

## Gospel

### The 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary time Luke 10:38-42



As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called

Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!" "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "**you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed**—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."



## Reflection:

When Jesus speaks to us through this week's Gospel, He once again breaks through the social boundaries of His time. Just as the outsider - the Samaritan - was the compassionate neighbour in last week's Gospel, who saw what was needed and acted upon it, so in this Gospel a woman, another marginalised member of society, is given the chance to be a disciple of the teacher, Jesus. Women were



others, for being busy but also times for listening and learning.

Martha was used to the traditional role for women and didn't understand how her sister could ignore the housework and listen to Jesus' teaching instead. Jesus defends Mary, showing us that no one is excluded from becoming his follower.



expected to raise children and take care of the house. It was very unusual for a woman to be encouraged in a role which had only ever been reserved for men. In the story of Martha and Mary, Jesus shows us that when it comes to following him, men and women are equal.

Jesus tells us that there is always a time for serving others, for being busy but also times for listening and learning.



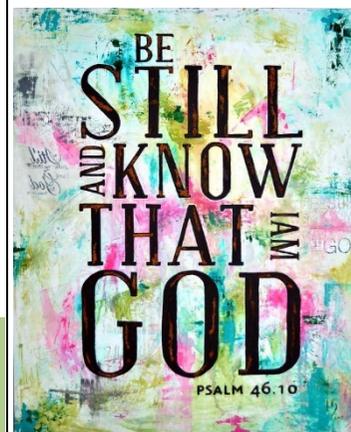
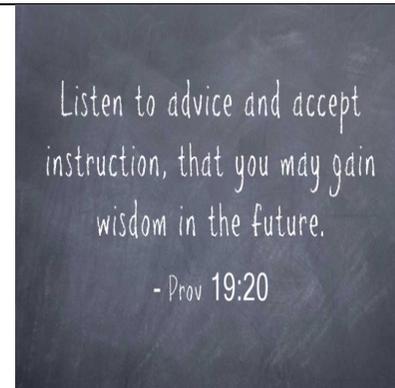
## Post-it Challenge:

To be busy or to be still and listen? Both are important in our lives but we need to get the balance right.

- When and how is it the right time to be busy?
- When might it be a good time to be quiet and listen instead of talking?

It is easy to exclude certain people from being our friends. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be more like Him and to break down barriers that separate people from one another.

- How can you do this in your life?



## Let us pray:

Lord,  
Give us ears to hear,  
time to be still,  
courage to stop what we are doing and a willingness to listen to your words.  
In our moments of stillness and silence be with us. Let us

turn to you with open hands and ready hearts.

We pray that we may become better listeners at home, at school and with each other. Amen