

The road may seem a necessary evil, or just a way of getting from A to B.

Sometimes, however, it is a place where we experience and learn things that could only happen there.

- What is the difference between travelling alone or in the company of others?
- What are the qualities you would look for in a good companion on a journey?

### **A Closing Prayer**

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have willed that the gate of mercy  
should stand open for those who trust in you;  
look upon us with your favour  
that we who follow the path of your will  
may never wander from the way of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Common Worship

Post Communion Prayer for the 10th Sunday after Trinity

# Lent Reflections

## Lenten Landscapes

### Week 4: The Road



- Have you ever had a holiday where the journey was the best or most memorable part of your time away?
- What films or books or stories can you think of where the action takes place on the road?

Roads cut through many types of landscape, but aren't often seen as landscapes in their own right.

Roads can be places of encounter and transformation.

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.'

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking.'

(Mark 10.32-38)

- Do the disciples truly understand where the road that Jesus is travelling on is going?
- What lesson do you think James and John might have learned on the road?

The following passage is from Sally Welch's book on pilgrimage, *Every Place is Holy Ground*. After describing a day's walk along the 'Camino', or 'pilgrim road', to Santiago di Compostela, she writes:

For nearly 2000 years people have undertaken a 'spiritual journey to a sacred place'. Inspired by a multiplicity of reasons, following any one of hundreds of the pilgrim routes that criss-cross the United Kingdom and Europe like the silken threads of a gigantic spider's web, hundreds of thousands of people every year seek enlightenment or healing. They walk for rest and relaxation or as a penance, seeking divine aid or in gratitude for help received. In undertaking a pilgrimage we are following a route that has been trodden by many people before us, yet each time it is different. Each individual experiences something unique to him or her and each time valuable personal insights are gained.

Great insights might emerge on long journeys, but they can also come from any pilgrim journey, however short, undertaken with open hearts and minds, if we are prepared to listen and to look attentively and mindfully.