



These daily readings leading up to Easter will reflect on conversations Jesus had during his ministry. As you read God’s word, keep a note of what God says to you and what your response is to him.

The daily readings tie in with the Sunday teaching series and with studies in small groups. Alongside this are a series of questions as prompts for reflection in 2s or 3s.

**“May God the Creator bless us. May God the Son walk with us. May God the Spirit lead our lives with love.**

**May the blessing of the One who was, and who is and who is to come be upon us all - redeeming our past, filling our present and lighting up our future.”**

**A Celtic blessing**

<p>Day 7 Tues Mar 7<sup>th</sup></p>	<p><b>Jesus’ compassion</b>  Read Matthew 8:1-4  A large crowd had gathered to hear Jesus teach what has become known as the Sermon on the Mount. The crowd followed him as he came down the hillside, and they saw a man with leprosy come and kneel before him and plead with Jesus to heal him. For Jesus to touch this man was shocking and profound. There was no known cure for leprosy and those with this condition had to live in isolation, which is why Jesus instructed him to get his healing verified by a priest so he could return to his community. So much is conveyed in this brief conversation – words of faith &amp; then Jesus’ compassionate &amp; authoritative response.  Jesus’ compassion shines out from the gospel accounts (see for example Matt 9:36,14:14, 15:32, 20:29-34, 23:37; Luke 7:13, 18:15-17). Jesus’ heart is moved by suffering. He is compassionate like no other. He comes alongside us &amp; reaches out to us.  As we still ourselves in his presence, we sense his compassion, and we hear his call for us to live &amp; act compassionately. Colossians 3:12.</p>
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