



3-9 April 2022 • Faith 24/7

## It just pours out

**John 12.1-8**

Jesus visits his friends – Mary, Martha and Lazarus – at Bethany. Mary anoints him with expensive perfume and Judas disapproves due to the waste of money. Jesus affirms Mary for her love and kindness.

Now read **John 12.1-8** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Mary makes an extravagant gesture of gratitude – possibly for Jesus' raising of Lazarus. John makes clear that Judas' plea for the poor is insincere, and Jesus affirms the importance of making gracious acts of love and thanksgiving.



How does this painting make you feel?  
 What makes you glad to be alive?

## Hands-on Lent



In this week's Gospel story, Mary poured perfumed oil on Jesus' feet as a sign of thanksgiving. Add something scented, perhaps a small amount of perfume, to your Hands-on Lent bowl as a reminder of how powerful saying 'thank you' can be. You don't have to anoint each other's feet on Easter Day (though, you could!), but perhaps the perfume will remind you to find a way to express your thanks to each other – and to God.

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## ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? GUESSING GAME

Make a list of your favourite smells. Without naming them, get someone to guess what they are, e.g. for a rose, you could mime picking a flower and smelling it, or for freshly-brewed coffee, you could mime sipping from a cup. Why are some smells so special? What do they evoke?

## PULSE POINTS

Make some fragrant oil, either by using olive oil and essential oil or simply by using fragrant herbs such as rosemary. Anoint your wrists – or in a group, each other's – with the words: 'May I/you be filled with the beauty of holiness.'



Herbs have their own language. For example, parsley represents gratitude, basil: love, rosemary: remembrance, thyme: courage, sage: wisdom, mint: virtue and oregano: joy. Use the herbs you have available as a prayer aid: spend time reflecting on the themes they represent.



Each time you use something that is fragranced (soap, shower gel, shampoo, washing-up liquid) think about its fragrance and put aside a coin. At the end of the week, give the money you have accrued to a charity that helps the poor, e.g. Christian Aid. See if you can persuade others in your household to do the same.



Make your own scented candles.

**You will need:** new wicks, which can be purchased at good craft stores or online. Collect old half-burnt candles and heatproof containers, such as jam jars. Carefully melt the wax in a saucepan. Measure the wick length so that it touches the bottom of each holder and stays straight. Tie the wick string around the middle of a pencil/skewer and balance it horizontally on top of the jam jar so that the wick is centred. Carefully pour the melted wax into the jam jar. Add essential oils as desired while the wax is molten. Place the filled candle holders onto a flat surface to cool.



## Updates from the PCC...

- At our recent PCC meeting we discussed the ongoing Covid infection status and whether we should change our policy on wearing masks in church. Since cases are still very high and rising in places, we continue to ask you to continue to wear a mask for worship. We hope this will reassure people that it is safe to gather in church.
- A vote of thanks was given to those who provided flowers and cakes for our Mothering Sunday service. It was great to have Bishop Martin with us to lead our service, and to see Rob wearing a Mitre for the one and only time! We are hoping to re-introduce teas and coffees after all services and for this we need a rota. Those making refreshments will also need to undertake a basic food hygiene course (probably online and at the church's cost). If you think you can help, please do have word with Phil or Penny.
- Fundraising & Social Committee: Now that we can meet up more freely, we are keen to set an events programme and re-engage socially. We are needing additional members for our committee - please contact Penny (01905 351468) if you feel this is something you could help with. It's not a major commitment and is a great contribution to the life of our church. Speak to Penny for more information.
- JAM Club (**J**esus **A**nd **M**e). With more youngsters in church, we will be starting a session for kids at services held in the small front room of the centre. These will be run on the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month with the kids joining us for the whole of our ATIC services on the second and fifth of the month. Again, we need some help with this and ideally enough people so that you only have to commit to once a month. We hope to begin this exciting new venture in the summer. This will give us time to ensure DBS clearances are in place and we can plan sessions. Please speak to Rob, Phil or Penny if you can help.



This month's 100 club winners are:

Number 21 Penny Welford

Number 2 Maureen Palmer. Well done!

Daily Readings for week commencing 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2022		
<b>Monday</b>	Exodus 8: 1-19	Hebrews 11: 17-31
<b>Tuesday</b>	Exodus 8: 20-end	Hebrews 11: 32-12:2
<b>Wednesday</b>	Exodus 9: 1-12	Hebrews 12: 3-13
<b>Thursday</b>	Exodus 9: 13-end	Hebrews 12: 14-end
<b>Friday</b>	Exodus 10	Hebrews 13: 1-16
<b>Saturday</b>	Exodus 11	Hebrews 13: 17-end

***Pray for those in need...*** Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Pamela, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou... ***Please pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, remembering the souls of ...Dennis, Pauline, and Kath.***