

Reflection: Holy Cross Day

Today we celebrate Holy Cross Day; an unusual event in the church's calendar in that it focusses on an object rather than a saint or other inspirational figure. It is day, taken slightly out of the rhythm of the lectionary readings in which we look back to the events of Easter, when we could hardly get much further away from it

Why does it occur now? One theory is that Emperor Constantine dedicated a group of buildings near the place of Jesus' crucifixion, on the 14th of September in the year 335. During this work, a relic was discovered which was believed to be part of the cross of Christ. Other theories are that it was found near the site of Jesus' tomb. Historical sources note that this might be difficult to prove!

Even having such a day to commemorate a form of torture and death may seem distasteful and abhorrent; something to rush past and ignore perhaps.

Yet St Paul shocking insistence claim is that this punishment, designated for slaves and low-grade criminals, is all part of God's plan of salvation. A plan which will restore not only the lives of individuals but the whole of creation. For without the crucifixion, there is no salvation, no forgiveness of sin, no resurrection from the dead or life everlasting. St Peter reminds us:

'Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from our sins, we might live in righteousness' (1 Peter 2.24). How shall we respond to this challenge? *Revd Sarah*

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 20.09.20 Trinity 15

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church



READINGS

OT Jonah 3: 10—4: 1-11

NT Philippians 1: 21-30

Gospel Matthew 10: 1-16

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 13th September 2020

Holy Cross (Trinity 14)

Notes on Saints and other holy people: **Hildegard of Bingen** Abbess & Visionary (1098-1179) 17 September. "I am the fiery life of the essence of God; I am the flame above the beauty in the fields; I shine in the waters; I burn in the sun, the moon, and the stars. And with the airy wind, I quicken all things vitally by an unseen, all-sustaining life."

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 in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Numbers 21: 4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Philippians 2: 6-11

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death

on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

John 3: 13-17

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God, whose Son bore our sins in his body on the tree and gave us this sacrament to show forth his death until he comes: give us grace to glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our hope, who reigns as Lord, now and for ever. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder

From 13th September the Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon **not** Thursdays. Please continue to be generous.

Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Unfortunately we will not be holding a Coffee Morning due to the Covid pandemic. They are desperate for funds so a collection box will be in Church for the next 3 weeks if you wish to support them. Thanks. Pat Metford.

Knit and Natter September 2020

Now autumn has arrived we shall be meeting for the remaining Thursdays of the month of September in the Parish Church Hall, at the usual time of 10.30 until about midday. Looking ahead is not easy right now, and it may well be that we shall need to be flexible next month, as regular bookings for the Hall begin to resume. However, we shall find a way to continue, as we have done so far.

Details from Jenny on 01392 498725

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.

