

Reflection for Trinity 14      Revd Sarah

Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed?  
What happened?

The Gospel reading for today gives two contrasting accounts of people who ask Jesus to heal someone else. They are different in many ways: one takes place in a gentile city where Jesus is seeking anonymity and solitude; the other in a crowded place nearer his home town.

The first encounter is an awkward sparring match between Jesus and a gentile woman who pleads for her daughter. Jesus initially appears reluctant to help a woman from outside his own community, and even insults her. He seems to be guided by the words of the Jewish prophets that they are to be a light shining into other nations, and seems stunned by the woman's expectation that outsiders will pull up a chair and demand a place at the table! She asserts that even the tiniest crumb from Jesus is enough to heal the suffering of her daughter, and for this demonstration of faith her daughter is healed.

In the second healing, the deaf man with a speech impediment is led away from the crowd, perhaps so that he can feel and see more clearly all that Jesus does. He too is healed and we follow his progress as he uses his newfound ability to praise God, and they all share what has happened despite Jesus asking them to remain silent.

How do these people behave as they engage with Jesus? What might this teach us?



**Codes for the Zoom worship at 5pm on the FIRST Sunday of each month**  
(5th September, 3rd October and 7th November)  
**Meeting ID:** 817 4532 4542  
**Passcode:** 574847  
**Telephone numbers:** 0203 481 5237,  
0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196

**NEXT SUNDAY 12.09.2021 15th Sunday after Trinity**

**SERVICES** 10.30am in Church (NO zoom service)

**READINGS** OT      Isaiah 50: 4-9a  
NT      James 3: 1-12  
GOSPEL Mark 8: 27-38



#### CONTACT US

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# St Thomas, Exeter

**Sunday 5th September 2021**

**14th Sunday after Trinity**

**10.30am Mass in Church**

**5pm via Zoom**

This Sunday is the first one to follow the new pattern. We have our 10.30 Mass in Church with Baptism again this week. We welcome to **Flor-ence & Margot**, who are to be baptized today and their parents Beckie & Rob. At **5pm** we have our Zoom evening Worship for the 1st Sunday of the month.

But firstly we are delighted to welcome motorbike riders from Ride Global who are taking part in rides all around the world today in memory of those who have died from Covid 19, and to raise funds for providing vaccines. Fr Terry is conducting a short service for them at 9.30 out in front of the Church.

Fr David is on holiday this Sunday and next Sunday, so please direct any enquiries to other members of the staff team.

As we hear in today's Gospel how Jesus accepted the Gentile woman and healed her daughter, let us think of and pray for the Afghan refugees we are now welcoming into our country as they flee their homeland.

*The Staff Team*



## Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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**

## Isaiah 35: 4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes

## James 2: 1-10 (11-13) 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever

keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.] What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

## Mark 7: 24-37

From there Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syro-Phoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond

measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

## Post Communion

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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## NOTICES

Just to underline the new pattern of Sunday worship: Mass in Church every Sunday at 10.30, and **on the first Sunday of each month** there will be an online Zoom service of Evening Worship at **5pm**, codes overleaf. Mask wearing is still advised by the Church of England for services in church.

**Theatre Alibi** are having another exhibition *We are St Thomas* 9th-12th September, 10am-4pm daily at Emmanuel Hall.

**Coffee and tea** will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served from the Servedy in the North Transept. If the weather is good, there will be seats outside the North Transept to gather for fellowship. If the weather is poor, we will serve in the Nave. **Volunteers required to make the coffee/tea on a rota system.**

**House Group.** We will restart our study of the book of Revelation on Tues 7th September at 7:30pm. We will continue meeting on zoom for now, but hope to be able to meet in person soon. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell

**Community Larder** The Community Larder will be collecting on **Tuesdays** 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 September 2021*** Thursday 9th Sept the group will meet at 10.30am at Emmanuel Hall to enjoy the 'We Are St Thomas' exhibition by Theatre Alibi. Thursday 16th Sept—venue to be announced. Thursdays 23rd and 30th Sept—19 Maple Road. For details ring Jenny on 01392 498725.

**Robert (Bob) Mounce** A service of Thanksgiving for the life of Bob will be held on Friday 17th September at 1pm at St Thomas Parish Church, Exeter. Donations for Hospice care, Academy for the Deaf and Friends of Mount Pleasant. Please wear a mask.