

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

John 12:1-3

I don't know about you, but one of the things I am missing right now is being able to touch other people, family and friends, not in my household. I don't remember the last time I gave anyone a hug, and it's really strange to think that I don't know when I'll get to do that again. It is great that we have all this technology to keep us in contact (even if you do have to remember to tidy your room before making a zoom call!) But still, it's not the same as being able to reach out and touch those we love.

Today is the day the church traditionally remembers when Mary anointed Jesus' feet before his crucifixion. Judas complained that Mary's act was wasteful, she could have sold the perfume and given away the money. And yet, I can't help thinking that that what Mary offered to Jesus, a human touch as he approached his death, was worth so much more than anything money can buy.

Lord, in these days of social distancing may we know the comforting touch of your Spirit. We pray for all caring for the sick and dying, in homes, care homes, and hospitals. May they find ways to offer one another human contact as they share time together. Amen.

Listen: Allegri's Miserere Mei, often sung at the Tenebrae service during Holy Week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3v9unphfi0>

