

## Thought for the day – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021

by Revd John Ohen.

### Who is my neighbour?

When we hear the question “who is my neighbour” Perhaps our mind runs to Luke’s story telling ability about the Good Samaritan, which is exclusive to St Luke’s ‘s gospel. The big question is how do we interpret this parable of the Good Samaritan? However, to most of us it represents social action, literally going out of our way to serve our neighbour. This can be an appropriate interpretation. We are all called to be Good Samaritans who reach out in mercy to those in need of help. Are you ready to help others?

There are other interpretations to this parable, for example, Origen a scripture scholar from early church, and many of the early Fathers like John Chrysostom, Augustine and Ambrose adopted a deeper meaning of the Scripture. This is why we should invite the Holy Spirit to lead us to see God’s goodness by penetrating into the meaning of Scripture.

Origen saw Jesus Christ as the Good Samaritan, and we are the wounded traveller. The journey from Jerusalem to Jericho symbolizes the journey Adam took from paradise to the world.

The priest represents the law, which cannot heal and save us as we are sinners. The Levites represent the Old Testament prophets. While the traveller’s wounds are the wounds of sin and disobedient to God. We must not forget another important living thing – the beast on which the wounded man was carried, is Christ’s body. The innkeeper is the Clergy and all those called to minister to God’s people. One of the important things to remember is that the good Samaritan promised to return, is a reference to the hope of glory, the Church and Christ’s second coming. This is what we are all hoping and praying for. Are you ready for our Lord’s return?

Bible passage: Luke 10: 25 - 37

Prayer: Lord teach us to love you above everything else, and to love our neighbours as ourselves and help us to hold on till we see you face to face. AMEN