

Monday: Penitence

The word Penitent isn't a word that we use in everyday speech, but it has become synonymous with sin and regret and remorse. Its root comes from the verb to repent and is also connected with the word penitentiary – another word for prison.

I don't suppose we consider ourselves to be 'in prison' but in many ways we are all prisoners to something and because of something. Perhaps in this sense we need consider our 'imprisonment' as something that we need to be freed from.

As part of our Holy Week practice it is good for each one of us reflect on ourselves, our behaviour and how these are impacted by our faith. There are times when our actions and words may not always reflect our faith and may even have detrimental effects on other people.

St Paul says that we should be imitators of God and love as Christ loved. Can we put our hands on our hearts and truly say that we are imitating God and loving others as Christ loved?



On Palm Sunday as part of our 'confession' we used these words:

For the hidden hurts we have held too tightly,
And the promises which we never kept;
For the careless use of our money
And the lame excuses we should never have made
Forgive us

For all we should be
And all we can amend
Renew us

For all you have in store for us
And all you may demand of us
Prepare us

For the life of the world
And the love of its people
Commit us

... and we remembered the words of Jesus,

Your sins are forgiven.
Go in peace.
Come and follow me.

Use these words during this Holy Week, focus on how God would want us to live our lives and the commitments that each of us will make.

