

On
Tuesday of
Holy Week
2020

- *READING* *Mark ch 14 v 3-9*

- A split, not a typo for spilt, a *split* jar, broken open to anoint Jesus body for burial is the usual focus.
- A Mary, and we argue often over which one, gives of her best for Jesus.
- There is no one to save the perfume for, He deserves her best and we reflect on her giving so gladly to encourage our own.
- But if this is Mary of Bethany then where is Martha?
- What is Lazarus up to – he whom Jesus has brought back from the brink of death?

- We cannot escape our anxieties about death and loss and grief this Holy week –
- certainly not this year
when Covid 19 makes it seem almost a casual numbers game
- but each figure is a person who has others who must
and some who cannot
grieve
cannot do as Mary does.

- Maybe Mary's perfume is an anointing oil she has not had to use on her brother's body and so, saved, is given as a more precious gift - maybe in her there is a mix of confused emotions in the thanksgiving for her brother still alive and her "teacher" about to die.

In the midst of our rightful grief and commemoration of those who are dying and suffering loss, there is an equal need to rejoice and give thanks for lives which have been saved or spared and its not easy to get the balance right

- So we understand
the grumpy disciple who says
“what a waste”
- for we too can't always see the bigger picture
- A prayer

- Holy God,

we give thanks for: illness suffered and recovered from;
opportunity to show our care and compassion;
moments we will never forget

We remember; people whose passing we grieve sharp and sore today,
and lingering pain from long past

We pray for those who will go through greater darkness
in the days ahead than all we will endure ourselves,
knowing You alone understand and
meet our needs
in ways beyond our comprehension.

amen.