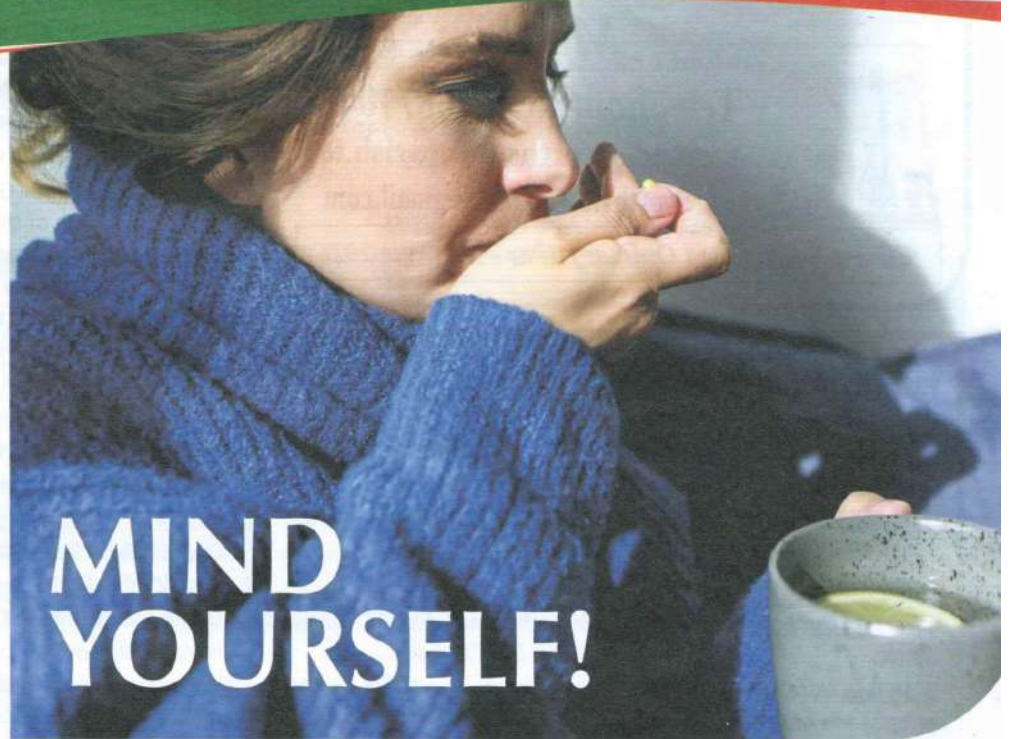


Jesus looks out compassionately at the people who are 'harassed and dejected'. Are our responses in today's world compassionate? Meh ... not so much, if some of the comments I've heard over the years that people in chronic illness have receive from well-wishers are to be believed. They included 'But, you look so well', 'Are you still in pain?', 'You should get out more' (recipient of this comment was using a wheelchair and had no transport), 'You should learn to live with it', 'You should feel better by now', 'You depend too much on your medication', 'There are people who can help you (but not me)'. The concluding greeting is often 'mind yourself' (but I won't!). While we are a mix of body, mind and spirit to be sure, maybe we should try and take a leaf out of Jesus' book and at least try being non-judgmental. Even better, sympathise with a person, be a listener to that person (hard, I know), run an errand for them or bring them something they need. They may look ok on the outside, but inside is a different world.

Interestingly, the response of the Lord on feeling sorry for the crowd was to widen the circle of care, to include the twelve apostles and down through the centuries to include ourselves. We seem to have mastered the art of delegation or GSI (get someone in) not DIY (do it yourself).

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, ...
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Lord Jesus Christ, ... **Amen.**
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.
Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those



Our First Reading has the beautiful image 'I bore you up on eagle's wings and brought you to myself.' Looking at nearby swans on a lake, I see the parent swans literally carry their cygnets on their back. But for an eagle, I understand that their practice is to fly under the fledgeling eaglet lest it fall, not to carry it. In some ways we are called to give our friends the wings to fly and the security of our close abiding and (literally) supportive presence like a safety net. That wonderful writer Flor McCarthy SDB, put it better.

The person in misery does not need a look that judges and criticises, but a comforting presence.

called to the supper of the Lamb.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon Ps 26:4
There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Prayer after Communion
As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord. **men.**

Jesus looked at the ordinary people, and seeing how needy they were, he had compassion on them and began to minister to them. Compassion means that I suffer with you; I accept into my heart the misery in yours; I become one with you in your pain. I may not be able to relieve that pain, but by understanding it and sharing it, I make it possible for you to bear it. Lord give us warm and generous hearts so that we may be agents of your compassion to others.

— Tom Cox



Reflection

Ponder the teaching, preaching and healing activity of Jesus among the people and his invitation to share in his mission.



Lesson

We didn't merit, earn or deserve Christ's love, that amazing grace was his free gift to us, his people.



Prayer

Lord, give us the courage we need to return when we stumble and fail.