

## Reflection on Mark 10: 35-45

In today's Bible reading from Mark's Gospel, Jesus continues to teach his followers about how they should live. Two of his closest friends, James and John, are keen to sit in the best seats, to show their superiority over others, so Jesus confronts their misunderstanding.

He starts by agreeing that some of his actions will be shared by his followers. They too will drink just as he does and be baptised as he was, yet there is also a more serious, poetic reading of his words. Drinking his cup might suggest to 'drink up' the sort of opposition which Jesus faced. The word 'baptism' actually means to submerge in water, so Jesus might be referring to the overwhelming challenges which he and his followers will experience.

Whichever way we read these images, Jesus is clear that his friends are not to lord it over others or behave as tyrants, instead they are to serve others as Jesus demonstrated.

One of the ways that we might apply this teaching is by looking for signs of God at work in their local community and join in – to listen attentively, offer support behind the scenes, and enable others to achieve their potential.

Where might we look for these signs of God's kingdom? When can we include others and learn from them? How can we serve?

Revd Sarah



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

**NEXT SUNDAY 24.10.2021 Last Sunday after Trinity**

**SERVICES** 10.30am in Church

**READINGS** OT Jeremiah 31: 7-9  
NT Hebrews 7: 23-28  
GOSPEL Mark 10: 46-52



### 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@stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/sttexeter

**Website:** www.stthomaschurhexeter.co.uk

**Twitter:** @sttexeter

**Office Tel:** 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



# St Thomas, Exeter

## Sunday 17th October 2021

### Trinity 20

**10.30am Mass in Church and Holy Baptism**

I'm delighted that we're seeing so many **families** wanting children to be baptised – we're already making arrangements well into next year! This is partly because there was a real sense that churches were very restricted before, and families were also constrained in meeting, and also because (rightfully) there was a need for celebration in and outside of the Church, and party venues were closed. Incidentally, the Hall is also being booked for lots of children's parties at the moment. We're aiming in principle at one Baptism per month at the main mid-morning Eucharist, though we have had to extend that a bit at present.

**Baptism** for us is a way of showing support for families in St Thomas, a reminder of our own baptisms, and a sign that the Church belongs to a wider group than just ourselves. For a child (or an adult) it is a free gift of God's love for the whole of their lives. It is the beginning of their Christian journeys, and a way of finding meaning in a complex and challenging culture.

*Fr David*



## Collect

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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 53.4–12

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

## Hebrews 5.1–10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honour, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## Mark 10.35–45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptised, you will be baptised; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.' When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it

is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

## Post Communion

God our Father, whose Son, the light unfailing, has come from heaven to deliver the world from the darkness of ignorance: let these holy mysteries open the eyes of our understanding that we may know the way of life, and walk in it without stumbling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

---

## NOTICES

For our services in Church, **mask wearing** is still advised by the Church of England. On most Sundays you can also be seated with some social distancing if you wish.

**Coffee and tea** will be offered after the 10.30am Mass. It will be served in the Hall. **There are gaps in the rota. Volunteers are urgently required. No helpers, no refreshments!**

**Knit and Natter October 2021** We shall meet as follows this month: Thursdays 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 19 Maple Road. Details as usual from Jenny on 01392 498725

**House Group. Tuesdays at 7.30pm.** We are comparing other religious faiths. Zoom details from Ian Totterdell. Next **meeting on Tues 19th October**, 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.

**Thank you** for your generosity at the Harvest Festival in terms of the Community Larder and the toilet twinning. We raised enough money to twin all three of our toilets. Ian Totterdell.

**Ladies Lunch** 23rd October at The Royal Oak, Okehamp-ton Street.