

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MAKING WELCOME

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

Welcoming Jesus (Matthew 10: 40-42)

Matthew's second block of teaching, sometimes known as the 'missionary discourse' focuses on Jesus equipping the disciples for their work. This block of teaching concludes by declaring that everyone who welcomes those whom Jesus sends welcomes Jesus himself. People who welcome Jesus welcome the Father who sent him. In other words, those who are sent in Jesus' name represent Jesus in every way.

The image to stimulate reflection on this concluding passage of Matthew's 'missionary discourse' is *making welcome*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Matthew 10: 40-42; for reflection throughout the week)

Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me,
and whoever welcomes me
welcomes the one who sent me.
Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet
will receive a prophet's reward;
and whoever welcomes a righteous person
in the name of a righteous person
will receive the reward of the righteous;
and whoever gives even a cup of cold water
to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple –
truly I tell you,
none of these will lose their reward.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
everyone who welcomes your people
welcomes you.
Help us to see you
in the people whom we meet,
that we may welcome you
through meeting and serving others;
today and always.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Matthew 10: 40-42

Rewards

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Matthew 10: 40-42)

Begin to explore Matthew's teaching presented in the 'missionary discourse' about welcoming Jesus in those sent in his name by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- How do you read this passage in the context of Jesus commissioning the twelve apostles to do their work?
- What do you understand by the idea that those who welcome his disciples welcome Jesus?
- What do you understand by the idea that those who welcome Jesus welcome the one who sent him?
- What do you see as the significance of a cup of cold water?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore how Matthew develops the theme of welcoming Jesus through welcoming others elsewhere in his Gospel.

- Matthew 18: 4-5
- Matthew 25: 34-40

Explore how Matthew's theme of welcoming Jesus through welcoming others is reflected by Mark and Luke.

- Mark 9: 37-41
- Luke 9: 48

Explore the theme of welcoming prophets in the Old Testament:

- 1 Kings 17: 8-16
- 2 Kings 4: 8-17

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (YEAR A) Sunday 28 June 2026

Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Matthew's theme of welcoming Jesus in others by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Matthew 10: 40-43 commentary
- Words for welcome in other languages
- Welcome art images

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Matthew's theme of welcoming Jesus through welcoming others is *making welcome*. Draw on your own experience of making others welcome or being made welcome by others. For example:

- When have you felt being made welcome by others?
- When have you made others feel really welcome?
- When have you experienced encountering Jesus in the welcome?

What have you learned about making welcome?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Matthew's theme of welcoming Jesus through welcoming others or the image of making welcome.

- Make a poster displaying the words for welcome in many languages, 'In welcoming others we welcome Jesus'
- Make welcome cards to give to people who come to the eucharist.
- Create a collage illustrating Matthew's teaching on welcoming Jesus through other people.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of welcoming Jesus through welcoming others or on the image of making welcome.



Liverpool Cathedral

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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