

Reflection Trinity 12

Last week, we saw how Peter got it so right! He recognised Jesus as the Messiah. However this week, only a paragraph on in Matthew's gospel, he gets it catastrophically wrong again. When Jesus tells them how he is to suffer, Peter takes him aside and says that they cannot let that happen. Jesus's response is positively savage. He calls Peter Satan, a stumbling block. A shocking reaction! But it must have been a very tempting thought for Jesus to take the easy way out, to avoid the suffering that was to come. It's one of those points in the gospel when his humanity shows through, when the natural animal instinct of self-preservation kicks in and he has to resist it robustly, so Peter gets an earful for showing concern about Jesus wellbeing. Peter's kind of Messiah is not a pattern that Jesus can follow if he is to fulfil the destiny his Father has given him. To do that would not have changed the world; it would have perpetuated worldly violence and death, not conquered it. Jesus is struggling to show his disciples that they must follow his way to obtain the promise of real life. That way is not the easy way as Jesus is at pains to tell his disciples. There will be suffering and pain but the ultimate reward is so much greater. As Christians our lives need to be different from the rest of the world.

Phil Baker



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 9th August to the end of September:

Meeting ID: 831 9054 0514

Passcode: 090608

Telephone numbers: 0203 051 2874,
0203 481 5237
0203 481 5240
0131 460 1196

NEXT SUNDAY 6.09.20 13th after Trinity

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church



READINGS

OT Ezekiel 33. 7-11

NT Romans 13. 8-end

Gospel Matthew 18. 15-20

CONTACT US

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Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 30th August 2020

Trinity 12

We are trying to involve more people in the Zoom service at 10.30, in leading, readings, and intercessions. **Please don't be shy!**

Our regular **noon Mass** 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 last week and this pewsheet for readings and prayers. We have a small stock of face coverings available at St Thomas, as they are now compulsory in places of worship. For those leading the service, masks remain optional.

Happy news: All being well, **Revd Sarah** will be ordained priest by Bishop Robert on Saturday 26th September in the cathedral. Due to the current regulations, tickets for this event are severely limited. On Tuesday 29th September at 7pm, Sarah will preside at the **Eucharist for the first time**. Once again, numbers are very restricted. If you would like to attend this event, please speak to David or Sarah.

Fr David



Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is
afraid
and giving us those good things which we are not
worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation of 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**

Jeremiah 15. 15-21

O LORD, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecu-
tors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.
Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart;
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.
I did not sit in the company of merry-makers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.
Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

Therefore, thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back,
and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worth-
less,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,

says the LORD.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Romans 12. 9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to
what is good; love one another with mutual affec-
tion; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not
lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the
Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, per-
severe in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the
saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not
curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep
with those who weep. Live in harmony with one
another; do not be haughty, but associate with the
lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do
not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for
what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so
far as it depends on you, live peaceably with
all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave
room for the wrath of God; for it is written,
'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the
Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them;
if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;
for by doing this you will heap burning coals on
their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but
overcome evil with good.

Matthew 16. 21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disci-
ples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo
great suffering at the hands of the elders and
chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the
third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and

began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord!
This must never happen to you.' But he turned and
said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your
mind not on divine things but on human things.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to be-
come my followers, let them deny themselves and
take up their cross and follow me. For those who
want to save their life will lose it, and those who
lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it
profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit
their life? Or what will they give in return for their
life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in
the glory of his Father, and then he will repay eve-
ryone for what has been done. Truly I tell you,
there are some standing here who will not taste
death before they see the Son of Man coming in
his kingdom.'

Post-Communion Prayer

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our sins and
given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Theatre Alibi are doing a **St Thomas Story Tour**
in place of their planned event at Emmanuel Hall.
They have reserved 2 slots for us: Thursday 10
September at 3.30pm and Saturday 12 September
also at 3.30pm. These are walking tours, and each
one lasts about one hour and 15 minutes with vari-
ous stops and stories told on the way. It is a
wheelchair friendly route and suitable for slow
walkers. There are number restrictions due to
Covid, so 'first come first served' to book a place
by phoning or emailing Fr David. Deadline is 31/8.