

# RAISING THE POWERS OF LOVE GO AND DO THE SAME.

## GATHERING:

Sit quietly and sense the Divine Presence that is in and around you.

Gaze at the image and allow it to resonate in you...

## THINKING:

How do you usually show people that you care?  
Tell about one thing a friend or relative did for you this week to show concern.  
What do you do whenever you see people on the street asking for help?  
Why do you think you respond that way?

## LISTENING:

Read the story of the Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37.

Discuss or think about what you see in the image and hear in the Gospel and how it speaks to you.



The Good Samaritan (c.1920) set in Flanders by an unknown artist who borrowed the simple style of Gauguin's Breton period. Used with permission from Liss Llewellyn image and copyright holder.

## RESPECT – MANAAKITIA

**Manaakitia, manaaki, hospitality, manaakitanga, manaakitia action = outward act of giving, called to act in a generous, hospitable way**

Respect (Manaakitia) is expressed in relationships where people work together in communion with God and one another, to bring alive the vision of "Love, Learn, Serve". We are challenged by the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) to really understand the meaning of respect for other people. The Good Samaritan reached out to assist a person considered by society to be unacceptable. According to this parable, a traveller, probably a Jew, is stripped of clothing, beaten and left to die on the side of the road. First a Priest and then a Levite come by, but both avoid the man, passing him by on the other side of the road. Finally, a Samaritan comes by and helps the injured man – he reaches out in compassion for him and shows the true meaning of respect. If a Samaritan could be respectful to a Jew, and Jesus told us to "go and do the same", then all of God's people must be respectful. Here Jesus is telling us to follow the Samaritan's example in our own conduct. We must be fully respectful of others, irrespective of socio-economic standing, ethnicity or disability. We are to set aside any prejudices we might have and show respect and love for those we encounter in our everyday activities.

We are called to openness to the ways of God. God's goodness to us and our goodness to one another can only have one measure: God's love for us. This is his new commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. (Luke 10:25-28).

## A STORY ABOUT MARY MACKILLOP

A long time ago in Adelaide, South Australia, there was a man named Fagan who was in prison for a very serious crime. Some of the priests went to see him but he was like a raging lion when they came near his cell. He wouldn't talk to them. He became so wild that the warders had to chain him down. He screamed and yelled and behaved like a wild animal in a cage.

Mary MacKillop heard about him. Mary took Sister Felicity with her to visit Fagan in prison. The warders told them not to go near him or his cell. But Mary insisted that they open the door and let them in. Mary and Sister Felicity went in and simply knelt down and prayed. As Mary prayed, she began to cry. The tears poured down her face at the sight of the poor man in chains. Fagan was so affected by this that he knelt down and prayed with them. At first, he would only speak abruptly to Mary when she spoke to him. Gradually he began to trust her and became calm. As the days went by, Mary prepared him to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation which he celebrated in his cell when a priest finally came. The day after this, Mary and Sister Felicity visited him again. They were pleased to see that he no longer had chains holding him down. When the priest came, Fagan knelt down between Mary and Sister Felicity and received Communion. They all prayed together.

Fagan was one of the worst criminals they had ever seen in the Adelaide prison up to that time, yet Mary was able to help him. She believed God called her to help Fagan and, with courage in her heart, she answered the call.

### PRAYERS/OWN PRAYERS

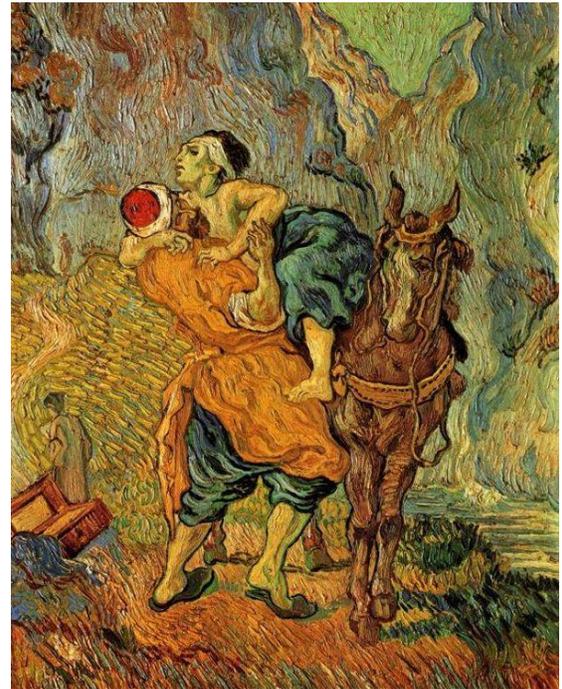
**MUSIC:** When I needed a neighbour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym8yOdCFGPc>

**RESPONSE:** Compassionate God, be with us.

- Open our eyes that we might see what the Good Samaritan saw. Grant us the insight to see the need in others, the wisdom to know what to do, and the will to do it.
- God of love give us a deep love for you, so that we can see the world as you see it, feel the compassion you feel, and be a people whose lives mediate your love to others.
- We pray for those we might cross the road to avoid, those who have been excluded socially because of their race, financial status, or history. May the dignity that is theirs be restored to them.
- We pray for all those people, who in many and various ways, have been stripped, beaten and left for dead. We pray for children who are growing up in difficult circumstances, especially for those starved of love or food, shelter or security. May they receive the future you have planned for them.

### BLESSING:

Loving God,  
Bless us with hearts full of compassion.  
With minds that are accepting and respecting of all.  
With hands that help those in who are in need.  
With lives lived for others.



The Good Samaritan  
Vincent Van Gogh

