

## **Week 2: Theme - Mission & Service**

### **St Jeanne Jugan, Foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor**

#### **Welcome:**

Welcome to our second Lenten session of House Groups.

Introduce and welcome any new members to the group. Share with another person about something humorous or unusual that has happened since the last group.

#### **Worship:**

Gather around a crucifix, an open Bible and a lighted candle.

#### *Sign of the Cross*

Let's bring ourselves before God in a moment of silence. Let's place into his hands our day, our week, those who we love, those who we are praying for.

#### *Sing together*

Be still and know that I am God,  
Be still and know that I am God,  
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that healeth thee,  
I am the Lord that healeth thee,  
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

**Word:                    Jesus and St Jeanne Jugan speak to us**

In 1837 Jeanne Jugan and two companions began taking into their home, the sick and the poor, especially widows who were left unable to provide for themselves. As time went on, more women were attracted by the life and work of the community. A priest, Fr le Pailleur, supported them, but later claimed that he has founded the order and Jeanne Jugan, known as Sister Mary of the Cross, was overlooked. She submitted with complete obedience and was sent to live with the novices. After her death, the truth was revealed and the Church recognised that she was the founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Jeanne Jugan was canonized by Benedict XVI on October 11 2009 as St. Marie de la Croix.



*Read the passage aloud, then give time for quiet reflection*

**The Bible**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

*Now read the following quotations, then pause for further reflection.*

**St Jeanne Jugan**

‘Refuse God nothing. Accustom yourselves to doing everything for him.’

‘In our troubles, we must always say, "Blessed be God, thank you my God, or glory to God!"’

‘The elderly are sensitive to small attentions. And it is a way of winning them over to God.’

*You may wish to hear the readings again after a short time of silence*

**Questions for discussion: -**

Is there a word or phrase that particularly catches your attention?

What do the readings tell us about Jesus, ourselves, others?

What does it say to you personally in this time of Lent?

What opportunities can we take to serve? Consider members of your parish and people who live in your neighbourhood.

**Witness:**

In the light of the gospel and the words of St Jeanne Jugan, let’s have a short time to pray for others, especially those who are sick, poor or suffering.

**Holy Spirit, we invite you to be here with us. Inspire us to**

**think of the names of people you wish us to pray for.  
Come Holy Spirit.**



Each person is invited to take a small piece of paper and write the names of people who are ill, poor or suffering. The names will not be read out. It may be appropriate to read out the names on the parish sick list.

*Play some quiet music as the names are written and collected in a basket. As you place the basket before the cross, say together:*

***Our Father***

***Hail Mary***

***Glory Be***

Keep the names and the basket for next week.

**Closing prayer:**

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our fellow men and women throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy.

Amen

*(by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta)*