

Reflection for 8th Sunday after Trinity

When you receive the pewsheet, where do you look first? Some of you, I am sure, will want to read the notices and check that you are up to date with the latest news. Others will read the message from Fr David or perhaps look at the weekly Reflection.

I know that many of you will start by reading the Bible passages allotted to this week. The Gospel reading this week is probably one of the best-known stories in scripture, yet as I typed it onto the pewsheet this week I noticed details that I had never seen before. We are going to spend some time during the zoom service looking at this passage together. It is one of those multi-layered stories which I am sure has been used by preachers to illustrate lots of different themes. If you have the chance to read it before the service, that would be helpful. It would be good to hear what you notice.

Some passages take on greater resonance due to our circumstances. Recent conversations with friends have echoed the sentiments of the words in Isaiah:

'Why do you (we) spend your money on that which is not bread,

And your labour for that which does not satisfy?

The current situation has challenged people to consider what is most important. Many of our friends and neighbours are asking deeper questions in this time of ongoing upheaval and challenge. As we draw together as the people of God, we remember that we are called to pray for our neighbours, especially for those who hunger for food, for justice, for relationship, for forgiveness and for salvation.

Rev. Sarah



Thanks to Sarah we have been awarded "Good to go" status, indicating that we are taking suitable measures to keep people safe from the virus in our church. Look for this logo in the church porch!



NEXT SUNDAY 09.08.20 Transfiguration

SERVICES 12 noon Mass



READINGS

OT Daniel 7. 9-10, 13-14

NT 2 Peter 1. 16-19

GOSPEL Luke 9. 28-36

CONTACT US

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

Revd. Sarah Cumming 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd. Dr. Eliza Getman reveliza@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Churchwarden 01392 848674
07961621001
ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 2nd August 2020

8th Sunday after Trinity

We are continuing to meet each week at 10:30 for **Sunday worship by Zoom**. The telephone numbers to join are the same: 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196, bearing in mind that's it's worth trying a second one if the first isn't very good. The meeting number is 846 4638 6622 and the access code/password 425499.

In place of a talk this week, we are going to try an activity which means a little bit of **homework!** Please see the Response to the Bible Reading sheet, and try it with Sunday's Gospel. We can also all try this together and hear some reactions.

Our regular **noon Mass service** in St Thomas's church will be continuing weekly through the summer (at least). If you would like a service sheet, please bring the one from a last week. Face coverings, while not compulsory by law, are strongly encouraged to keep your fellow worshippers safe.

Even if you can't join us at either service, please continue to hold each other up to God, and pray for the wider community of St Thomas.



Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake; when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair. that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Isaiah 55. 1-5

Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
And you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that you do not know shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.



Romans 9. 1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I wish that I myself were accused and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Matthew 14. 13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured the sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go to the villages and buy food for themselves'. Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat'. They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish'. And he said, 'Bring them here to me'. Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Post-Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

Knit & Natter A reminder that this group is meeting on Thursdays 10.30—1 in the Pleasure Ground. Please ring Jenny Tuckett on 01392 498725 for more details.

Pat Mounce asks if anyone would like to take over the running of the bingo (when it can restart). If she does not hear from anyone **before the end of July** she will dispose of the books and equipment.

Christina Reynolds would like to pass on her good wishes to all at St Thomas following her recent surgery.

Congratulations to **Andrew and Helena Withers** on the safe arrival of baby Mary Rose. We pray God's blessing on them along with big sister Bea.

Thank you to everyone who is busy knitting, painting and making for the **Creative Challenge**. We are hoping to collect items during September to create a display of all our Lockdown achievements.