



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park

Sunday 13th February 2022 Third Sunday before Lent

This is the 3rd Sunday before Lent, the first of those three Sundays which traditionally carried long names: Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima. Today then is Septuagesima, the 9th Sunday before Easter. In the Eastern church it is known as the "Sunday of the Prodigal" because their Gospel reading is Luke 15.

Our readings, however, have a different theme; that of being "happy" or "blessed" on the one hand, or "woeful" on the other! This leads us to ask where real happiness can be found amidst all the vicissitudes and changing scenes of life.

As the gospel we hear Luke's version of the Beatitudes. These largely correspond with Matthew's account, but there are differences. His setting is on the plain not on the mountain, and while Matthew records only "blessings", Luke includes a number of "woes" directed largely at the rich, the well fed, and the merry!

Another difference which may be significant, is that Luke does not attempt to "spiritualise" the blessings as Matthew does. So in Luke the poor remain simply the poor, not the "poor in spirit", and the hungry remain the hungry, rather than those hungering after righteousness. This may well reflect Luke's compassion and concern for justice, a theme that runs through his gospel. In the synagogue at Nazareth Luke shows Jesus setting the tone very clearly: "He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, sight for the blind, freedom for the oppressed".

The Old Testament reading from Jeremiah contrasts the happy state of the man who trusts in God compared to one who puts his trust in mankind. This latter person is like a tree growing in wasteland, in the parched places of the desert, where no one lives, which will never prosper. By contrast, the one who trusts in the Lord is like a tree planted by a stream, its leaves are always green, it doesn't fear the drought, it never fails to bear fruit. Psalm 1 (the appointed psalm for this Sunday) uses the same kind of imagery.

In the Epistle passage from 1st Corinthians chapter 15 Paul reminds us that the true bedrock of our faith lies in the fact that Christ has indeed been raised from the dead: if this were not so, all our faith and hopes would be in vain.

First Reading : Jeremiah 17.5-10 Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse –

who can understand it?

I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

Gospel Reading: Luke 6.17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Fri 6:00pm, Church: **Food for Thought**
Sun 20th 9.30am, Church: **Family Communion Eco Service**
Rev'd Gerard Rundell Leading and Preaching
Readings from: Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25; Revelation 4; Luke 8.22-25

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 23rd Feb. 12pm: **Lunch Group at the Rugby Club**
Wed 2nd March, 10am and 7.30pm: **Ash Wednesday Communion and Ashing**
Thurs 3rd Mar. 2pm: **Prayer and Praise in the Community Room**
Sunday 6th, 4pm: **'Penitence and Faith: a service to mark the beginning of Lent' St Columba's**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/3beforeLent22>

PRAYER AND PRAISE – our lovely monthly service is returning on Thursday 3rd March. It's an ideal service for those who find morning services a bit difficult to attend, or who prefer a more relaxed atmosphere. We start at 2pm in our warm, comfortable Community room with a service led by one of our Clergy. The service is then followed by hot drinks, biscuits and plenty time to chat. Please come along. This small gathering is full of friendly people who would very much like to welcome you.

THANK YOU – for everyone's support and generous donations at the fundraising event last weekend. We have donated £1000 to the Afghanistan Appeal.

COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER AT GREAT PARK – Susan Armstrong and her friend are holding a Coffee Morning in Great Park Community Centre on Tues 1st March (St David's Day & Shrove Tuesday). There'll be a cake stall, raffle, and guess the cake weight. Lovely coffee is available in the Shake Shack Cafe. All proceeds will go to the Great North Children's Hospital. Please come and bring your friends!

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - in May, Newcastle Cathedral will be hosting the National Cathedrals' annual conference, with over 300 delegates attending from across the country. Welcoming volunteers will receive a full briefing and a conference branded t-shirt and will need to commit to at least one 2-3 hour shift between Sunday 15 – Thursday 19 May along with a briefing session in late April. To register your interest, please complete the online registration at <http://btrr.im/7u3kq> Alternatively, or contact Lucy Cooke, our Volunteer Co-ordinator at lucy.cooke@newcastlecathedral.org.uk or by phone on 0191 2321939.

LENT COURSE: This year we're planning a Parish-wide Lent Course called: 'An Adventure with God: stories and thoughts on a life of prayer.' Each week we'll have a visiting speaker (including a Bishop, a Friar, and the leader of the Resource Church), who'll offer insights from their own journey of prayer before leading us in a time of prayer together. Wednesdays 7.30pm at St Cuthbert's, starting 9th March.

TAIZE EVENING WORSHIP: Sundays, 4pm from 13th March. During Lent we'll be offering a short evening service of Taize chant, scripture, silence and prayer. Do join us for a peaceful and reflective time to deepen your Lenten devotion.

LENT LUNCHESES: During Lent we'll be meeting ecumenically with churches across the parish to share in food and fellowship. Times and Dates TBC.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - meets in church on Friday 18th Feb at 6pm. This monthly service joins with our youth group to encourage one another with informal worship followed by discussion over a meal. Do join us even if you've never been before.

PRAYER LIST: If you know of someone (whether in the congregation or not) who would particularly appreciate prayer, and you have permission from them, please do let us know and we'll put their name on the list for our prayers.

PARISH CHOIR - we hope to resurrect our parish choir for an evening service on Sunday 6th March. All are welcome, both old members and new, although some basic music reading skills are needed as rehearsal time will be very limited. Please email Chris Clinch on cclinch164@btinternet.com if interested, giving an indication whether you are Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - is having a week off next week, so there will be no Bible Study group on Monday 14 February. We will conclude our study of Genesis 1-11 with The Flood on Monday 21st and the Tower of Babel on 28th.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT0>
Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Particularly for Diocesan and Deanery Synods. Within our church we pray for our Thursday groups and Men's group.

For the world – Particularly for Afghanistan and its people, tensions in Ukraine, and for our own national and political life. In our community for Manor House, Bowmont House and Melton House.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston and Adrienne Tulip.

For those who have died and those who grieve – For Celia, Ruth Hewett's mum. On their anniversaries: Jennifer Wright, Geoffrey Henderson, Keith Bainbridge, Jessie McGray, Joan Pendlebury, Kathleen Holder, George Lonie, Mary Temple, Dorothy Smurthwaite, Philip Brantingham, Rex Chinnery

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