



WELCOME TO ST PETER'S ASH

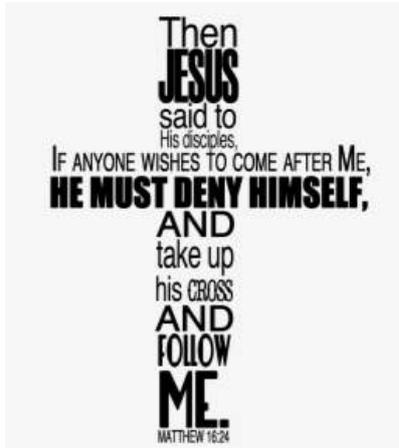


THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ST PETER'S IS CALLED TO CELEBRATE, LIVE AND REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

30th AUGUST 2020

TRINITY 12

<p><u>READINGS FOR TODAY</u></p> <p>Jeremiah 15 v 15 - 21</p> <p>Romans 12 v 9 - end</p> <p>Matthew 16 v 21 - end</p>	<p>PARISH OFFICE: Monday & Friday 9 – 30 am to 11 – 30 am TEL:01252 331161; e- mail: office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk BOOKINGS OF WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS – phone for an appointment on 01252 321517 WEBSITE: www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk</p>
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READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – TRINITY 13

Ezekiel 33 v 7 – 11; Romans 13 v 8 – end;
Matthew 18 v 15 - 20

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED, ESPECIALLY:

IRIS DAY; DAPHNE SHENTON

There is a free national phone line 'Daily Hope' that offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**

DON'T FORGET OUR ST PETER'S PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like emergency prayer for yourself or somebody else please phone: 01252 322292 or 01252 323037 – this is a confidential service.

CARE AND SHARE

Our initiative to help those who may be short on food supplies in the current crisis. Food is being left outside church for people to take for themselves, or to share with others who they know are in need.

If you would like to donate any tins, packets, UHT milk etc. please leave it on the doorstep of the Rectory. Thank you.

PCC MEETING – the next meeting (online) is on Thursday 17th September at 7 – 30 pm.

SOME CHRISTIAN QUOTES

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us" – St Augustine

"Let God's promises shine on your problems." - Corrie ten Boom

"If you can't fly, then run, If you can't run, then walk, If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward." - Martin Luther King Jr.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." - Mother Teresa

COLLECT FOR – TRINITY 12

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things
of which our conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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.

CHURCH SERVICES

We are pleased to say that there are two services of Holy Communion once again, every Sunday. An 8 am Holy Communion in St Peter's Centre, and a 10 am Family Communion in church.

We are unable to have both services in the same building at present, due to issues relating to the cleaning that would be necessary between the services. (The usual second Sunday pattern of Morning Worship at 10 am followed by Parish Communion at 11 – 15 am will NOT be happening at present for the same reasons.)

On Wednesdays there will be a service of Holy Communion at 9 – 30 am in church. Unfortunately, there can be no coffee and chat after this service at present.

Social distancing and Public Health requirements will be met. Please see our website for details.

Morning Prayer at 10 am on Sunday

If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the Psalm and in the Canticles. Please have a Bible to hand. You may wish to light a candle.

(L) O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins ♦
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the Pit ♦
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, ♦
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness ♦
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses ♦
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, ♦
and his kingdom has dominion over all.
- 9 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, ♦
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 10 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, ♦
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 11 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; ♦
bless the Lord, O my soul.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

This hymn is said or sung:

New every morning is the love
our waking and uprising prove;
through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life and power and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

If on our daily course our mind
be set to hallow all we find,
new treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.

Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
as more of heaven in each we see;
some softening gleam of love and prayer
shall dawn on every cross and care.

The trivial round, the common task,
will furnish all we ought to ask:
room to deny ourselves; a road
to bring us daily nearer God.

Only, O Lord, in thy dear love,
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

(L) The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind:

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen.

(L) Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Pause to call to mind our sins

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have wandered and strayed from your ways
like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires
of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things
that we ought to have done;
and we have done those things
that we ought not to have done;
and there is no health in us.
But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent,
according to your promises declared to mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

All say The Gloria:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
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.

We now say the collect for Trinity 12 (see previous page):

*Read Jeremiah 15 v 15 – 21 followed by Psalm 26 v 1 – 8
concluding with:*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as
it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Read Romans 12 v 9 - end

(L) Alleluia, alleluia.
Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.
You have the words of eternal life.

All: Alleluia.

*Now read Matthew 16 v 21 – end. Here are some thoughts
on today's readings from Fr Keith:*

What a turn round, in last week's Gospel Peter was the
'golden boy' and this week, just a few verses later,
according to Jesus, he is being the mouthpiece of Satan!
Jesus knows that it is His Father's will that he must go to

Jerusalem and face whatever dark forces await him there. Satan knows that what Jesus will accomplish there will destroy him – hence his use of Peter to try to dissuade Jesus. So, is it really Peter's fault that he earns this rebuke? Well, yes, because he has allowed the devil to let him think he knows better than God – the same sin that Adam and Eve committed in the beginning. Peter should have been on his guard against evil. Interestingly it is Peter himself, in his own later letter, who warns us to be so, he writes: *'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.'* (1 Peter 5 v 8). So, maybe, it was this very incident that taught Peter that important lesson!

The presence of evil waiting its' chance to ensnare us, is something that we all experience – especially when we're trying our best to do the right thing. The harder we try, the more, it seems, that evil attempts to derail us. The devil knows that ultimately he has been defeated through the cross, but for the present, he is still very much a force to be reckoned with in our lives. Our faith does not make us immune from evil assaults – as Peter very quickly found out after his confession of faith in Jesus as Messiah and Son of God.

After rebuking Peter, Jesus goes on to emphasise the difficult path that all who follow him must take. Being a Christian is to be no picnic! To be a disciple we have to deny ourselves and take up our cross. If we want only to save our life, we will end up losing it, and there is no point in setting out to gain the whole world at the cost of forfeiting our life for ever. When the Son of Man comes again in glory, Jesus says, He will repay everyone for what has been done – so no escape and no excuses. A stark warning indeed – no 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild here'!

Listening to these words isn't easy, and for a lot of the time I suspect that we try to put them to the back of our minds. So much easier to concentrate on Jesus the healer or storyteller – even if the meaning of those stories is just as challenging, when we really think about them. Surely, we argue, taking up the Christian faith ought to be an escape from the darker side of life, not an invitation to the forces of evil to threaten us even more? That seems hardly fair and certainly hardly inviting. But, as generations of Christians bear witness, that is the sad reality. Thanks to the general sinfulness of human nature, evil finds it relatively easy to attack the good people in this world. Persecution and ridicule have been, and still are, what we face when we commit to following Jesus. We therefore always need the help of the Holy Spirit to resist evil and the temptations that the devil puts in our path. We also need to keep coming back and asking God's forgiveness for the times that we fail to resist the devil and cause harm to ourselves and others.

It's not all gloom and doom, however. St Paul in his letter to the Romans offers us good advice in how to live as Christians in this world where evil surrounds us, and how to bring about change for the better. Being genuinely loving and caring and holding fast to what is good, rejoicing in hope, being patient in suffering, persevering in prayer, are all on Paul's list. But, perhaps his most surprising instruction of all to avoid being overcome by evil, is to overcome evil with good. That flies in the face of what human logic preaches - that we give back in kind for the evil we suffer. No! Bless rather than curse those who persecute you, says Paul, echoing the teaching of Jesus about loving your enemies and praying for those who persecute you.

Not to repay evil for evil seems absurd to the world, but not to God. If your enemies are hungry, feed them, says Paul, and never avenge ourselves, but leave room for the wrath

of God. That will sound to many like a recipe for being trampled on, but not according to Christian teaching.

In the 2000 years since Jesus' ascension, most Christians have struggled to take Jesus' and Paul's words to heart regarding their own behaviour. Religious wars and violence are blemishes on our history. But, stop and think for a moment how different the world would look today if people *had* managed to 'turn the other cheek' more often.

Clearly there have been examples of evil so horrendous that it is difficult for us to see how they could have been defeated, apart from war. But, that doesn't mean to say that we shouldn't make every effort in the future to try to prevent situations deteriorating to that degree in the first place. We are challenged to put more effort into creating a world where evil can truly be conquered by good. If the overwhelming majority were to behave more lovingly and with more concern for their fellow human beings, things *would* start to change and the devil *would* find that his job was a lot more difficult. To bring that about though, will take a lot of prayer and a lot of self-control, flying in the face of some basic human instincts to fight and do harm.

Jesus says to Peter *'You are a stumbling block for me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things'*. How often might Jesus say that to us, I wonder? To bring about change, and the defeat of evil, we have to start thinking more like Jesus and accept that, without his help, things will never get better. We need to be constantly on our guard and not let ourselves be deceived by the devil, as Peter was on that occasion. It's never going to be easy, and there will be plenty of people who will tell us that we're wasting our time, that it's all futile, and that the world can *never* change. Together, though, with God's help, we *can* prove them wrong, and make a real difference. May God give us the strength and courage to keep trying! Amen.

Now pause for your own reflections, and then we say the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

We now say together:

All In your tender compassion, O God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the
Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All In your tender compassion, O God,
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

Our prayers, today, are written by Fr Keith:

Loving God, we give thanks that you have called us into your service. Help us to be on our guard against the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil. Surround us with your love, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, that we may keep the faith and confidently share it with others. Bless our Bishops Andrew and Jo, and all who lead and guide your church, may they safeguard the truth of the Gospel and teach us to do the same.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Loving God, in a world where justice and peace are constantly under threat, and violence and abuse so often seem to prevail, help us to play our part in bringing love to those places where there is hate. Help us to hold fast to what is right, and to fight evil, not with more evil, but with good, as your Son has taught us. Be with the leaders of the nations in their decision making, and help those who are working with the poor, the marginalised, the victims of war and natural disasters to build a better world of care and safety.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for all involved in education as they prepare for the new term starting this week. We pray for the health and safety of staff and children, and we ask for guidance for school leaders in the difficult decisions they will have to make in the coming weeks. Be with parents and carers, especially those who are anxious about their children's return to school, help them to pay their part in ensuring that education may continue but not at the expense of the health of all.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we continue to pray for all those in the Health Service delivering care to the sick and the dying. May they know your loving presence with them at this difficult time. Be with all who are sick and suffering, and

their families and friends, grant them your healing and that inner peace which passes our understanding. In a moment of quiet, we bring before you those known personally to us.

Lord, in your mercy. Here our prayer.

Loving God, we give you thanks for all who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith – especially Iris Day and Daphne Shenton who have died recently, and all whose anniversary of death occurs at this time. May they know the peace and joy of your Kingdom for ever.

Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of Blessed Mary, Peter and all the saints, we commend ourselves and each other to your unfailing love, saying:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

As Jesus taught us, so we pray: Our Father in heaven....

This hymn may be said or sung:

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.
You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
True love is patient, nor arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal.
True love is patient, nor arrogant nor boastful;
Love bears all things, love is eternal.

A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.
I am the true vine, my Father is the gardener.
Abide in me: I will be with you.
I am the true vine, my Father is the gardener.
Abide in me: I will be with you.

Let us pray:

(L) God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, today and always. Amen.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise with Christ in glory. Amen.

Evening Prayer for this week

O Lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall show forth your praise.

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

- 1 I love you, O Lord my strength. ♦
The Lord is my crag, my fortress and my deliverer.
- 2 In my distress I called upon the Lord ♦
and cried out to my God for help.
- 3 He heard my voice in his temple ♦
and my cry came to his ears.
- 4 He parted the heavens and came down ♦
and thick darkness was under his feet.
- 5 He rode upon the cherubim and flew; ♦
he came flying on the wings of the wind.
- 6 He made darkness his covering round about him, ♦
dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.
- 7 From the brightness of his presence, through the
clouds ♦
burst hailstones and coals of fire.
- 8 The Lord also thundered out of heaven; ♦
the Most High uttered his voice
with hailstones and coals of fire.
- 9 For you will save a lowly people ♦
and bring down the high looks of the proud.
- 10 You also shall light my candle; ♦
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be
bright.
- 11 As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord is tried in the fire; ♦
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

This hymn may be said or sung:

Alleluia! sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
His the victory alone;
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia! not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him,
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise?
"I am with you evermore!"

Alleluia! Bread of Angels,
Here on earth our food, our stay!
Alleluia! here the sinful
Flee to you from day to day:
Intercessor, friend of sinners,
Earth's redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! King eternal,
You the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth your footstool, heav'n your throne:
You within the veil have entered,
Robed in flesh, our great high priest;

Here on earth both priest and victim
In the Eucharistic feast.

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour
Who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Font of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
To the triune majesty.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
we pray with one heart and mind:

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever. Amen.

*A Psalm is said: Mon 105; Tue 107; Wed 119 v 129 - 152;
Thurs 114; Fri 130; Sat 118, ending with:*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

*Two Scripture Readings now follow (see below). Between
the two readings we say:*

All Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

- 1 Seek the Lord while he may be found, ♦
call upon him while he is near;
- 2 Let the wicked abandon their ways, ♦
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
- 3 Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; ♦
to our God, who will richly pardon.
- 4 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, ♦
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.
- 5 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, ♦
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- 6 'As the rain and the snow come down from above, ♦
and return not again but water the earth,
- 7 'Bringing forth life and giving growth, ♦
seed for sowing and bread to eat,
- 8 'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; ♦
it will not return to me fruitless,
- 9 'But it will accomplish that which I purpose, ♦
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

Readings:

Monday: Proverbs 14 v 31 to 15 v 17; Mark 6 v 45- end
Tuesday: Proverbs 15 v 18 - end; Mark 7 v 1 - 13
Wednesday: Proverbs 18 v 10 - end; Mark 7 v 14 - 23
Thursday: Proverbs 20 v 1 - 22; Mark 7 v 24 - 30
Friday: Proverbs 22 v 1 - 16; Mark 7 v 31 - end
Saturday: Proverbs 24 v 23 - end; Mark 8 v 1 - 10

Gospel Canticle: The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

All Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

1) My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2) From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

3) He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

4) He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

5) Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

6) He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

7) He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy.

8) The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

All Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Prayers of thanksgiving are made for the day that is ending. Intercessions are offered for the church, the world and for individuals, the sick and the departed.

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

The Collect for this week (see first page)

Eternal Lord,
our beginning and our end:
bring us with the whole creation
to your glory, hidden through past ages
and made known
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
