

## Reflection on Matthew 20: 20-28

St James Revd Sarah

*Father, your Son called men and women  
to leave the past behind them  
and to follow him as his disciples  
in the way of the cross.*

*Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today,  
marks with the cross*

*and makes his disciples within the Church...*

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

This intercession is offered by the Church of England for use on days which commemorate Apostles and Evangelists. It seems particularly appropriate for the Festival of St James. After all, he is one of the few disciples where we hear of his calling, his life as one of Jesus' closest friends, and of his martyr's death. We learn that with his brother, he responded to Jesus' call, laid down his fishing net, left his work and home, and followed his saviour. From today's readings we learn, through his questions, about a deeper meaning of that calling, of self-offering even to death.

It is the call of Christ to each of us, 'Follow me.' Each of us needs to consider our own response to that call and to count the cost of being a disciple.

As the Collect of the day says: 'Help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay'. Amen



### Codes for the Zoom worship at 10.30

These are codes for Sundays from 04.07.21 until the end of August

**Meeting ID:** 859 7288 7300

**Passcode:** 605760

**Telephone numbers** (unchanged) 0203 051 2874, 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

**NEXT SUNDAY 01.08.2021 9th Sunday after Trinity**

**SERVICES** 10.30am in Church, 6pm by Zoom

<b>READINGS</b>	OT	Exodus 16: 2-4,9-15
	NT	Ephesians 4: 1-16
	GOSPEL	John 6: 24-35



### 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 Warden 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 Messages at any time.



# St Thomas, Exeter

## Sunday 25th July 2021

### St James the Apostle

**10.30am Mass in Church**  
**6pm via Zoom**

We're thinking of this Sunday as a **Back to Church Sunday**, in which some of our arrangements and timings are changing, some more permanently, and some for a period. So we're reverting to 10.30 for our main Sunday Eucharist (for St James this week), with a zoom service of evening worship at 6pm for this Sunday and through August. I'm happy to say there will be some singing in the morning, but we continue to recommend wearing of masks, and a care about social distance. Communion will remain in one kind only, with a more restrained Sign of Peace. Those of you who receive this in the post will note that this mailing is slimmer than previously—we want to encourage you to come back in person and hear sermons and prayers, to worship in the full presence of others, if at all possible. At some point soon, mailings will stop altogether. We are not finished with Covid 19 by any means, but I think we can make these moves carefully and in small steps.

*Fr David*



## Collect

Merciful God, whose holy apostle Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; 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**

## Acts 11: 27-12: 2

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword.

## 2 Corinthians 4: 7-15

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. But just as

we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

## Matthew 20: 20-28

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.' When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

## Post Communion

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the

power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

**4th August Holy Common in Church at 10am. Mask wearing may still be advised by the Church of England for services in church. We await final confirmation of future precautions**

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

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays only** from 10am-12noon. The collecting point is in the Choir Vestry via the Tower door. Please continue to be generous.

**Knit and Natter Update for July 2021**  
From 22nd July we have decided unanimously to meet weekly on Thursdays in St Thomas Pleasure Ground, from 10.30 to 12 noon. If it's wet, at 19 Maple Road. All details from Jenny on 01392 498715.

**200 Club** If you would like to join the 200 Club please see Andrew Withers.

**PCC meeting** 28th July at 7.30pm in the Hall.

**Ladies Lunch** 31st July at 12.30pm at the Royal Oak. Contact Pat Metford.

