

HOLY TRINITY CUCKFIELD

Joyfully serving Jesus



Ugolino di Nerio - documented 1317-27; died possibly 1329

Weekly devotions, prayers and news
Twentieth Sunday after Trinity
17 October 2021

You are my Son, today I have begotten you' Hebrews 5

My dear friends,

The shocking circumstances of the murder of Sarah Everard, together with other terrible deeds (including the murder of four young gay men in London where the clear links to one person were not picked up despite the proximity to the home of the murderer) might lead us to despair at the nature of modern policing, together with the failures seen in so many cases, including rape convictions. Yet we know that despite this we are blessed with many thousands of faithful and dedicated serving police officers.

It is inevitable that high profile cases give the opportunity to question the whole structural nature of many institutions, yet we should never forget how easy it is to tear down and very difficult to rebuild. The wickedness of clerical abuse in the Church throughout the world makes us despair, and we should never be afraid to confront such evil and call it out. At the same time, we know that God abides with those who suffer, knowing that Jesus experienced torture, sorrow and a perceived abandonment by God before ultimately bringing about the wonder new life which God desires for all people through his death and resurrection. Faith in Jesus Christ offers the ultimate freedom to rebuild new life out of the ruins - our inspiration for dealing with both personal and institutional failure.

With love,

Michael

Church website www.holytrinitycuckfield.org

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity (17th October 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)* Reader: Ralph Colbran & Margaret Thistlethwaite

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

Readers: Valerie Poxon & Robyn Brotherton;

12noon Holy Baptism Thomas Ernest Hewes

6.00 Sung Evensong Readers: Pat & Rod Montague

Services during the week:

Wednesday: 10.30 Holy Communion (C. Worship) *(in church & online)*

Readings: Romans 6: 12-18; Luke 12: 39-48

Thursday: 9.00 Holy Communion (Iona/Celtic) *(in church & online)*

Readings: Romans 6: 19-end; Luke 12: 49-53

Friday: 11.00 Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) Readings: Trinity XX *(in church)*

Next Sunday: Last Sunday after Trinity (24th October 2021)

8.00 Holy Communion *(in church)*

9.45 Family Eucharist *(in church and online)*

12noon Holy Baptism Bethany Rose Barbosa Corbett

For services live on Zoom: click the blue link on the front page of the church website.

The Collect for Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

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

The Post Communion Prayer:

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

Isaiah 53: 4-end

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 baptized with the baptism that I am baptized 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 baptized, you will be baptized; 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.'

A thought

Wider society also has much wrong with it at present, from the obsession of the cult of 'self' to the coarsened nature of social and political discourse together with the lack of probity in so many areas of life. The Christian's responsibility is to counter this with the call that following Jesus is the pathway to the fullness of life – if not in illusory or transitory happiness, but the deep joy of knowing his Love within our lives, no matter what happens within them. This is achieved in travelling in the opposite direction to modern culture. Instead of 'me' we are called to serve and love 'the other.' This is proper fulfilment within life. I am struck by the example of those who seek to do this in extreme circumstances. The Baptism rite says: 'Day by day the Lord is adding to our number.' In China, thousands of people become Christians week by week. The same is true in Africa. Despite persecution, Christians respond to the call to servanthood Jesus offers through his own example: an increasing number of the Untouchables in India, persecuted Christians in Turkey and North Korea. There is no rocket science to making the world a better place. Our Christian call is to love and serve – discipleship and servanthood in its truest form – truly following the example of **'the Son of Man, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'**

**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,**

Day by day the Lord is adding to our number.' In China, thousands of people become Christians week by week. The same is true in Africa. Despite persecution, Christians respond to the call to servanthood Jesus offers through his own example: an increasing number of the Untouchables in India, persecuted Christians in Turkey and North Korea. There is no rocket science to making the world a better place. Our Christian call is to love and serve – discipleship and servanthood in its truest form – truly following the example of **'the Son of Man, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'**

Please remember those for whom we pray:

Immediate need: Barbara Booth, Wendy Boys, Carla Spear, Justine, Sheila Mitchell, John Bernardi (priest), , Trevor, Maureen Griffiths, Paul Simpson, Pam Sagar, John Smith, Tim Burrows, Ralph Hollinghurst

Long Term Need: Young Georgia, Young Joshua, Young Reggie, Anne Greenhill, Ros Ayling, Wendy, Ann Went, Dave Cox, Julie Sadler, Mark Parker, Tony Burbidge, Christopher, Janet Card, George Snashall, Eileen Knight, Mary Todd, Carole Wooldridge, Kate Malby, Becky Parker, Wendy Hibling, Yvonne Godsmark,

Those in Care Homes: Alan Prebble, Stephanie Gilpin, Jill Rockey, Jean Simmons, Mary Watts, Ruth Baker, Keith Thompson

Please remember the recently departed and their families: Anne Norwood, Ann Hollywood

In our Book of Remembrance this week we remember: 17th Francis Woods, 18th Dorothy Wright, Aldo Marsili, Douglas Symes, Gilbert Garrett, 19th David Wellum, 20th Christine Shah, John Cox, Alice Pearce, Carin Kent, Margaret Norris, 21st Ethel Shepherd, 22nd Dorothy Voller, Hilda Hall, Robert Ellett, Kenneth Raw, Patricia Garmann, 23rd Bill Pinnell, Pamela Edgerton