



Clincarthill Parish Church  
*a church for the community*

**2021: The 5 Marks of Mission Series**

Mark 4

“To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation”.

Teaching Sunday: **24<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

Sharing Sunday: **31<sup>st</sup> October 2021**

This guide will help you to reflect on each Mark of Mission, and the associated Bible passage. Find some quiet time and pray that God would help you as you reflect on the Scripture readings and questions. You can record your thoughts in this booklet in whatever way suits you, such as writing or drawing.

On Sharing Sunday, you will have an opportunity to:

1. Hear the answers to some of the questions asked about the passages/Mark;
2. Tell others in the congregation how God has spoken to you;
3. Share your reflections on a written/drawn prayer board.

If you have a question and want to hear the answer, you can send this in advance, and anonymously, to [questions@clincarthill.org.uk](mailto:questions@clincarthill.org.uk).

**Remember to bring this with you on Sharing Sunday!**

Scripture Reading 1: John 7:53 – 8:11 (NIVUK)

<sup>53</sup>Then they all went home, <sup>1</sup>but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup>At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered round him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup>and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup>In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' <sup>6</sup>They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' <sup>8</sup>Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup>At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no-one condemned you?'

<sup>11</sup>'No-one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'

Scripture Reading 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5: 16-21 (NIVUK)

<sup>16</sup>So from now on we regard no-one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What questions are raised from these passages?  
Did you find anything difficult or surprising?



How do these passages speak personally to you?  
Do you feel God is saying anything to you?



How do these passages encourage you?  
What is God calling you to be or do in light of these passages?



1. In what ways does Clincarthill Church “seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation”?

2. How could Clincarthill Church develop this further?

3. What does it mean for **you** to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation?

4. How could **you** be challenged or supported to take this further?

### **Closing Prayer**

God of justice and reconciliation, remind me again of what you did through Jesus on the Cross so I could be free from my sin. Send your Holy Spirit to encourage in me a heart of compassion for those who live with injustice, unforgiveness and violence. Help me to be your voice of peace in my community for those who have no voice no matter the cost. Amen.