explains the meaning of this week's parable in a very easy way to understand.

Watch it as a form: does it help you to understand the Gospel in a different way?

Day 1: This week, we celebrate the end of the Church's year and the feast of Christ the King. Each year, we have a reading that describes the kind of King Jesus is. In this story, the parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus shows us what his priorities are, how he wants us to live and the standards that he will hold us by.

Discuss/ Reflect:

- What do you think this parable tells us about the kind of King Jesus is?
- What does Jesus want from us?

Jesus, light of the world, shine on us. Set us free with your love and your truth. And send us out to share this light with others. Amen.

Day 2: In the Gospel this week, Jesus separates people according to their actions. This is important because it shows us that what matters to Jesus is not how 'holy' we are or how many prayers we say, but how we treat each other. It's the perfect Gospel for Acts of Kindness week!

"The King will reply, 'I tell you, anything you did for any of my people, you also did for me!'"

Jesus is asking us to look out for each other, and do what we can to help those in need. As young people, you might not be able to do all the examples Jesus gives, but there are people all around us that we can show kindness to. Mother Teresa once said:

"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."

Discuss/ reflect:

- People don't just need food and drink to live – what else do they need?
- How can you give to others what they need?

If your face is new, may mine become familiar. If you feel you are on the outside, may I become the way in. If your words are strange, may I listen more carefully. If you don't know our ways, may I become your teacher. If this strangeness makes you sad, may we learn to laugh together. Amen.

Day 3: In the parable of the sheep and goats, the 'sheep' don't realise that they have been meeting and responding to Jesus all the time. They are being judged not on grand gestures but on their small, quiet and sometimes anonymous actions of love:

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me, shivering and you gave me clothes; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me."

Another way of understanding this is to think of people who are vulnerable and need special care. Yesterday, we thought about caring for those around us. But there are also people in need all around the world that we can help. Even if we may never meet them, we can help them in a different way by supporting those who care for them.

Discuss/ Reflect:

- How can we help the different groups of people mentioned in the parable?
- What small things can we do that will make a big difference to others?

Lord, give us new sight so that we might see you in the poor and vulnerable, more than in the grand and holy.

Help us to look for you in surprising places and to respond to you with care, generosity and action. Amen.



Day 4: review of the week.

This week, we have been thinking about how we can care for others. Take a moment to look back over the last week and ask yourself:

- What are the good things that have happened this week?
- What could you have done better or differently?
- Have I shown someone kindness this week?
- Has someone looked after me or made me feel happy?
- What affect has kindness had on me this week?

Take a moment to be thankful of the good things that have happened this week and for the things that you have learned and experienced.

Draw the time of prayer to a close by saying an "Our Father" together.