

Sunday 6 April 2025

# The Fifth Sunday of Lent

## Passion Sunday



Today's Gospel reading: John 12: 1-8

In the Bible, we see Jesus doing so much for others. Today, we hear about others doing special things for Jesus.

Jesus had some very good friends in Bethany – sisters, Martha and Mary and their brother, Lazarus. Each of them had special gifts – things they were really good at. Martha liked to cook and bake and Mary liked to be still and listen to Jesus's stories. Lazarus had very special gifts too.

Today we hear how Martha and Mary showed their love for Jesus by offering their best to serve him. Martha served a lovely meal and Mary's gift was to use some very expensive oil to anoint Jesus's feet. Mary wanted to show Jesus that he was worth more than the most expensive thing she could think of.

Jesus thinks each of us is priceless too!

If you are with us at our service you can colour a price tag for yourself to take home and remind you of this 🏷️

We each have special gifts. What are you good at? Can you draw a picture or make a Play-Doh model to show your special gift?

Jesus loves us to use our gifts to help others, especially those who need help.

**We need to be willing to give our best for Jesus,  
because he gave everything for us.**



A prayer for this week:

Dear God, it's wonderful to read about Martha and Mary and their love for Jesus, help us to remember that we can give thanks to Jesus in our own special way too and always put Jesus first in our lives. Amen.



🤔 A bit more to think about for older children:

Pouring oil on someone's feet and wiping them with your hair may seem a strange way to show love and respect for them, but had a deeper meaning, to do with value and worth. What is the most expensive thing you can think of? If you had a lot of money, what would you buy? Do our special possessions mean more to us than anything else?

We need to make sure that our love of God is greater than our love for anything else. This is what Mary wanted to show.

**Q. Can you remember other people who brought expensive ointment to Jesus?**

**(Clue: It was near the beginning of his life).**

**A. The three wise men brought myrrh among their gifts.**

**Q. Why do you think Judas criticised Mary? Why did Jesus defend her?**

**A. Judas simply saw the cost of the perfumed oil and thought it wasteful.**

**Jesus saw the love and the meaning behind Mary's action. He reminded everyone that nothing is worth more than God's love. All the stuff we have and all the money in the world is unimportant, compared with following Jesus.**