

How does your parish community engage as a 'Good Samaritan' in each of these situations or is it acting more as the innkeeper, helping others? Who takes responsibility for actions?

What is the impact of your action on the injustice of the situation?

- in terms of relieving the situation for those who are injured?
- in terms of dealing with structures that allow such injury to happen?

How do you, as an individual, support these initiatives?

Thoughts page



MARK OF MISSION 4

To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation

TRANSFORM

Jesus and the Old Testament prophets before him challenged oppressive structures in God's name. Christians should not only press for change, but also demonstrate justice within Church structures.

SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION



Other passages worthy of reflection are:

Luke 11:46

Luke 18:1-8

Matthew 23:13

Matthew 25:31-46

Matthew 18:21-35

'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.' **Romans 12:2 (N.R.S.V.)**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

Commentary – what Jesus wants us to do

1. The story began in response to a question, 'Who is my neighbour?' It seems that, in trying to justify himself, the man wanted to enter into an endless argument on who was the neighbour one would serve from all the deserving caused there might be. Jesus turns this question around at the end and focuses on the importance of neighbourliness as a personal trait.
2. One of the things that blocked the priest and the Levite from helping the man on the roadside was the requirement for ritual purity related to their office and position in society. In their minds they had valid reasons for not getting involved.
3. The action of the Samaritan went beyond pity and feeling sorry for the individual. It showed an empathy with the man's suffering and was willing to reach out to him.

Exercise A

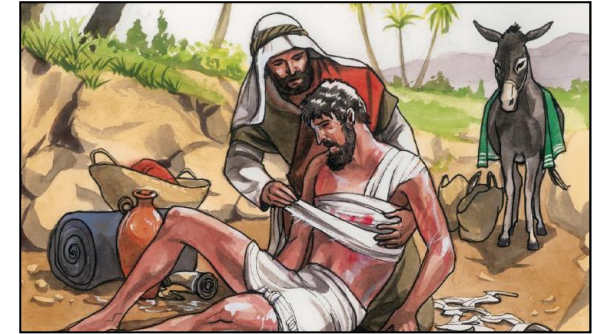
In the context of your own life, take the Parable of the Good Samaritan as a reflection exercise. Think of four particular instances where you have had experiences of dealing with a situation of injustice.

Then try to recall (a) An event when you experienced the role and (b) Who played the other roles, for each of the following:-

1. The person who was beaten up and left injured.
2. The Priest or the Levite not being involved.
3. The Good Samaritan – trying to help out.
4. The Innkeeper – called in to help.
5. The Robbers – (inadvertently) causing injury

Continuing to reflect on the context of your own life at the moment, can you name one area of injustice for each of the following:-

1. Who are the people affected by this injustice, lying by the side of the road?
2. Who or what has caused this injustice, however inadvertently?
3. Who are the people who pass by, even though they have the capacity to respond and help?
4. Who are the Good Samaritans? What do they do and how do they challenge others?
5. Who are the people who help out without any real concern (the Innkeepers)? What effects do they have?



Exercise B

Reflect of the parable of the Good Samaritan in the context of your experience in your parish and in the Church.

The purpose of this reflection is to focus on issues of relieving suffering and also of dealing with structural issues that cause that suffering. In the parable, the Good Samaritan is the hero. Would there have been any mitigating circumstances for the priest and Levite if they had gone down to Jericho and organised a better policing policy for the road, or a better medical response system for such incidents?

In your parish or diocese, who are recognised as victims of injustice in outreach programmes?

In your **local area**?

In a **larger region** – deanery, county, diocese?

In an **international** context?