



Today's Gospel reading (Luke 17:11-19) is about thankfulness. Ten lepers were healed by Jesus and only one returned to give thanks. And that man was a Samaritan. Lepers were regarded as unclean and ostracised by society. Being a hated Samaritan made it worse.

**We ask how thankful are we and what are we thankful for?**

**I wonder what would be on your list?**

I am thankful for God who loves me through Jesus Christ. I am thankful that I can respond to God's love and that I can love my neighbour. I am thankful for health and strength sufficient for daily tasks. I am thankful that I live in a beautiful part of one of the wealthiest countries in the world. I am thankful for my family and friends. I am thankful for the clothes and that I have choice in what to wear. I am thankful for food, sufficient to sustain life ... and more beside. I am thankful that I have enough money to live comfortably and some to spare. I am thankful that I have a roof over my head. I am thankful that I can use the days productively and I am not in servitude to other people. I am thankful that I had an education and that I can read. And I am very grateful to this congregation for agreeing to host the Fair Trade Fair next Saturday.

## **How do I respond to such blessings?**

First, in my prayers. Thankfulness can be turned into prayer for those not so richly blessed: those who don't know the love of God, who have no one who loves them, who do not have adequate food or clothing or a roof over their head or medical help. People who are slaves to other people. People who work long hours for little reward, far less than a living wage. Refugees and asylum seekers. The list is endless.

Second, in practical ways. Giving money to needy causes. Using time and energy for others. Purchasing clothing or gifts or consumables such as chocolate, tea and coffee in such a way that the workers were properly paid for their work.

That is what fair trade is all about. Thank you! thank you! thank you! For hosting the Fair Trade Fair next Saturday.

### **Some dates this week to help form our thoughts and prayers:**

16th October is World Food Day,

17th October is International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

18th October is EU Anti-Trafficking Day.

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