Luke 21 verses1-4 Jesus tells a story of a widow who puts a small coin in the offering. He praises her generosity, saying that while others gave out of their abundance, she gave all that she had.

One of St Francis's nicknames was the little poor man.   People often tried to help him with clothing, etc., but he would invariably offer the coat or blanket to someone in poorer circumstances. His giving away of his coat became a symbol for generosity.

**Why not start by consciously spending a week practising generosity?**

* 1. Spend some time quietly and think about what God has given you that you could be generous with. It might be money, or it might be time. Whoever we are and however much we have we can still be generous; it’s not the amount but the heart that counts.
  2. Plan to do at least one act of generosity this week. Perhaps you could offer to go shopping for a neighbour; invite someone for a coffee; pay for someone’s lunch.
  3. Think about your giving. Thinking and praying about who to bless with a gift can be lifegiving and exciting. Even the smallest act of generosity can bring joy to someone else. (Some people find that the principle of the tithe – planning to give 10 percent of your income away to support God’s church and others – is liberating and fun.)

Who or what might you bless this week?

* 1. At the end of the week spend some time thinking about what happened. How did it make you feel to be generous? What did you learn about God’s generosity? Do you want to make abundant generosity a permanent part of the rhythm of your life?