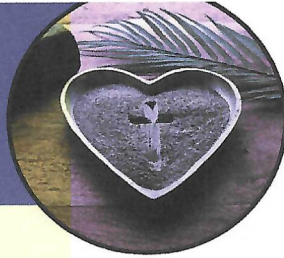


BAPTISED AND SENT IN LENT

Third Sunday of Lent



Who Belongs?

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In today's Gospel we have heard the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well and offering her living water. In his great love, Jesus reached out to everyone.

Let's pause for a moment and ask ourselves on this Third Sunday of Lent:

In what way/s is my life/our parish welcoming and inclusive? What concrete action or steps can I/we take to help more people feel that they belong? **(Pause)**

Let's listen now to two short quotes from the document entitled, *Baptised and Sent* that is helping the Church in Ireland prepare for the national Synod gathering in October this year:

"Belonging brings caring, mercy, compassion and love. It is at the heart of who we are."

And in another place, the document says:

"Belonging and inclusion appeared in nearly every conversation (during the consultation phase of 2021-2023). The Church is perceived as struggling to welcome those on the margins, especially young people, migrants, LGBTQ+ persons, non-traditional families, those who have experienced relationship breakdown, those in second unions, those who feel judged or hurt, and those estranged from faith communities. There is a deep desire for a listening Church..."

Let's pray: Gracious God, we thank you for journeying with us and for all that has been shared. Help us to remember that we are all Baptised and Sent and give us the courage and energy to make a difference in our world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.