

## Holy Week – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – A meditation



'Forgetting self' Camille on her deathbed – Claude Monet 1879

This strange and slightly disturbing picture was painted by Monet after the death of his wife. For him, like so many of us, he married, had children, painted and expected a long and happy married life. That wonderful Radio 4 contributor Rabbi Lionel Blue once said, 'If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans!' Why would Monet attach the subtitle 'Forgetting self' to this painting? Art experts see this as an extraordinary painting that looks beyond death, away from selfishness, to what lies beyond. As Jesus approaches the cross and it gets ever closer, we see just how unselfish he is. As the pressure, boredom and fatigue currently build up, let us look into this painting and pray for the essence of Christlike unselfishness as we walk the way of the cross.

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you  
For all the benefits you have won for us  
For all the pains and insults you have borne for us.  
Most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
May we know you more clearly  
Love you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

*Richard of Chichester*

You can look at this meditation with accompanying music here: <https://youtu.be/72yPr1GbnkE>