



Lenten Reflections

Join us through Lent to reflect upon Jesus' words from the Cross.

Each week you will find a new set of reflections here to aid you in your spiritual journey through Lent.

'Woman, here is your son'

²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' ²⁷ and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. (John 19:25-27)

Reflection

Mary knew what it was to suffer. She had suffered when she gave birth to Jesus far from home. She had suffered when she heard that Herod wanted to kill her baby. She had suffered as she was forced to become an exile in Egypt. She had suffered as she watched a whole nation misunderstand her son, and now at the foot of the cross she stands suffering as she watches Jesus being crucified.

We can't even begin to imagine the pain in her heart. But hadn't Simeon warned that a sword would pierce her own soul too (Luke 2:35).

Yet as he suffers hanging on the cross, Jesus thinks about his mother.

He knew how much she was suffering. He knew her agony, and was aware that after his death, that there would be no-one to care for her.

In his dying moments, Jesus' concern was not for himself, but for the future well-being of his family.

There is something quite profound about what Mary and John represent.

Yes, they are at the foot of the cross, but they also believe in Jesus' mission, and that he is the Son of God, in stark contrast even to Jesus' own brothers (John 7:5).

In the shadow of the cross a new family is created. Through the blood of Christ shed for us, a new home and community came to life, and a new family is born.

As Jesus sheds his blood and Mary embraces John - it is here that the church is formed.

Mary and John formed the church through their relationship with each other. Their comfort, support, encouragement to each other and hospitality they showed to the wider group of disciples are the hallmarks of our calling and what Jesus had in mind when he formed the church from the Cross that first Good Friday.

With grateful thanks to William West (Licensed Lay Minister), for sharing his reflection with us.



**"Woman, Behold
Your Son (Stabat
Mater)" by
James Jacques
Tissot**

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SCAN ME



“Stabat Mater Dolorosa” by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

[https://youtu.be/TUVWcvJ2INg?
si=6lVKF6tc_QbyJnVZ](https://youtu.be/TUVWcvJ2INg?si=6lVKF6tc_QbyJnVZ)

Lenten Prayer

O Lord, who offers the lonely a home and causes strangers to become friends, we pray that you would bless our church and wider community so that we might become a place that embraces the lonely and welcomes the stranger, for the glory of your name.

Amen.