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Lenten

MOMENTS



Good Friday is a solemn time in the Christian calendar. The betrayal, violence and human suffering of Jesus' death are a reminder of the impact of selfishness, brutal power politics and lack of relationship in the human story. As we reflect on the events of the first Good Friday and the countless 'Calvary events' since that time, it is instructive to look at how Jesus reacted. As Richard Leonard sj notes in his reflections on Lent and Easter, Jesus focused on healing (the ear of the High Priest's servant), truthfulness (answering Pilate's questions), empathy (his embrace of the women of Jerusalem), forgiveness (of those who condemned him) and compassion (for the others being crucified alongside of him) (Leonard. *What Are We Hoping For?* 2015).

FOR REFLECTION

How can you focus on the positive in your daily interactions?

What positive action for the 'crucified' is possible in your home or workplace?

We do not have to look far today to see Christ suffering in the persecuted. The Crucified One is reflected in each person who endures suffering at the hands of another. Many people struggle to escape the power of those who try to hurt them: children in war-torn countries, political prisoners condemned for their fight on behalf of justice, women caught in sexual exploitation, the mentally ill enduring society's rejection, refugees refused a welcome in foreign lands, and the elderly in nursing homes who experience abuse and neglect (Rupp. *God's Enduring Presence*. 2008).

...forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. (Luke 23:34)