

Reflection for Trinity 15

Today's Gospel picks up one of the themes from last Sunday – once Jesus is identified as the Messiah, what can we understand about the demands of his kingdom?

Shockingly, Jesus starts by predicting once again his suffering. He will be betrayed and killed, yet will rise again. This is difficult to understand and we may have some sympathy with the confusion of his followers.

The disciples' conversation then becomes a power struggle as they try to work out how to succeed in this new world view. Jesus turns their ideas upside down as he draws their attention to a small child. He seems to focus on the vulnerability of children and their reliance on the support of others.

This is a kingdom which does not rest upon worldly values; on striving or pushing oneself forward, but on the peace which comes from experiencing God's love; of knowing that Jesus' example in life, his death and resurrection have broken the power of sin. It is this new relationship that we can step out in courage, knowing that God is with us.

Revd Sarah



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 26.09.2021 17th Sunday after Trinity

SERVICES 10.30am in Church (NO zoom service)

READINGS OT Numbers 11: 4-6,10-16, 24 -29
NT James 5: 13-20
GOSPEL Mark 9: 38-50



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St Thomas, Exeter

Sunday 19th September 2021

16th Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Mass in Church with Holy Baptism

[Please pray for Ruby, Hollie & Jack]

Thank you for your kind wishes for my holiday—I did manage to get some proper sunshine in Mallorca, with lovely warm evenings. On another personal note, I am pleased to announce that I am to be made a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral (a kind of honorary Canon) on **Sunday 10th October at 4pm** during Evensong. I'll keep you posted about whether it's possible to attend, but if you're interested please note the date. And if you're not able to be there, your prayers would still be valuable.

We mark the feast day of **St Matthew**, Apostle & Evangelist on **21 September**. From a homily of the Venerable Bede:

'Jesus saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office and he said to him, Follow me.' He looked at him not with the eyes of the body, but rather with the eye of interior pity. ... 'Follow' meant 'imitate'—not by the movement of his feet, but rather by a change of life. For whoever says they are following Christ ought to walk as Christ walked.

Fr David



Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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**

Jeremiah 11: 18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, 'Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!' But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Psalms 54

Save me, O God, by your name and vindicate me by your power. Hear my prayer, O God; give heed to the words of my mouth. For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless seek after my life; they have not set God before them. Behold, God is my helper; it is the Lord who upholds my life. May evil rebound on those who lie in wait for me; destroy them in your faithfulness. An offering of a free heart will I give you and praise your name, O Lord, for it is gracious. For he has delivered me out of all my trouble, and my eye has seen the downfall of my enemies.

James 3: 13-4: 3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter

envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Mark 9: 30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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

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.

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. **There are gaps in the rota. Volunteers are urgently required. No helpers, no refreshments.**

House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm. We are studying the book of Revelation. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell. Next **meeting on Tues 21st September**, new people very welcome!

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* Thursdays 23rd and 30th Sept—19 Maple Road. For details ring Jenny on 01392 498725.

Ladies Lunch. Saturday 25th September at 12.30pm. The Royal Oak.

Young at Hearts. Change of date. Wednesday 29th September.



Macmillan Coffee Morning: Friday 24th September 10–12noon in the Church Coffee, tea and cakes.