

Dear friends,

I have recorded a reflection on the readings set for the second week of Lent and is centred on God's unbounded grace. If you'd like to watch it just click here. <https://youtu.be/lhh8NC5s7CE>

Alternatively, if you'd prefer to read it you can do so by clicking onto my Blog here; <https://revmartinjacques.blogspot.com/2021/02/amazing-grace.html>

One of the highlights of my week was listening to my dad, 89 years old this year, singing "Happy birthday to you" down the phone last Tuesday. Along with Louise and my sister and my daughter all in good voice and speaking to my brother later that day I was reminded powerfully what a blessing family can be. Blood is indeed thicker than water.

I also made me realise that those same bonds that draw family together are the same bonds that Jesus expected between members of the new community that he was inaugurating. If you can imagine Jesus surveying his fractured and dysfunctional church today you could imagine him heaving a heavy sigh of exasperation and just reminding us that like families we don't always get on or see eye to eye but in the end we are still all family.

The Church Mission Society are encouraging churches to adopt something called "Partnership for Missional church" which encourages spiritual renewal and missional growth. As we discern our future direction within the RMC I have enrolled in a free taster session to see what is involved and whether we could benefit from what they have to offer. They tout it as more of a process than a prescribed set of directives which sounds very promising to me. Apparently, many churches have seen a lot of fruit grow from the process so I'll let you know what is involved after I've engaged with them later this month.

The Lent books I put in church have all gone and people are asking for copies – I underestimated how many I'd be needing, so I'll buy some more and when I get them I'll put them in the churches at the back somewhere! Though actually for all you techy types out there the course is available on the Tariro charity website. Click on this link <https://tarirouk.com/resources/>. And scroll down and there it is!

The service at All Saints East Budleigh at which I will be presiding, will be live-streamed and the link to the service at 9.30 Sunday morning is <https://app.faith.online/p/events/oGtoM4Tvt>

The phone number as usual is [01395 891035](tel:01395891035).

We are trying out a small singing group (a duo I gather) and the Hymns are to be the following if you want to prepare at home!

No. 48 - At the name of Jesus

No. 740 - Will you come and follow me.

Don't forget that over the next two weeks the link to this live stream can be accessed via our website on the home page. [https://](https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/)

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This psalm has enormous resonance for me and a message that we all need to hear and make our own. If you don't know what "selah" means when it occurs – don't worry, neither does anybody else. The scholar's best guess is that it might be a musical direction.

Psalm 62

Song of Trust in God Alone

To the leader: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

- 1 For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
- 2 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.
- 3 How long will you assail a person,
will you batter your victim, all of you,
as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
- 4 Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.
They take pleasure in falsehood;
they bless with their mouths,
but inwardly they curse. *Selah*
- 5 For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.
- 6 He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- 7 On God rests my deliverance and my honour;
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

8 Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

9 Those of low estate are but a breath,
those of high estate are a delusion;
in the balances they go up;
they are together lighter than a breath.

10 Put no confidence in extortion,
and set no vain hopes on robbery;
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

11 Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,
12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all
according to their work.

The Prayer for Today – Source unknown - it says in my book. I had no idea what a “worricoe” was and it is apparently a variant spelling of Worricow - No, me neither, but that apparently means a hobgoblin!

**From witches, warlocks and wurricoes,
From ghoulies, ghosties and long-leggit beasties,
From all things that go bump in the night –
Good Lord deliver us.**

Love and peace,
Martin

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