



Title: World Religions

Scripture

Luke 24:13-35

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?" They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?" "What things?" he asked. "The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and he was crucified. And we had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some of our group went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?" And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets. As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark." So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and saying, "The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!" The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

Prayer to St Julie Billiart

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"

Reflect: In the midst of this most important season for Christians—the season of Easter we take some time this week to reflect on the faith of others. In 2010 it was estimated that 84% of the world's population associate themselves with a religion, at the time that was 5.8 billion people! That's an awful lot of people who find faith important! This means that no matter what our faith beliefs are, we have something else in common with over 3 quarters of the world's population which I find quite amazing, and wonderful! It's important to remember that we share a world with people who are different - culturally and spiritually. And it's these differences that help to make our world so interesting and so beautiful. Being ignorant of other cultures and beliefs can lead to prejudice, misunderstanding and conflict. It is our Christian duty to ensure we treat others fairly no matter what their background, ability, belief, culture.



Prayers

Pray for:

- People of all faiths and none, for tolerance and understanding.
- People who act in hatred and ignorance hurting others in the process.
- Those beginning their GSCE and A'Level exams.

Prayer in action this week:

- Listen to someone who has a different opinion.
- Understand that you don't always have to be right.
- Be open to those you don't know very well.
- Learn the facts before making judgements!
- Be tolerant of all.

Lord, we ask you to open our eyes that we may value and appreciate all people, recognising what we have in common rather than focusing on what our differences might be. Inspire us to distinguish between what is important and what is not, and open our minds and hearts that we may always be people of good will who bring life and joy to others.

Amen

Lead us,
Lord, to recognise you in every person we meet.

Amen

Lord, lead me never to judge people but to accept others as they are, knowing it is together, each with our differences that we build up your Kingdom. **Amen**

Thank you that you have made me.
Thank you that I am unique; that even my finger-prints are different;
Thank you for the things I am good at and enjoy doing.
Thank you for my family; for those who made me as I am;
Thank you that I am like my friends, but different.
Thank you that I live in a country where we are allowed to be who we are.
Help us to work together to make this last. **Amen**



Father, help us see that beneath our differences we are all connected. Allow us to see beauty in our religious diversities, and show us ways to honour, respect and understand each other, no matter which way we choose to connect to you. Let acceptance among all people of all faiths be cherished as a great virtue, a prize worth working towards and praying for. **Amen**

God our Father,
Inspire us with a great respect for all human life from the time of the child growing in the womb to the point of death. May that respect lead us to grow in a sense of responsibility for all our brothers and sisters throughout the world, knowing that, where one person suffers and is degraded, all of humanity is belittled and abused. May we grow in a sense of love and care for those less fortunate than ourselves, and lead us to do some-thing about the troubles in our world.

Amen

God, creator of us all, you have given us the gift of language that we may communicate respectfully with one another as we talk of every aspect of your created world. May You direct our minds and our lips so that in all our dealings with others, our words may be fair; so that we may cause no hurt, letting our actions reflect the kindness of our words. **Amen**

What can you do about it?

Imagine if the whole world judged YOU by the worst behaviour of **1** member of your family/friends/school community...

How would you feel?

Would it be a fair or just judgement?

Sadly many of us are very quick to make judgements of people or groups of people based on the actions of a minority, it is never just or fair!

Whenever you feel drawn to make judgements based on what you read or hear stop and ask yourself.

- Is what you have heard accurate?
- Is it your business?
- Is it fair to make a judgement without having been there or knowing the FULL story?
- Does what you have heard accurately reflect the feeling or actions of a whole group or merely one person/a minority?

