

Reflection Trinity 13 Romans 13.8-14

It seems a long time ago that I visited France as part of the Bayeux-Lisieux exchange group – indeed we were due there at the end of August for the celebrations to mark the retirement of Mgr Boulanger, Bishop of that diocese. I visited the bookshop in the basilica at Lisieux, and bought a paperback of the writings of Therese of Lisieux, Therese of the Child Jesus as she is known. I've recently started reading these spiritual and autobiographical reflections, written in the months before she died aged only 24.

Love (Amour) is one of the central feature of her spirituality, and she usually capitalises the word to mark its importance. Therese points out a distinction which I don't think I had noticed before – obvious, but easy to gloss over as the verses are so familiar to most of us. She contrasts the commandments of Sinai (The Summary of the Law) with the new commandment given by Jesus in St John's Gospel:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. (John 13.34)

It seems only a small shift from loving neighbour as oneself, to loving neighbour as Jesus has loved, but it's really an earthquake-like change. Worth pondering much further in quiet moments of prayer.

Fr David

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 13.09.20 Holy Cross Day

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church



READINGS

OT Numbers 21: 4-9

NT Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel John 3: 13-17

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 6th September 2020

Trinity 13

Our regular **noon Mass** in St Thomas's church will be continuing weekly through the summer and into the early autumn. 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.

We are trying to involve more people in the Zoom service at 10.30, in leading, readings, and intercessions. **Please don't be shy!** And thanks to those who have already volunteered.

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 God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 33: 7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Romans 13: 8-end

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You

shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Matthew 18: 15-20

Jesus said, 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna, the living bread from heaven: let this

holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place where hunger and thirst are no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTICES

Can I encourage you to be part of the **Theatre Alibi St Thomas Story Tour**, in place of their planned event at Emmanuel Hall. This runs from 5 -13 September. These are walking tours, and each one lasts about one hour and 15 minutes with various stops and stories told on the way. The Parish Church is one of the stops with music included. It is a wheelchair friendly route and suitable for slow walkers. There are a number of restrictions due to Covid, so booking by phone directly 01392 217315 or at www.theatrealibi.co.uk.

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.

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.

