

## LENTEN DEVOTIONALS offered by Leaders of the Diocese of Toliara

## Reflection for Good Friday

By
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## What is Christian Giving?

It is based on a radical understanding, one that our societies find very hard to accept, yet it is true. Ultimately, nothing is ours - not the money in our bank accounts, not the property we have possession of, not even our lives. Everything is God's. God creates and sustains everything. We simply have custody of it for a while. Christian giving is founded on this realisation: everything we have is already a gift to us. The question is, how are we called by God to use what we have? To serve him and to serve the whole of humanity?

We need to be real that we have needs and responsibilities, that God calls us to look after these, but also realistic that we do not need

many of the things we desire. So giving needs to be from the excess after our responsibilities are met but not our endless desires satisfied. We give our excess, not just our excess of money, but also our excess of time and skills. We need to learn to give of ourselves as well as of our property. Ultimately, what we really need to learn to give is our love, to learn to desire the flourishing of others, to learn to adore God and share his love for all of his creation. To learn the lesson of Good Friday, that self giving love transforms the corruption of our societies, and even breaks the power of death.

Blessings,

## Adam+

The Rev. Adam Boulter

Dean, St. Patrick's Bible College, Diocese of Toliara

We offer special praise and thankgiving for the artistic gifts of Adam+, who created the artwork which highlighted each of the Lenten Devotionals.

+Todd McGregor, Bishop of Toliara

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