

Friday 18 September 2020

Today is Friday the 18 September, in the twenty fourth week of Ordinary time.

Entering into prayer today, I begin by recognising that I am in the presence of God – not a God to be scared of, but a God of compassion and love, in whose presence I am safe, in whose presence I do not have to defend myself, in whose presence I can be still. I place myself, my worries and my hopes, my whole life, in the hands of my loving God.

Today's reading is from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards, Jesus went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

The twelve were quite a motley crew: we know of a tax collector and at least four fishermen. The women were a mixed crowd as well: Mary Magdalene, with a dark past, and Joanna, wife of a rich and powerful husband. Can you imagine yourself amongst these close followers of Jesus?

All these men and women used whatever they had, took whatever chances they got, to serve Jesus. What chances do you have to serve him? What do you have to offer him?

As you listen this time, see this group walking from village to village with Jesus.

Each, no doubt, trying to get close to him, to spend time with him, to listen to him. Picture yourself in the group now. Get close to Jesus. What do you want to say to him? And how does he respond?

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.