**Morning Praise @ Home 6th April 2025**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Philippians 3:4b – 14 John 12:1 – 8

### Reflection on John 12:1 – 8

Three hundred denarii is just too much money to waste. That’s nearly a year’s worth of daily wages, an annual income. Who does that? Why would anyone do that? That’s neither practical nor reasonable. It makes no sense. Why does all of it have to be poured out? Something that valuable should at least be saved for a special time and place. Surely it could be put to better use than feet. Jesus’ feet may smell sweet now but it won’t last. It won’t be long before he leaves the table and steps back into the street, into the dirt and muck of everyday life. Soon his feet will sweat and stink. They will bleed. The fragrance that fills the house today will linger only as a memory, a story in scripture. What difference could Mary’s perfume possibly make anyway? Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” Judas has a limit. Mary has exceeded it. So if three hundred denarii is too much what about two-fifty? Two hundred? One hundred? What would be acceptable, reasonable? I don’t know what Judas’ number is. We’ll never know. That’s not the point of today’s gospel. The more relevant question is about us. What is my number? What is your number? What is our limit? At what point do we say it simply costs too much to love? That’s what this story is about.

It is not about money or perfume but love. Upon whose feet are we unwilling to pour out the fragrance of our life and love? Those who look, act, or think differently than us? Those who have hurt us? Strangers on the street? Enemies across the world? Those who have made poor choices, choices we know are wrong and would never support? Those who can’t seem to ever get their life together? Those who stand opposite us on a particular issue? If we are really honest about it we all have our limits, our reasons, our fears that keep us from loving and tell us it’s just not practical or reasonable. Not this person. Not right now. Not here. Holy Week takes us to the boundaries of what is practical, what is reasonable, what makes sense, and then asks us to step across. That’s the way of love. That’s the way of Christ.

Yes, the perfume will fade, but “life is eternal and love is immortal.” **Amen**

### Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession led by Ron**

Everlasting God, your son chose twelve disciples to work together to spread the good news of the gospel to the whole world, help us as we work together in our Parish for the common good. May we delight in sharing in each other’s spiritual gifts and enabling everyone to make their own contribution however small. May we always be ready to work and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we pray for peace in our world; may all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray for the peoples of the world and all who offer their services in the leadership of the affairs of the world that they may uphold what is right and good. We pray particularly at this time for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through these times of global challenges.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we thank you for all those who help our community to run smoothly because of their jobs, voluntary work or neighbourliness. Help us to be supportive and encouraging and to step in to situations where we can serve. Bless our neighbours and strengthen those who are working in your name in order to bring healing and comfort to those in need.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God your Son Jesus Christ healed the lame with a touch and raised the dead with a word – hear our prayers today for all those who are laid low by sorrow and illness, or by fear and weakness; breathe new life into them as we name them before you now.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we thank you that our journey towards death is not the final sentence in our life story. We thank you that by your faithfulness we are born to a new and living hope in a future where love will never be terminated, and life will never end. May we always trust in you as we remember those who have departed this earthly life.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Loving God as we go forth from this time of worship, help us to remember that you do infinitely more for us than we can ask or imagine. Hear our prayers for all your creation and gather us in the embrace of your abundant and life-giving Spirit.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**