

The greatest gift

YEAR C





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Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

- 1. What is the best gift you have ever received?
- 2. Mary anointed Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume (read John 12:1-8). Why do you think she did this?
- 3. What gift would you like to give to Jesus today?



Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	John 12:1-8	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany
Μ	Isaiah 43: 16-21	The Lord's promise of victory
т	Philippians 3: 4b-14	Priceless value of knowing Christ
w	2 Corinthians 2:14-17	The fragrance of life
т	Ephesians 1:15-18	Knowing Christ better
F	2 Peter 1:3-11	Knowledge of Christ
S	Psalm 126	The Lord has done amazing things

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies. But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat."

JOHN 12:24



In Sunday's Gospel reading we hear that Mary (sister of Martha and Lazarus) anointed Jesus' feet with nard, a very expensive perfume imported all the way from the Himalayas. Nard was used to prepare bodies for burial. By anointing Jesus, Mary was pointing forward to his sufferings and death soon thereafter.

As part of your home devotion times this week, anoint one another's hands or forehead with perfume or oil. Say together this prayer:

(Name) I anoint you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he may strengthen you in all that you do. Amen.



Loving God, bless our bodies with this food, our home with your love, and the world by our hands. Amen.

PRAYER Lord, help us to let go of all that stands in the way

of knowing and following you. Amen.



ACTION RESPONSE

Mary surprised Jesus with a special gift of love. Prepare a special gift of love for a friend, neighbour or relative (money need not be spent).



BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus take hold of you with his love.