

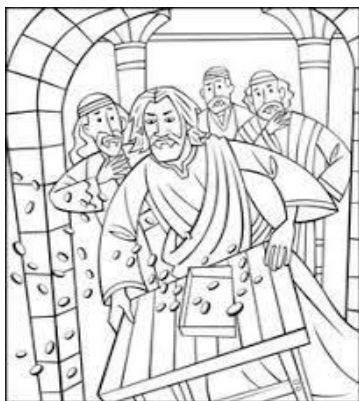
Reflection on John 2: 13-22

What if there were no rules in life? Just imagine having the freedom to do just what took your fancy? Don't bother about other people or what they want, drive on whatever side of the road you want. Very soon you would have complete chaos. We need rules and standards to live together in community.

Is it any wonder then, that Jesus got angry with the moneychangers and dealers in the Temple precincts. They made their own rules up, used their privileged position by making unfair demands, robbed people in the name of God. Could Jesus turn a blind eye? Never! He had to act to show that what was happening wasn't right, something had to change.

Is there anything in our life that prevents us from meeting God? Let us pray for Christ to clear our hearts as He cleared the Temple and ask that He may guide us in God's ways.

Fr Terry



Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 7 February until Easter Day

Meeting ID: 881 6251 3403

Passcode: 337962

Telephone numbers (as previously) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131

NEXT SUNDAY 14.03.2021 Mothering Sunday

SERVICES 10.30 by Zoom, 12 noon in Church

READINGS



OT	Exodus 2.1-10
NT	Colossians 3.12-17
Gospel	John 19.25-27

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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 7th March 2021

The Third Sunday of Lent

10.30 by Zoom (phone-in available)

12 noon Mass in Church

The **House Group** is following a Lent programme, as is a special **Lent Group** which Revd Sarah is organising, loosely based on the diocesan materials *These are our Stories*. This will be on zoom on Thursday evenings, 7-8pm. It's not too late to join either—contact Ian for the House Group and Sarah for the diocesan one.

We're going to miss out sadly this year on the saints **Perpetua and Felicity** whose feast day is 7 March. They were martyred during the persecution of Septimus Severus in the amphitheatre at Carthage in the year 203. This is a collect for their feast:

Holy God,

who gave great courage to Perpetua, Felicity and their companions:

grant that we may be worthy to climb the ladder of sacrifice

and be received into the garden of peace ...

Fr David



Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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**

Exodus 20: 1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon, and is allowed to continue operating during the period of lockdown. The collecting point will now be in the Church Hall. Judith Southam has **homemade chutneys and marmalade for sale** on Tuesday 9th March. The jars are labelled with a full list of ingredients. All proceeds will be given to the Community Larder. Please continue to be generous.

Knit and Natter *Update for March 2021*

Huge thanks to everyone who has knitted squares (eight inch in garter stitch): they are such joy with their rainbow colours and gentle warmth. Ian will kindly receive any that are finished either at the 12noon Mass on Sundays or at the Larder collection on Tuesdays. Our natter sessions continue on Thursdays at 11.15am on Zoom, thanks to Vanessa. All details from Jenny on 01392 498725.

House Group. Tuesday evenings. Please contact Ian Totterdell for Zoom details.

Electoral Roll revision Carolyn Bryant is revising the roll this year in advance of the APCM. Because of the current restrictions, we will assume that folk wish to continue on the roll unless they specifically tell us otherwise. If you are not on the roll and wish to be, contact the Parish Office by email or phone, Fr David or Ian Totterdell.

Annual Meeting Sunday 16 May, arrangements to be confirmed

Bingo Is anyone interested in running Bingo sessions when the Hall is re-opened? Nothing is needed to start up, all the equipment and cards etc are available. Please contact Pat Mounce before the beginning of April.