

Reflection: A Teaching Mass, 12 May 2019

Theologians refer to the Eucharist as having a 'superabundance' of meanings. In other words, there are layers and layers of different understandings in something we do weekly or even daily. We risk losing out on those meanings through sheer familiarity. It's a bit like the Constable or Van Gogh picture on tins of biscuits, where we have lost the fact that these are stunning paintings. For example, in terms of social justice, Rowan Williams writes: 'In word and act, Jesus rejects the world's rejections, and causes the rejected to be accepted. In his sharing of food with tax-collectors and sinners, he creates for them a new relation with each other and with God by bringing them into relationship with himself.'

The suggestion of a 'teaching Mass' came at a PCC meeting under the rubric of New Ideas. Today we are making that real, and the Easter Season is a good time since we are seeing more generally how life can be resurrected or renewed. So there will be three pause points for some short commentary: after the Collect, after the Offertory, and before the closing prayers. There will also be a very brief homily after the Gospel as usual.

I am hoping that this will prompt some further thinking – you may wish to share that among yourselves or with the Staff team. We might also look in the future at something more interactive, where questions can be asked aloud, discussed and answered.

Fr David

MAY FAYRE 25th MAY 10am—1pm

Cakes, Books, Bric-a-Brac, Grand Draw.

There will be 'Princesses' and we hope to have a Fire Engine and a Police Car.

Help needed at 9am to put up the stalls.



NEXT SUNDAY 19th May 2019

SERVICES	8am	Said Eucharist
	10.30am	Eucharist
	5pm	Healing Service

READINGS

OT: Acts 11: 1-18
NT: Revelation 21: 1-6
GOSPEL: John 13: 31-35



CONTACT US

Fr. David Nixon: 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Fr. Charles Keay: 07948600619 Day off: Tuesdays
fathercharles04@gmail.com

Revd. Dr. Eliza Getman Day on: Fridays
reveliza@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader. 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thursday



St Thomas Exeter

Sunday 12th May 2019

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today

8am Said Eucharist
10.30am Sung Eucharist
5pm Evensong

Tuesday 14th May

7.30pm House Group at 6 Painters Court

Wednesday 15th May

10am Holy Communion (BCP)

Thursday 16th May

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots & Breast
Feeding support
6.15pm Standing Committee

Friday 17th May

12noon Holy Eucharist

Saturday 18th May

12.30pm Ladies Lunch at the Royal Oak



Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Acts 9: 36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Revelation 7: 9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all

tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

John 10: 22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are

the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

Post Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Resources are available in the
Children's Corner,
please ask for assistance.**

ADVANCE NOTICES

The Pilgrimage to Walsingham is on 13th to 17th May. Please pray for the Pilgrims.

Fr David is attending a Training Day for Incumbents on 16th May.

The Worship Committee will meet on 23rd May at 6pm in the Office.