

HOSPITALITY

'Anyone who welcomes me, welcomes not me but the one who sent me'

Reflection



The Lord appeared to Abraham] by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.

Genesis 18:1-5

What does it mean for us to be ministers of hospitality?

- **Enthusiasm:** Abraham rushed from the entrance of his tent to the visitors.
- **Respect:** he revered them, bowing down to the ground.
- **Hospitality:** he encouraged them to stay, offering food and drink

When have you been made to feel welcome?

When have you been treated as a stranger rather than as a guest?

Action Points

Website and signage:

1. Check your website: does it have the correct Mass times? Can you find the address of the church? Are the disabled and children's facilities clearly marked?
2. Can you find your church from the road? Are the toilets clearly signed? Is it easy to find coffee after Mass?

Welcome:

1. Does your hospitality team share the same vision of welcome for all? Strangers are our guests of honour.
2. Have welcomers outside as well as inside the church, in case anyone needs a helping hand or friendly face.
3. Make sure that guests have the books that they need and seat them next to a friendly parishioner who will look after them.

Welcome Pack:

Develop a pack for new parishioners which includes parish activities and how to get involved.