



# Racial Justice

## Scripture

### Luke 14: 25 – 33

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

### Reflect:

Over 50 years ago we first heard a very famous speech by a very famous and well respected American, the 'I have a dream' speech of Dr Martin Luther King.

50 years ago in America black men and women were treated no more than second class citizens – they weren't allowed to use the same toilets as white people or go to the same schools. During his speech Martin Luther King said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character". The world has moved on a great deal in the last 50 years but today some people are still judged not by the kind of person they are but by the colour of their skin, by their faith, by their sex or sexuality, by their ability or disability. It is up to each of us to teach the world a different way because we know that it is what is inside that counts; we know that in God's eyes we are all entirely equal. He sent us His Son, Jesus, to teach us that we must love everyone!

- Think of a time you have been unfairly judged, how did you feel?
- What can you do to ensure that no-one is left out or treated differently in our College

### Prayer to St Julie Billiat

Saint Julie, through your great devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, you were miraculously cured and favoured by many graces.

By your powerful intercession, obtain for us above all, a great trust in God in all the difficulties of life, the strength to accomplish in all things the adorable will of God, and the special grace we now ardently ask of you.

"We must have courage in the times we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart"

St Julie Billiat

### Pray for:

- Those who are treated unjustly because they are different
- A peaceful conclusion to the terrible violence and injustice in Syria.
- An end to discrimination of all kinds.
- Those we know who have suffered loss or illness in the recent days.
- People who are struggling with mental ill-health.

Focus on one each day

### Prayer in action this week:

- Continue to be welcoming to all new members of our community
- Treat everyone equally and fairly
- Ensure you never stand by allowing someone to treat another person unjustly
- Choose your words carefully
- Don't leave anyone out.

By the power of your Holy Spirit help us Lord to become change makers – people who aren't afraid to work to transform your world into one where all are treated with dignity, respect and worth because all are made in your image. Give us the courage to be people in our college community who never stand by and let injustice happen. We ask this in your name.

**Amen**

O Lord,  
we consider your wonderful world  
and its beautiful people created in your image.  
We thank you for the splendour of its diversity,  
and the fact that our country is a microcosm of the world  
with people from all places, with different faces, sharing the same spaces.  
Amen.

*Loving Father, we ask for forgiveness for the times when we have treated others badly, made judgements about people we don't know or have devalued their worth and dignity.*

*Give us the maturity to understand that difference is not to be feared or ridiculed, it is to be valued and encouraged for what a terrible place the world would be if we were all the same!*

*Help me to respect my own uniqueness and that of others.*

*Thank you God. Amen*

Lord God, help us to recognise and love You in each person we meet. Help us to serve You by committing ourselves to work for true justice. Help us to follow always the way that leads to respect, honesty and truth. We ask this in Your name, and for Your sake.  
Amen

Lord Jesus, you told us that whatever we do to the least of our brothers and sisters we do it also to you. Help us to be aware of the impact our words and actions have on others so that we use them for good, not harm. We ask this in your name, Amen

God of mercy and compassion, we bring into your presence all communities experiencing segregation, discrimination and oppression based on caste, class, creed, colour and gender both in the church and in society.

Empower us O Lord, to tear down the fences of hatred and indifference. Liberate us from the bonds of pride and self-seeking. Enable and strengthen us to overcome our prejudices and fears. Grant us your

courage to open ourselves to others, so that we may continue to live in solidarity with our neighbours.

Amen

National Council of Churches in India, Dalit Liberation Sunday 2009

Jesus did not EVER exclude anyone - he was there for all; he was often criticised for eating with tax collectors or sinners. He spent time with the poor, with people who were sick and had been cast out by their communities.

It is all too easy to judge people by appearances: skin colour, hair style, the clothes they wear, the wheelchair they're in, the way they speak, run, dance... Our society can often make lots of people feel as though they don't belong, that they don't have anything of value to share with the world.

Jesus knew that EVERY ONE has value and that is why he was prepared to speak out against those who judged. He knew that God created each person equally, and that he loves each person equally. All we have to do is follow Jesus' example and look be-

yond appearances; we have to look at each person for who they are, see their gifts and qualities, see their personalities, their smiles, their humour, their love...

It's not always easy but as Christians it is our duty to love all people and to stand up for those who aren't able to stand up for themselves.

**“Love one another as I have loved you.”**