

## HOLY WEEK REFLECTION: WEDNESDAY

This day has traditionally been named 'Spy Wednesday' - so called from the betrayal by Judas Iscariot, one of the inner-circle. The Gospel is a description of the secret arrangement of Judas to betray the Master.

Judas was doubtless a talented man, probably very astute, who, perhaps was moved by idealism to follow Jesus, and when it came to the test, he proved unreliable, profoundly untrustworthy.

But rather than spend time trying to assess the level of Judas' guilt, or guessing at his motivations, why not ponder how we ourselves can be untrustworthy and in need of repentance.

Walking into the shoes of Jesus on that day, any of us can have a painful experience of betrayal. Perhaps we confided in someone who later used our personal secrets against us. The message of "Spy Wednesday" is that malice need not have the last word; God had the last word by raising his Son from the dead. From this betrayal and the many other injuries suffered by Jesus, God brought great good. Good can also emerge from any of the misfortune we have to bear in life. This story invites us to trust that God can work in life-giving ways in us, no matter how others may treat us.

At a different note the fate of Judas invites us to pray for people who have tragically taken their own lives, to escape from the depths of despair. We pray that any poor soul who is tempted to suicide may find compassion and new hope with the help of their friends.