



REFLECT

Misunderstandings are a very common occurrence in social interaction. We can all think of occasions when someone has taken something we have said in the wrong way, and when we have done the same. Judaism and Christianity are both community religions, and so it is important for the wider group that such damaged relationships should be repaired as soon as possible. Jesus tells us that if we are at odds with someone, then we should sort it out before we come to celebrate the Eucharist, which is the sign of unity among those who are taking part. Whether we are the innocent or guilty party does not matter; we are told that we are to clear the air and be reconciled. Otherwise, we are likely to end up in that most unhealthy of emotional states, resentment. Anger can compel us towards action: resentment simply turns us in on ourselves, nursing our wrath to keep it warm. For our own sake, even if our efforts fail, we are encouraged to do what we can to put things right.

Also in our Gospel passage, we find that Jesus gives the same authority to the wider group of disciples as he gave to Peter in the matter of deciding what to allow and what to forbid. Perhaps there is a lesson here for discerning decisions in the Church today. ■

Matthew continues his account of the teaching of Jesus about life in community. Jesus accepts that relationships between disciples are likely to go wrong from time to time, but the true disciple will not allow such a situation to continue.

The threefold procedure which Matthew presents is the Jewish way of resolving a grievance: first, the personal, informal confrontation; secondly, the more formal meeting in the presence of witnesses; and thirdly, when these attempts fail, the official proceedings in front of the community, the Church. Treating the offender "like a pagan or a tax collector" can be understood as excommunicating them from the body of believers: it might also be taken to mean that they need further evangelising and training in what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Earlier in the Gospel narrative, Jesus had given Peter the power to bind and loose, to forbid and to allow. Here, he gives the same power and authority to the wider group of disciples. The way in which this is expressed means that God will accept whatever decision the disciples arrive at. And Jesus will be present when disciples gather in his name, he will be truly *Emmanuel*, "God-with-us". ■

LEARN

The term "brother" here signifies another member of the community: we can reasonably understand it as meaning brother or sister.

In Rabbinic thought, the divine presence is with people who study *Torah*, the Law.

In some synagogues, a light is kept burning in front of the Ark, the cupboard where the scrolls of the scriptures are kept. Christians will recognise the significance of this sanctuary lamp.

The divine presence is denoted by the Hebrew noun *Shekhinah*.

DO

Sort out any awkward situation you experience with another person, especially anyone with whom you celebrate the Eucharist.

SAY

How very good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity! (Psalm 133:1)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,
that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom
and an everlasting inheritance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, "Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 94

Response:

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my
work." (R.)

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

"I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

"I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine
majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Like the deer that yearns for running
streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

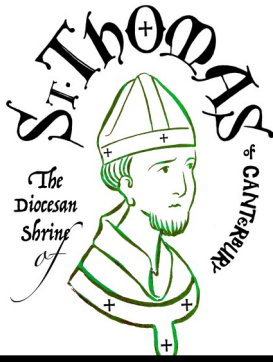
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord,
whom you nourish and endow with life
through the food of your Word and heavenly
Sacrament,
may so benefit from your beloved Son's great
gifts
that we may merit an eternal share in his life.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Christ asks for a home in your soul, where
he can be at rest with you, where he can
talk easily to you, where you and he, alone
together, can laugh and be silent and be
delighted with one another.

Caryll Houselander

NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi CSSp Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): TEMPORARILY CLOSED

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Exec Prin Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

The Parish Office is open on a part time basis. Linda is in the office Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 09h30 to 13h00 and 13h30 to 15h30

PARISH MATTERS

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish
Baptism of Jamie

Sunday 6th Sept: Twenty-Third Sunday (A)

Mt 18: 15-20

8.00am: Rachel Castro – RIP *1st Anniversary*

9.30am: UCM Members and Families

11.00am: Benjamin, Mathilde & Camille Pillett

(Marilyn Rey)

6.00pm: John Wilkins - RIP *(Jo Wilkins)*

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Monday 7th Sept: Feria

Lk 6: 6-11

12 noon: Becky Judge – RIP *(Evelyn Shannon)*

Tuesday 8th Sep: Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

12 noon: Mildred Clarke - RIP *(Sue Purbrick)*

Wednesday 9th Sept: St Peter Claver *Lk 6: 20-26*

12 noon: Welfare of Alistair Smart

Thursday 10th Sept: Feria

Lk 6:27-38

12 noon: Pamela Dodds - RIP *(Pauline Ventress)*

Friday 11th Sept: Feria

Lk 6: 39-42

12 noon: Pat Balshaw - RIP *(Pauline Ventress)*

Saturday 12 Sept: Feria

Lk 6: 43-49

10.30am—11.30am: Reconciliation (Confession)

12 noon: Mary, Marjorie & Mainee - RIP *(Gadd Fam)*

3.00pm: *Celebration of First Holy Communion*

6.00pm (Vigil): Thanksgiving *(Scott Family)*

Sunday 13th Sept: Twenty-Fourth Sunday (A)

Mt 18: 21-35

8.00am: Pat & Molly Connellan - RIP *(Connellan)*

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Thanksgiving *(Tessa)*

12.15 *Baptism of Isaac Daniel Michael Archer*

6.00pm: Becky Judge's Family *(Pauline Ventress)*

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Maurice Crosland, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr and Simon Lam

Please pray for the repose of the souls of: Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts and Maurice Crossland

Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month:

Bernadette LEE
Rachelle CASTRO
Charles RYAN

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Church opening times for private prayer are:

Monday to Saturday: 10.30 to end of 12 noon Mass

Monday to Saturday: 14h30 to 16h30

Friday evening: 18h00 to 20h00 (with First Friday Mass only)

Sunday: 16h30 to end of 18h00 Mass

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES

The first of three First Holy Communion Masses is being held this coming weekend, Saturday, 12 September at 3pm. We wish our new communicants great joy in finally being able to take part in the Eucharist with us all.

RIDE AND STRIDE

This annual Event is on Saturday, 12 Sept. St Thomas' will be open from 10am to 5.30pm for sign in. We are looking for volunteers to staff the table where people can sign in. If you can help, please contact Linda in the church office by phone or email Canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

FATHER SYLVESTER'S FARM

A big thank you to all those who contributed to this project in farewell to Father Sylvester. Together we raised £6675.00 towards the establishment of Spiritan Springs. More information at: www.spiritans-springs.com.

OFFERINGS FOR MASSES...if you are donating directly into the Parish Bank account for a Mass you have asked for can you PLEASE let the Parish Office know (an email will do) that you have done this. It helps with the finance records. Thank you!

On Bank Holiday Monday BBC broadcast "Plant Earth a celebration" a documentary narrated by Richard Attenborough. The photography with new musical score was stunning. In the final scene, Richard Attenborough reminded us that "Never before in the history of humankind has it been more critical to protect and nurture the natural world, which is, after all, our home too."

The next day, the 1st September, was the World Day of Prayer for the Season of Creation. Every year since the publication of the Popes Encyclical Letter :Laudato si the first day of September marks the World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation for the Christian family, with which the Time of Creation begins, which ends on 4th October, in memory of St Francis of Assisi. In this month we are asked as Christians, to renew our faith in God the creator and unite in a special way in prayer and action for the safeguard of our common home. This year the theme chosen is "Jubilee For the Earth". Pope Francis, in his letter to mark this time, reminds us that for us Jubilee should be a sacred time to remember, a time to return, a time to rest, a time to mend and a time to rejoice.

We need to remember we exist only through relationships: with God the creator, with brothers and sisters as members of a common family, and with all creatures who inhabit our home. This Jubilee time is a time to go back and repent, because we have broken our bonds that unite us to the Creator, to other human beings and to the rest of creation. We need to heal these damaged relationships, which are essential to sustain ourselves and the entire fabric of life.

In reminding us that this is a time to rest, Pope Francis says the Jubilee invites us to rest from our usual work, to allow the earth to regenerate and the world to rearrange itself, "thanks to the decline in habitual consumption... The current pandemic has somehow led us to rediscover simpler and more sustainable lifestyles."

This is also a time to mend, "to repair the original harmony of creation and to heal compromised human relationships." The Pope talks about restorative justice. He writes "I renew my appeal to cancel the debt of the most fragile countries in the light of the serious impacts on health, social and economic crisis they face following Covid-19." He also urges every country involved in the major Climate Summit in Glasgow in 2021 to adopt more ambitious national targets to reduce emissions. This is also a time to rejoice. The Pope rejoices that the special anniversary year of Laudato Si is inspiring numerous initiatives at a local and global level for the care of the common home and of the poor. "It is a reason for particular joy that the Time of Creation is becoming a truly ecumenical initiative. "We continue to grow in the awareness that we all live in a common home as members of the same family. Let us rejoice because, in his love, the Creator supports our humble efforts for the Earth. It is also the house of God, where his Word "became flesh and dwelt among us."

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS.

This year our focus is on the Gospel of Mark. The website www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/bible-society/ provides articles, posters, booklets and much more to help us on our faith journey with Mark's Gospel during the next year.



SEASON OF CREATION

Between 1st September - 4th October we celebrate the **Season of Creation** as we focus on Scripture and our care for creation. There are wonderful resources to be found at www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/bible-society/. Take a look!

WELCOME! Father John

We welcome our new Assistant Priest, Father John Howard who joins us this weekend. Fr John trained at St John's Seminary, Wonash and was ordained priest at St Georges Cathedral on 18th July.

FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH:

Please remember that the use of face coverings in public buildings became mandatory for everyone (unless exempt). Parishioners will need to wear a face covering during Mass, including approaching the altar for communion. Please remember communion can only be received in the hand at this time and to keep a safe following distance when approaching the Altar.

THANK YOU to everyone who continues to send in their Mass donations, weekly collections and other very generous payments to the parish funds. Thank you too for all the generous donations to our SVP and to CAFOD. Please be assured they are being passed to the right people.