

One of the things I used to hate when I was young was my mother always telling me to say my 'please's and 'thank you's.

Now, don't get me wrong - it is always a good thing to say please and thank you, but that is not what I believe this gospel is all about. This gospel is all about boundaries and belonging. *On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.*

We are all travelling along a border. Those of you in Year 3 are on a border. You are not babies any more. Very soon you will be making your First Confession and receiving your First Holy Communion.

Those of you in Year 6 are in the last year of primary school and you are about to become fully grown up members of the Catholic Church in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Scary times. Boundaries are scary. We don't know what's on the other side. It's so much easier to stay where we are.

The Jews thought the Samaritans were a bit odd and scary, not the sort of people you would want to talk to. As for lepers, they were even worse. If you touched them you might catch a nasty disease.

I sometimes think I am walking along a border as well. There are so many scary things going on in our world. Sometimes I can be quite frightened and fearful. But on the other side of the border I know God is there as well. He loves us and he will look after us.

This is what the Cross is.

Jesus loves everybody.

He talks to the Samaritans.

He cures the lepers.

He helps us to cross all the boundaries. And one day he will help us to cross the boundary onto heaven itself.

Travel with Jesus, be bold, cross over the boundary and travel with him all the way to Jerusalem.

Fr Michael