

Thought for the day – Monday 11th July 2022

By Revd John Marshall

The Good Samaritan

We hear the story of the Good Samaritan so often and we tell it again and again. This is Malcolm Guite's poem.

How do we hear again the force of this
Since 'Good Samaritan' slips off the tongue
As comfortable a phrase as any is,
Worn smooth because we've heard it for so long?
Who is my neighbour? We don't need to ask,
We know that we already know the answer,
We know the duty but we shun the task.
Fear of the other grips us like a pincer:
What if they crossed our path, these refugees?
Who'd meet the cost when needs just multiply?
We fear these questions and our spirits freeze,
It's easier to turn and walk on by.
Cross over to us, whose dark paths are crossed
Samaritan, whose cross defrays all cost.

- Parable and Paradox, Malcolm Guite, Canterbury Press
Luke 10. 25-37

How would we answer the question? What do we do?