

'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.'
(Hebrews 13:2)

Who is my neighbour? Who is the stranger?
The stranger **is** my neighbour!

Who is the stranger in your community?

Something to ponder... 'At the end of the parable it is not a question of where and how far I should draw the limits of the notion 'neighbor' – to see how far my obligations of 'love' extend. It is a question of imitating the hospitality shown by the despised alien who broke through the barriers of ethnic and religious prejudice to minister to a fellow human in need. The concept of 'neighbor' shifts from being a tag that I may or may not apply to another, to being a quality or a vocation that I take upon myself and actively live out.

This is the way to inherit eternal life. The God whom one is attempting to love with all one's heart is the God who reaches out to the world in compassion in the same way as the good Samaritan did. In the ministry of Jesus, which the Church has to continue, God offers extravagant, life-giving hospitality to wounded and half-dead humanity. The way to eternal life is to allow oneself to become an active instrument and channel of that same boundary-breaking hospitality.' (Brendan Byrne- The Hospitality of God')

In what way is God asking you to become an active instrument and channel of hospitality and how might your church, outside its walls, welcome the stranger?



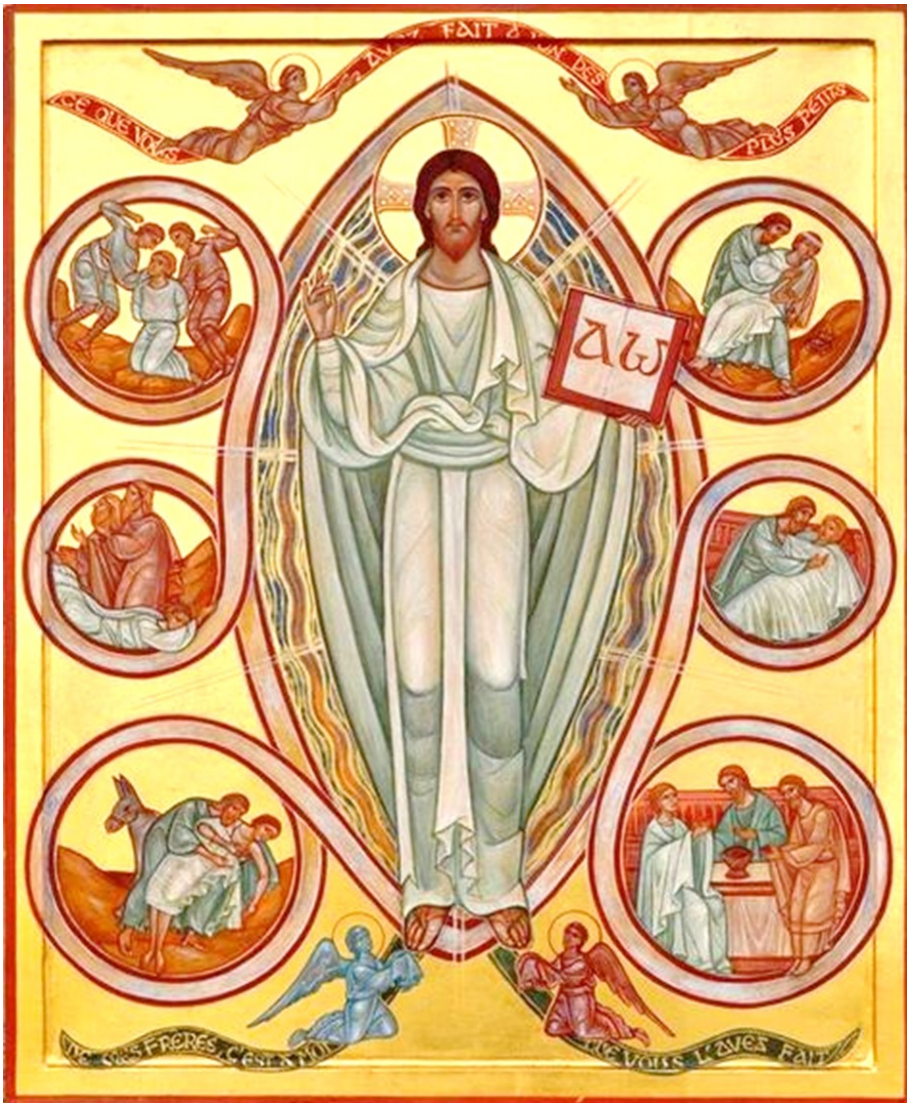
Welcoming the Stranger

Rev. Kirrilee Reid
Chaplain & Refugee Project Officer
Pas de Calais



*With an openness to welcome there must also be a freedom to let go, to not hold on.
Free to come and free to go, greetings and farewells, welcome and benedictions*





The Icon of Mercy (Taizé)

Look at the Icon of Mercy. What image are you drawn to? Why?

Mercy and compassion are the overriding emotions that compel us to act... despite our fears and insecurities

Parable of the Good Samaritan

...But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, “Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.” Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?’ He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

How have you experienced ‘welcome’ as the stranger ?



“Hospitality brings us close, beyond the differences and even the divisions that exist between Christians, between religions, between believers and non-believers, between peoples, between life options or political opinions.... Hospitality is a fundamental value for every human being. All of us came into life as frail little babies who needed to be welcomed in order to live, and this fundamental experience marks us to our last breath.” (Brother Alois, Taizé)