

Some questions to talk about

1. In what ways are we already living out the vision of Pope Francis to be a missionary parish, an open door community?
2. The Pope presents a challenging image of the Church – bruised, hurting and dirty. How is this reflected in what happens in our parish and in how we pray together?

Take a moment to pray

Be still and know that you are in the presence of God.

We pray for people whose lives are too busy, who can't find time to just be still and know the gentle presence of God at their side.

We pray that our parish will always be a place where people are drawn into prayer and real listening to the Word that God longs for us to hear.

We ask God that we may never be unchanged or unmoved when we listen to His Word.

Loving Lord Jesus,
you call us to follow you into Life.
As we listen to your Word
may your life grow within us,
bringing us peace and deep joy.
May what we discover in you
stir us to reach out in love and service to others.
Amen.



Leaflet Two

Learning to be a
missionary disciple –
sitting at the
feet of Jesus.

Proclaim'15

building missionary parishes



Janet's Story

It all started when I was about 16 or 17. There was a sister working as the school chaplain in the Sixth Form. One day she put a candle in my hand and said, "Light this in your room for ten minutes every night before you go to bed and see what happens."

That ten minutes each day changed my life.

Sometimes I just sat there, but at other times all these words would come into my mind - asking for help, telling Jesus about the problems I was having or about my dreams for the future. Often I would read a bit of the Bible; sometimes I would just talk and talk until the words ran out and I was sitting quietly with Him.

I started to see that Jesus wanted to be part of my life and my future. I don't know where I would have ended up if she hadn't put that candle in my hand. For the

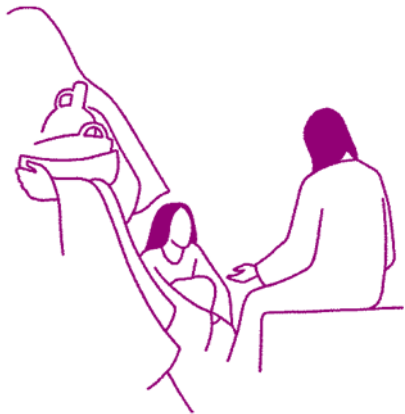
last thirty years now I've tried to listen and to give Jesus a bigger part of my life. There've been lots of mistakes and falls along the way, but it's been an amazing and wonderful journey.

Thank you Sister, wherever you are. You changed my life.



Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was



saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Reflection

The greatest treasure that we can have in this life is to know Jesus and to live our lives with Jesus at our side. To be a Christian is never just about a list of rules, "do's and don'ts". To be a Christian is hearing the voice of Jesus calling your name. The joy of the Gospel is discovering His friendship; discovering His gentle and guiding hand at work in your life. We are changed by Him, healed by Him.

The word "disciple" really means "student" or "pupil". A disciple is someone who knows they have much to learn and who makes time to listen to their teacher. In a noisy world that's full of false teachers trying to sell us their path to happiness, there is one voice we can trust. Take time every day to listen to the Truth that sets us free. Give some time every day to the One who has given us everything He has, who comes so that we will know the fullness of life and that our joy will be complete.

In the Gospel story Mary puts aside some of the important things that need to be done in the kitchen because she needs to listen to Jesus. The food can wait. Something more important is being offered to her and she doesn't want to miss it. Let's try to be a bit like Mary for some time each day, to sit at the feet of our teacher.

Questions to ponder

What can you learn from Janet's story and from the scripture reflection?

When do you take time to listen to Jesus and how has listening to Jesus changed you?

Jesus says that His Kingdom is like a hidden treasure. What are you most grateful for today?

Who in need and in distress might you resolve to pray for and how might you practically live out your discipleship of Jesus?

From "The Joy of the Gospel" by Pope Francis

The parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility... In all its activities the parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelisers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach. We must admit, though, that the call to review and renew our parishes has not yet sufficed make them completely mission-oriented. (28)

I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security... at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37). (49)

