

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news **The Tenth Sunday after Trinity** *16th August 2020*

My dear friends,

You will see some thoughts overleaf in response to the situation Jesus finds himself in with the request of a mother in regard to her child (Sunday's Gospel reading). Her challenge to Jesus is brave, and challenges the direction of his mission. We ourselves find huge tensions within society, particularly in regard to the past. Yet, of course, we can only learn from the past. If we try to cancel it, the moral compass becomes nothing other than that of those who shout the loudest.

What all people need is a wise listening ear and a true-seeing eye, then we are open, as this woman and Jesus were to what Epiphanius the Latin, an early Christian scholar, called 'a strange transformation' for both of them. Our Faith leads us to continual conversion and transformation—the blessing of God made known in Jesus Christ.

The new online House Group will now be meeting at **7.00pm on Thursdays**, resuming this coming week (20th August). All are welcome. Just use the Zoom link for services on the church website.

Many thanks to those who have contributed to our online Arts Festival. Some work is also on view in the church, so do have a look. May I also remind you that the Bewbush Academy breakfast appeal continues, and that we also strongly support Family Support Work, who always require food and other items on a continual basis. Details of both are on the website.

With love and best wishes,

Michael (*Vicar*)

Please check the church website for details of services, etc:
www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

TRINITY 10 (16th August 2020):

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 - The Parish Eucharist CW Proper 15

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Ezekiel 34: 1-11; Matthew 20: 1-16

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) **Bernard of Clairvaux**

Readings: Proverbs 4: 5-9; John 15: 7-11

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings Trinity 10

Next Sunday: TRINITY 11 (23 August)

8.00 - Holy Communion (in church)

9.45 The Parish Family Eucharist CW Proper 16

Most worship is live on Zoom: Click on the link on the front page of the church website before services and you will enter a waiting 'area' and then join everyone. Please note that only the Sunday 8.00 is in church at present.

The Collect for Trinity 10

Lord of heaven and earth,
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,
but always to bring our prayers before you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

A prayer for this time of anxiety:

God of all compassion, your love never fails.
Help us to listen to the tranquillity
of your presence within our lives,
so that we may grow in the knowledge
that your Son, Jesus Christ, walks beside us,
and your Holy Spirit comforts us
at the heart of our being;
for you are One God,
world without end. Amen

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

A thought

Matthew has portrayed Jesus previously as dealing with the rules and regulations of the Pharisees, which made the Torah an unbearable burden in ordinary people's lives. Customs and traditions are useful and important reminders of how to live correctly, but the basics are Justice, Mercy and Faith (Matthew 23:23). These are all nuanced expressions of God's Love at work within the world, and the last thing we should do is to erect barriers around basic principles. This Canaanite woman was outside of the Jewish faith – very much so. She shouts to attract Jesus's attention. She acknowledges him as Messiah, 'Have mercy on me Lord- Son of David.' He ignore her coldly.....a curious thing to us. The disciples say 'Do something.....she's getting on our nerves shouting at us!' Jesus talks as if she is not there. He says, 'I was only sent to help the lost of Israel.' It all seems so unlike the Jesus we understand as the one of ultimate compassion. Then she kneels, 'Lord help me.....' Another rebuff with a heartless response comparing humans to animals. At this point the woman offers wit to such seeming heartlessness, as she says that there are enough crumbs falling under the table so even the dogs can eat! Jesus, the Jewish Messiah is moved beyond his own people to become Messiah to all as he says, 'Woman, great is your faith.' What has happened is key to understanding who Jesus is. Our Faith is rooted in Judaism, and the Jewish Messiah is OUR Messiah. Indeed, if we forget this, we end up in a non-tolerant society. We have seen disgraceful anti-Semitism growing in recent years to our shame. This brave woman represents a key moment in Matthew's Gospel. The Messiah is for all, and she breaks down the huge barriers between Jews and Gentiles even for Jesus! Our faith in him is key to transforming society into the image of a new Jerusalem. It is easy to be despondent about the Church, particularly at this time of profound unsettlement. However, we should never forget that the Church is actually vibrant and growing in many places throughout the world. The Gospel message is more relevant than ever. We are called to proclaim the truth of God's Love found in Jesus Christ in order to bring others to know him. We are called to bring about transformation within our society through justice, mercy and faith; to reveal God to all whom we meet as the one who loves each of us with a love so deep that he sent his beloved son to

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have willed that the gate of mercy
should stand open for those who trust in you:
look upon us with your favour
that we who follow the path of your
will may never wander from the way of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

show us the
way to a life
richer than
we can ever
begin to im-
agine.



Jesus and The Canaanite Woman Mattia Preti (1613-1699)

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Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate Need: Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Molly Stuchbury (mourning the loss of her son, Chris)

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Jean Simmons, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Jane Terry, Marjorie Chilton, Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Marilyn Archbold, Jill Rockey, Janet Card, Jocelyn Bentley, Yvonne Godsmark, Michael Hilton, Rev. Sandra Hall, Mark Parker, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Audrey Ryder, Olive Page, George Snashall,

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Joy Wyatt, Vivien, Chris Stuchbury

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 16th Colin Ponsford, Ian Williams, 17th John Baxter, Norman Whotworth, Michael Hoile, Maud Punton, 18th Diane Bryson, 19th Edith Burstow, 20th Leslie King, Lorna Michie, Robert Alexander, 22nd John McNamara, Dennis Glaister, George Morrison, Dorothy Long, Kenneth Manvell