



SUNDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2021

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

**The Parishes of:** Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington  
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

## ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

### 5th Sunday of the Year : Mark 1:29-39

He'd just received a handsome certificate and big applause for saving the life of a youngster in deep despair and about to make a fateful jump. Like many another hero, he made short work of the praise - "It's obvious what was needed", he said "I was just there at the right time, it didn't need figuring out. It's what you do, right?"

Right it was. Except for some people it's not what they do. They walk away. They don't want to know, don't want to get involved, let someone else sort it out. Onlookers, rubberneckers and mobile phone paparazzi have curiosity but lack courage. Helpers engage, seeking improvement, even risking their own comfort or safety.

There may be good reasons why we choose not to help. We may lack confidence, health or knowhow, but whether we help or not may well send messages of what kind of person we are. Making decisions may depend on split-second judgement, but a consistent pattern will point to a more reliable profile. The picture of Jesus in today's Gospel emphasises how totally immersed in the welfare of people he chooses to be. He's training us daily to be the same.

The Lord doesn't stand aloof from humanity and dispense healing from on high. He's in the thick of the distress and needs of his people. Lifting individuals from the restrictions of sickness and the damage of demons defines his love and solidarity, shows how grounded he is as one of us. His style hasn't changed over the centuries, either. Incarnation means our God is also our brother. He's totally involved. He now 'lives forever to intercede for us', we remind ourselves at Mass. It's what being 'seated at the right hand of the Father' means. He speaks for us. We ride on his back. No one comes to the Father except through him, the torch-carrier for humanity in its goodness, messiness and helpless need. We'd have joined the crowds at Simon Peter's front door seeking his attention.

But he's human, gets exhausted, needs personal time like us. It's why he's out early in the morning, soaking himself in prayer to the Father to keep his head straight. It's what you and I have to do as well. Then he's off to a new day, new people, folks needing to know they're understood and loved and that the Lord lives in us all.

We can all save lives and we do, bit by bit. Humanity is not Jesus' disguise. It's the language of God's love. Smile.



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### The Global Catholic Movement invites you to "Global Healing."

In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment *Laudato Si'*. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent, we are inviting YOU to join us for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.

**When?** Six Thursdays from 18<sup>th</sup> February – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 7.30pm – 8.30pm **How to join?** To register please click

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvcOuuqzsvEtMBwz2hxBzhhvwy0hcgvoEb>

or email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global)

Hosted by GCCM *Laudato Si'* Animators in the UK.

*"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience...Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)*



GLOBAL CATHOLIC  
CLIMATE MOVEMENT