

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Weekly devotions, prayers and news

Third Sunday of Epiphany

24 January 2021

'Do whatever he tells you.'

Please note that all worship is online at present although the church remains open for private prayer



Dear Friends,

It was lovely to see so many people online with us again last Sunday. Please do invite others to share in our worship. Although we are restricted in so many ways, the boon of technology means that we are still able to connect and worship together. At the same time we are mindful of those unable or unwilling to use technology, so please let's do our very best to keep in touch using every means possible. In particular, I am always available on the phone if you want a chat or to discuss any matters you wish to share. My mobile number is 07595 415143 or the land line 01444 454007.

With love,

Michael (Vicar)

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

Third Sunday of Epiphany (24 January 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only)

Readers: Liz & Peter Graydon; Intercessor: Jane Coan

4.30 IGNITE Our worship for young people and the young at heart.

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (Common Worship) Readings: Hebrews 10: 11-18; Mark 4: 1-20

Thursday: 9.00am Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Philosopher, Teacher*

Readings: Wisdom 7: 7-10, 15-16; I Corinthians 2: 9-end; John 16: 12-15

Friday: 11.00am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Third Sunday of Epiphany

Next Sunday: Candlemas (31 January 2021)

9.45 The Parish Eucharist (online only)

All services live on Zoom: Click the blue link on the front page of the church website before services, entering a waiting 'area' before joining everyone.

The Collect for Third Sunday of Epiphany

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer:

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
is the light of the world: may your people,
illuminated by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped,
and obeyed to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns,
now and for ever. Amen

Genesis 14: 17-20

After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

Revelation 19: 6-10

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'

John 2: 1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

A thought

We have the joy of the Wedding Feast at Cana to cheer us in our Gospel reading this Sunday. It is such a radiant account, and one which John uses to draw us into considering how we allow Jesus to lead us on a journey to the ever closer knowledge of God's love for us; renewing and transforming us. John places this account with great intent to listen to the voice of Mary. She says to each of us, 'Do whatever he tells you,' - a call to the fullness of life itself. In this strange time it is as important as ever. It provides us with the answer to the greatest concerns we ever face. The grim statistics of the sick and dying in this pandemic are stark reminders of the frailty of human life. Jesus shares this with us; something we read as each of the Gospels unfolding their accounts.

Ultimately, the Wedding Feast talks to us of the overwhelming hospitality of God towards us, revealed in the transformation of water into wine. Jesus is the one who brings us into the fullness of Divine Life. In the tiny account of Abram and King Melchizedek in our first reading, we see a reciprocal generosity which reminds us of our own participation in the Wedding Feast of the Lamb though Holy Communion. At present this is spiritual for most yet no less powerful—a reminder of our connectedness both to him and to each other. The Church, the imperfect yet glorious Body of Christ on earth is the Bride, and in Jesus the Bridegroom we see the consummation of love revealed in its fullness on the cross and in the victory of resurrection life to which we are all called.



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

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Tony Hibling, Anne Greenhill, Peter Chandler

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Julia Settle, Young Reggie, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Jenny, Julie Sadler, Becky & Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Jenny, Marjorie Chilton, Janet Card, Yvonne Godsmark, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Gracie & Lucy Neiff, Rev. Sandra Hall, Reg Ruddock, Heather Hollis, Carol Shepherd

Those in Care Homes: Anne Norris, Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Diana Hoile, Ruth Baker

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Rosie McNamara, William Shardlow, Fr Eric Simmons CR

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 24th Lorna White, 25th Beryl Hodges, Phylliss Chop-pin, 26th Joyce Sears, Joan Nash, Keith Morgan, Mervyn Adams, Bernard Godsmark, Vera Chandler, 27th Roger Kirkbell, Frank Hemstead, Frances Gunston, 28th Sybill Cheesman, Deborah Robbys, Hilda Saunders, Clarence Mathers, 29th Edith Stopes, 30th Margaret Wratten