

WITNESS – Reaching out to others

(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

Five people volunteer to do one topic each. Read the set words and then pray an extempore prayer about your topic. With luck it will take 10 mins!

Ffald-y-Brenin Blessings

Heavenly Father we take upon ourselves the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in His name we speak to every household in Hungerford and say to you:-

1 Relationships

We bless you in the Name of the Lord. We bless your marriages that they may be strong and whole. We bless the relationship between each marriage partner that it may be loving, forgiving, merciful and strong. We bless every intergenerational relationship within each household that there may be peace and love and understanding flowing between each one.

In Jesus' name we bless every network of wholesome and supportive friendship.

2 Health

We bless your health that you may be strong and well. In Jesus' name we resist any sickness or disease which seeks to invade this parish and to every person in the parish we say, be well, be strong, be healthy. To any who are sick right now we say we bless you in Jesus' name with a speedy recovery.

3 Wealth

We bless your wealth that you may have plenty to replace poverty. We bless you to have enough to live and enough to give. We bless the work of your hands that whatever you turn your hand to which is wholesome may be profitable. We bless every wholesome enterprise that is conducted by you that it may prosper and be successful. We bless the local businesses that they may be successful and profitable.

4 Education

We bless the local schools that they may be secure, safe places for teachers and pupils alike. We bless the children's capacity to learn and develop relationships and we bless their simple trust in Jesus that their trust may grow and become enriched.

5 Church

We speak to the Church and we say we bless you in the Name of the Lord that the Holy Spirit and the Word of God may flow out from you in power. We bless the hearts of all who live in the parish that they may be quickened to hear and respond to the Voice of the Living God. We bless all who live and work here, that the overflow of the blessings of the presence of the kingdom of God may fall upon you.

JOHN 19.17-42

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Obedient to Death

John 19:17–42

WELCOME – Breaking the ice ***(Aim for 10 minutes)***

When have you seen God at work over the last week?

OR

When have you felt closest to God this week?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord ***(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)***

The Examen

Think about what has been the best thing and what has been the worst thing which has happened over the last week.

Each say a "Thank you" prayer for the best thing that has happened.

WORD – Applying the truth
(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

There is nothing pleasant or attractive about an execution. The only one I've ever seen was in a televised news report from Vietnam. A captured soldier was shot. It left a knot in my stomach for days.

- ◆ Tell about a national or international assassination affected you and how you learned about the tragedy.

In Jesus' day execution was designed to be public and painful. The account of the crucifixion is not easy to read. You may be tempted to think that Jesus' death was a cruel mistake. It wasn't. Jesus' life was not taken from him; he laid it down willingly. His cross was in a very real sense our cross. **Read John 19:17–27.**

1. Crucifixion was obviously a brutal and tortuous form of execution. Why do you think John leaves so much of the agonizing detail out of his account?

2. Three groups were involved in Jesus' death—the soldiers, the Jewish leaders and Pilate. How would you characterize each one's attitude toward Jesus?

3. In what ways do their attitudes toward Jesus parallel those of men and women today?

4. How do you think Mary, Jesus' mother, felt as she stood by the cross?

5. How is Jesus' tender care for her evident even while he is dying (vv. 26–27)?

6. Read John 19:28–42. What was the significance of Jesus' cry, "It is finished" (v. 30; see Jn 17:4)?

7. What feelings and thoughts would have gone through your mind if you had helped prepare Jesus for burial?

8. Where were Jesus' disciples during his crucifixion and burial (see Jn 16:32)?

Why do you think they were so conspicuously absent?

9. Under the same circumstances, do you think you would have been more like Joseph and Nicodemus or Jesus' disciples? Explain.

10. What aspect of Jesus' death has made the deepest impression on you, and why?