

Reflection for 16th Sunday after Trinity

In verses before our reading Jesus had spoken to his Disciples about the importance of faith, now in the Temple, He is being quizzed by the chief priests and elders, "Who has given YOU the power, the authority to do all these things you have done, teaching, healing, cleansing of the Temple for a start?". Their question is about who Jesus is, but behind this questioning is the issue of following human made rules or the revelation of God, which can defy human expectations or regulations. Jesus will only answer them if they first answer HIS question. This raises a point, do we have to answer every question thrown at us? We live in a culture where some people think they can demand an answer from anyone about any matter. THEY want an answer, even if it isn't any of their business. Perhaps we might want to ask a question in return—Jesus did! Perhaps He was saying to them "How do you think it will help you if you know the answer to that question?" *Fr Terry*



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 9th August to the end of September [new codes next week]:

Meeting ID: 831 9054 0514

Passcode: 090608

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

NEXT SUNDAY 04.10.20 Harvest Festival

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom & 12 noon Mass in Church

READINGS



OT Deut 8:7-18

NT 2 Cor 9:6-15

Gospel Luke 17:11-19

CONTACT US

Fr. David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays

rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Curate 07543604115

rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd. Alison Whiting Associate Priest

rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740

lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195

tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Ward 01392 848674

07961621001 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Thurs mornings (suspended)



St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 27th September 2020

Trinity 16

The feast of **St Vincent de Paul** is on 27 September. Here is a Collect which explains his focus: *Father you endowed St Vincent de Paul with the spirit of an apostle to give himself to the service of the poor and to the training of priests. Give us a share of the same spirit that we may love what he loved and do as he taught us; through Christ our Lord. Amen*

Happy news: On Tuesday 29th September at 7pm, Sarah will preside at the **Eucharist for the first time** at the feast of St Michael and all Angels. Once again, numbers are very restricted. If you would like to attend this event, please speak to David or Sarah. There are still a few places left.

Winners of the Bible Quiz—Nancy Chown & Jean Turner; Alice Carpenter, a close runner-up.

Advance warning of APCM by Zoom on 18 October. We will be having worship as usual but at 10 o'clock, followed by a very brief Annual Meeting. Papers will be sent in advance, with reports to be read in advance. We will cover only what is needed to keep us lawful!. *Fr David*



Collect

Gracious God, you call us to fullness of life: deliver us from unbelief and banish our anxieties with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Philippians 2: 1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit,

any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, 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. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Matthew 21: 23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and

work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go.¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Post Communion

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 30th September to Christmas

We shall be meeting, on Wednesdays at the usual time 10.30 to 12 midday in the Church Hall. If we find ourselves more than six in number we will divide into two groups. Contact Jenny on 01392 498725 for details.

Audrey & Jack Wilson have some **raspberry canes** to dispose of. If anybody would like to have these and give a donation to the Church funds, please ring 01392 203945