

Dear friends,

I have recorded a YouTube reflection on the readings set for this coming Sunday which is the 5th of Lent. If you'd like to watch it you can do so by clicking on this link. <https://youtu.be/TJ2-L2VVFfa8>

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to read it you can do so here on my Blog by clicking on this link. <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2021/03/jesus-our-great-high-priest.html>

Now there's a funny thing!

Driving back from clinic in Exeter while stopped at some lights a gang of kids started pointing and laughing at Louise and she wondered what was so funny. Then the guy in the car in front started gesturing as well. Louise got out and there stuck in the car grille was a large cock pheasant – thankfully dead. She put it in the boot (goodness knows what the people behind were thinking) and announced that she had brought dinner home when she got back. It was then that I remembered that the day before I had run over a pheasant (not on purpose obviously) coming back from church but couldn't see anything in my rear view mirror and had then forgotten all about it. So we had been driving around with a pheasant stuck to our car ever since. Luckily, David had given us the odd pheasant in the past so we knew how to skin and cook one, so I apologised to the pheasant and he tasted absolutely lovely last night with cream, apples and cider sauce.

Live streaming of All Saints East Budleigh service at 9.30am tomorrow.

Just click on this link when the time comes. <https://app.faith.online/p/events/SFlqMI2V->

The universal Christ

Sometimes a book really hits the mark and inaugurates a step change in your thinking. There are several books that have done this for me over the years. "True resurrection" by Harry Williams CR, "What the Bible really teaches" by Keith Ward, "Quarks, Chaos and Christianity" by John Polkinghorne, "For the life of the world" by Alexander Schmemmann, "Against an infinite horizon" by Ronald Rolheiser, "Man's search for meaning" by Viktor Frankl, to name a few notable ones. I think I must add now to that list "The universal Christ" by Richard Rohr and the book of spiritual exercises that accompany that book

called “Everything is sacred” produced by Richard in collaboration with Patrick Boland that I have read over the past few weeks.

You have to be receptive (right time and place in your life) to a certain book or concept for it to have any kind of influence and any of the above books could leave you cold, but I do offer them anyway as books that have helped me and hopefully will therefore help others also on our spiritual journey together.

The seven “I Am” statements of Jesus

These would have special significance to first century Jewish listeners because God had revealed himself to Moses as “I Am” (Exodus 3:14) Now in John’s gospel Jesus uses those words to describe himself. Nowadays we don’t readily pick up on this depth of meaning. Christ is synonymous with God.

“I am the bread of Life”

“I am the light of the world”

“I am the door of the sheep”

“I am the good shepherd”

“I am the resurrection and the life”

“I am the way the truth and the life”

“I am the true vine”

The Prayer for Today is a prayer for renewal from CMS

Renew us O Lord our God.

Renew our faith in your purpose for mankind.

Renew our obedience to your commands.

Renew our commitment to the mission of your church.

Renew our love, our hope and our joy.

In your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Love and peace,

Martin

Please note my new email address is vicar@rmcommunity.co.uk