

**HELPFUL PASSAGES FOR IMAGINATIVE CONTEMPLATION
for meeting 11**

The nativity	Luke 2: 1-20	The paralytic	Mark 2: 1-12
Jairus' daughter	Mark 5: 21-43	The ten lepers	Luke 17: 11-19
Bartimaeus	Mark 10:46-52	The wedding at Cana	John 2: 1-12
The storm at sea	Mark 4:35-41	Martha and Mary	Luke 10: 38-42
The Leper	Mark 1:40-45	A day in his life	Mark 2: 21-39
The cure of the centurion's servant	Matthew 8: 5-13		



The production of these meeting plans has been a team effort. Many CLC members have assisted in various ways. The original work was done mainly by Tony Horan sj, ably assisted by Jenny Bond, particularly in the editing and the graphics. Then numerous people evaluated the material. Pat Fitzpatrick, Teresa House, Chiara Mallia and Nicky Woods were the first readers; some communities tried out the meeting plans at their meetings, particularly the Colwyn Bay, Oxford and the Linthorpe communities. All the comments we received were valued. Finally Maria Evans, Danuta Padley and Teresa House did a lot of the final tedious editing and proof-reading. Lita Lanzarotti did the photocopying, packaging and posting.

You see, we really are a community; this is a community effort.
Thanks are due to all.

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MEETING PLANS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**RECOGNISING
YOUR SPIRITUALITY
Introductory Leaflet**



**Please read this leaflet before you
begin this set of meeting plans**

**THE SECOND SET
OF MEETING PLANS
EIGHT TO FOURTEEN**

RECOGNISING MY SPIRITUALITY

A spirituality is "a way to God". It is like a map that enables me to see a way to reach some desired place. Of course it is never enough to have the map, I must make the journey and use the means the map suggests to get to where I want to go.

We learn from Ignatian spirituality that the way to the Father is to travel **with Jesus**. Ignatius invites all of us to be **companions of Jesus seeking to do his Father's will**, whether we are Jesuits or other Ignatian religious or lay people. Jesus said, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work" (John 4: 34). Ignatian people want to be with Jesus, completing God's work.

How can we be his companions? Jesus tells us that **he is with us**, that he makes his home in us (John 15: 4). and invites us to make our home in him. To be at home with someone means to be in familiar relaxed communication. This calls for both listening and openness.

So **Towards Meeting Eight** encourages us to listen and gives us stillness skills to help us to be quiet and attentive. It takes time and practice to learn such skills and for them to be fruitful. They are well worth some effort.

Towards Meeting Nine urges us to open our hearts to God about all that goes on within us, but especially about our God-given desires. Openness is not just something for one fortnight but to be used

in all our subsequent prayer times, especially when we pray the **Grace** and the **Colloquy**, two conversations with God which Ignatius encourages.

So far we have talked of our attempts to communicate with God, but Ignatius is convinced that the Trinity will always communicate with anyone who seeks them and the communication happens through our felt experience of moving towards the things of God or even

New skills are not usually mastered in a fortnight; you will probably need to practise them longer.

moving away from them. Since God is using them it is important to remain praying about the things that provoke these 'movements of Spirits', as Ignatius calls them. **Towards Meeting Ten** explains the importance of

Review and **Repetition** so that we can be aware of these movements and stay with them.

If we are to be companions of Jesus, completing his Father's work, then we need to be familiar with him as Peter, Andrew, Martha and Mary were. Using our imagination to enter the Gospel scenes in order to interact with Jesus helps us to be at home with him there, so that we can be at home with him wherever we are. The Grace we often pray for when doing this says it all: "to know Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly, and follow him more nearly". **Towards Meeting Eleven** introduces us to this type of prayer. It may take more than a fortnight before the group feels at home with it. Over the page is a list of suitable scripture passages you could use.

The first four meeting plans in this set have all been concerned with skills. The last three are concerned with your experience.

Towards Meeting Twelve is concerned directly with that experience and the way we see God as a result. It asks us to reflect on a dozen questions. Some of you may find only one or two questions helpful; that is fine. Don't struggle or spend a lot of time on this meeting plan unless it is helping.

Towards Meeting Thirteen takes up the 'how you see God' of the last meeting plan and also asks how you see yourself and prayer. It offers Gospel scenes in which you may meet Jesus and be converted to a different view of him, the Father, yourself and prayer. Again the group may want to spend more than one fortnight on this.

Of course God has been working on us all our lives. Ignatius could say that God had taught him like a schoolmaster. When we recognise this activity of God,

it encourages us and helps us to love God. **Towards Meeting Fourteen** invites us to reflect on how God has been at work in us.

The key to using these meeting plans is to use them flexibly – not being in a hurry to move on to new things.

Tony Horan sj



Since writing this set, an extra meeting plan has been added: **Towards an Evaluation Meeting**, which invites you to reflect on both your own experience and that of your group since you began. You might like to invite an experienced person from CLC to facilitate this meeting with you: a Regional Chaplain, Representative or Group Guide. If you are not sure how to arrange this, please contact the CLC Office at the address on the cover.

REMEMBER

- Not always to go straight on to the next Meeting Plan
- Sometimes to stay longer with the same Meeting Plan
- Sometimes to do something else
- Occasionally to have a party or other social event
- To meet with another neighbouring Christian Life Community sometimes
- To invite a Regional Chaplain or Representative to your meeting sometimes
- To keep the Christian Life Community informed
- To begin and end on time
- To sit in a circle so that everyone can see everyone else
- Perhaps to use paint or clay or a symbol to illustrate your sharing
- Be flexible; use the review of the meeting to find out what is best for you