

THE RALEIGH MISSION COMMUNITY

OUR VISION: "To know and worship God, to show his love by reaching out into the community and welcoming all into his church."



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Sunday 24th May – Easter 7

Thought for the day

Lockdown is the time in which it has been possible to follow flights of fancy and investigate areas that you usually don't have time for. One such area is trying to understand the person of the virgin Mary in Catholicism. Mary, the mother of Jesus is such a pivotal and essential figure for all Christians but has also proved also to be a point of division between us. I came to understand the appeal of icons of the virgin and child in eastern Orthodoxy as a helpful insight into the mystery of a real incarnation for example but like a lot of people brought up outside the Roman Catholic church I was pretty non-plussed by the love and veneration I encountered for her in Catholic devotions and when visiting Catholic churches abroad. My way in to understanding and appreciating Marian devotion a little more was to understand her symbolically. Just as St. Paul understands Jesus in Romans as the "New Adam" undoing the sin of the world so Mary has been understood as the "New Eve", the mother of the body of Christ, the mother of the church because it was through her obedience to God that undid Eve's disobedience to God in Genesis. Revelation 12, where a woman is crowned with a crown of twelve stars (who is to give birth to a ruler of the nations) is also interpreted as Mary, giving rise to the title "Mary, Queen of heaven". I have found these insights helpful in my quest to understand more the figure of Mary. The only time I have ever said the "Hail Mary" in public was on our pilgrimage to the Holy Land (2000), when our party was standing together in the church of the Annunciation in Nazareth where it seemed wrong not to, but then that full prayer also raises questions about the saints interceding for us in heaven – a whole different ball game and a controversy I am not prepared to enter into right now, but I just say, if we believe in the "resurrection of the dead" and the "communion of the saints" as we say we do, I am prepared to enter into the mystery of prayer more openly and expansively and I am not quite prepared to say that the dead can't or don't pray. I am prepared to sit under the mystery rather than dictate terms of reference to God. "There are more things in heaven and earth Horatio than are dreamt of in your philosophy"

A message from Rev'd Martin: Dad has tested positive for covid-19 (since the negative test that allowed us to travel) so we pray for him in hospital, alone and surrounded by people dressed from head to toe in protective gear. My daughter, Claire has been tested and is negative. I am proceeding on the basis that Dad caught it in hospital and we are clean and showing no symptoms but I'll keep everyone posted.

We pray for all who are ill: Bernard Jacques, Rosie Smith, David Beagley, John Heavens, Christine

Recently deceased: Mitzie Jackson, Gillian Trudgill, Michael Donoghue.

Annual Remembrance: Henry Bailey, Ernest Cole, Ethel Young, Matthew Davis, John Smith, Harry Lester, Thomas Hooker, Richard Gregory

Collect: Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

First Reading: Acts 1 6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of ^{f[a]} James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The time between the ascension and Pentecost, Luke has the Apostles meeting together in prayer, where they are gradually becoming not just witnesses to Jesus but a kind of ecclesiastical council. Judas is replaced by Matthias, immediately after this episode and they assume the equivalence to the twelve patriarchs of old Israel. Mary, the mother of Jesus makes her last appearance here, and James (still unnamed) makes an appearance as one of the "brothers". By Acts 15, James has evidently assumed some kind of leadership of the Jerusalem church, apparently chairing the Jerusalem council, hearing the testimony of Paul and Barnabus.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 4. 12-14; 5. 6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

The walls of the church are invisible – people are as "living stones" - but the structure of this house need to be strengthened against attack to survive. Evil is the guise of persecution and discrimination batter the walls, windows and doors of this spiritual house. While humbly accepting the reality of the situation Peter advocates resisting evil, casting our anxiety on God, and strangely to many modern readers, rejoicing in our suffering because it brings us closer to Christ. Because we know that what followed Christ's sufferings was glory and exultation, so discipline yourselves and keep alert!

Gospel Reading: John 17: 1 – 11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

It is Jesus' prayer that we may "ascend" with him to know his unity with the Father. And we have a definition of eternal life into the bargain. The content of eternal life can be a present possession as well as a future hope. Eternal life is knowing God and knowing Jesus Christ as the revelation of God. To say that I know God is to have eternal life already. This point of view is particular to John's gospel and if you'd like to know the fancy theological term for it, it is "realised eschatology".

A little light reading: The St Peter's Mini Mag is available on line. If you would like a copy email your address to Gillian– gillian.heathfield@gmail.com It is also available on the website.

The May's East Budleigh with Bicton Parish News with added content and interest is available on the website: https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/uploads/1/4/7/3/14736256/eb_parish_news_may_2020.pdf *Thank you so much to the editor's of the magazines for continuing to make these available during these difficult times.*



During this crisis, the economic damage is going to be severe in all sectors including the churches. If you give already by direct debit, that is excellent but for those people who give by envelope or in the plate, please consider giving by bank transfer.

Almost all sources of income have dried up, including Friends, Burial Services, Wedding Fees, Letting of Premises, Cash Collections, Envelope Giving and associated Gift Aid. Although staff have been furloughed where appropriate there are very few cost savings of any material amount.

Each church in the RMC has independent finances so if you are so inclined these are the details of our three churches: **St. Peter's: Sort code 09-01-28 A/c no. 96051138**

All Saints: Sort code 30-94-36 A/c no 00601276

St Michael's Otterton: Sort code 30-94-36 A/c no. 00601500. Thank you so much

The Prayer for Today is taken from the Compline service.

Thou O Lord art in the midst of us and we are called by Thy name; Leave us not, O Lord our God Into thy hands O Lord I commend my Spirit. Keep me O Lord as the apple of an eye. Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Church of England launches free dial-in worship phone line: The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched [Daily Hope](#), which includes music, prayers, reflections and full worship services at the end of a telephone line. It is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 and has been set up to reach people unable to join online church services. Churches are being asked to publicise it to people they know who aren't on the internet.

Co-ordinated Community Support during this crisis: Community groups in Budleigh Salterton and district including the churches, the medical centre, the Lions, the schools, Relief charities have all combined to pool our resources and work together to beat this pandemic. We have a website already and all information is on there. Please use the site if you live in Budleigh Salterton, East Budleigh, Otterton, Colaton Raleigh or Newton Poppleford. If you need help with your shopping, or have financial difficulties, or want to volunteer to help yourself, just click here; <http://www.budleighsupport.co.uk/>

Thank you: The Reverend Karen Young wants to say a big THANK YOU to everyone involved in the RMC pastoral umbrella. They are doing a fantastic job and keeping up the spirits of the isolated and lonely. THANK YOU TO All the volunteers!



Community Larder - Dear Churches and Supporters,
Demand is more than three times what it was, but the Good News is that the whole community is supportive by matching giving to the needs, and more than enough volunteers - at the moment!!
The website now has some pictures of how we work and donations coming in as well as a summary of special arrangements during this Covid19 crisis
Best wishes from all of us at the Ministry of Foodbank! Anthony www.exmouthlarder.co.uk

A poem for our times via Di Bagshaw

I wandered lonely as a cloud, two metres from the madding crowd, when all at once my name was called to enter Waitrose hallowed hall.

This was the pensioners' special hour. I'd gone to get a bag of flour. But I forgot, when through the door, what I had gone to Waitrose for.

The Waitrose staff are extra kind. I told them it had slipped my mind. They asked what else I had forgot They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.

I phoned my wife again to ask. She reminded me of this special task: "I need some flour to bake a cake with all that cream you made me take." "Ah yes I recall" I had to lie, I dared not ask what flower to buy

But then I saw them next the tills a bunch of golden daffodils!

You can also find this pew sheet and lots of other useful information on the Raleigh Mission Community website, please visit www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk Huge thanks to Penny for keeping the website up to date.

