

**St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church
Moore Street, Adelaide**

Reflection on Tuesday in Holy Week

LONGING FOR SOMETHING

We sometimes use the word “longing” – an interesting word because we readily associate “long” with distance. In our minds we can travel a long way ahead or behind the present so perhaps this is the derivation of “longing”. By longing for something we can in our minds bring it into, or nearer, the present. At the same time the distance or the period of time between the present and whatever or whoever we may be longing to arrive can make us feel sad or impatient.

In today's Gospel there is the sense of longing. Jesus is still with the disciples but he foreshadows his departure. By his death and resurrection Jesus will become both very far distant yet also very near. The disciples are about to lose Jesus in a very physical sense. The time will come soon, however, when they re-discover him in prayer, the Word and the Sacraments. In this re-discovery the people of the world will be able to find him too in this different way. The disciples will be able to share Jesus with countless others - as has happened over the centuries of Christianity.

In our lives it is good to be able to keep alive a sense of Jesus' nearness to us as we try to follow him for the rest of our days. We can think of Jesus as the road on which walk and as the One at the end of the road. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

Fr Graeme Kaines
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