

# WELCOMING

We believe that all people matter to God, so we joyfully welcome all people into our community – without exception.

Whoever you are and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here.



## READ

**Matthew 5:43-44** You have heard that it was said, ‘you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy’. But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you.

**Romans 13:8** Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

## REFLECT

Jesus said: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” (*Matthew 10:40*).

When we welcome people in the name of Jesus, we are acting as agents of God. God has welcomed us, and now we must welcome others. Our challenge is to welcome unconditionally: not only our enemies, but “the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind” (*Luke 14:12*).

Take a few moments to reflect on how welcoming you are.

Ask yourself:

- how welcoming am I to strangers?
- to people I don’t like?
- to my enemies?
- how could I get better at this?

## ACT

Wherever you are, and whomever you come into contact with, take a moment to be welcoming - people you pass on the street or in the shops - sometimes you don’t need words to be welcoming!

Extend a welcome from yourself, from St Francis, and - most importantly - from God!

## PRAY

Holy Lord, I thank you for the gift of welcoming.

Strengthen me daily in my commitment to do do your work through welcoming all others. Amen.