



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

Sunday 19th June 2022

1st Sunday After Trinity

Our gospel reading of the healing of the demoniac is found in the first three Gospels of which today's reading from Luke's Gospel gives the most detailed. It is an account which gives much to ponder. All 3 Gospels tell of a violent storm as they crossed the Lake, so fierce that Jesus's companions feared they would all drown. Jesus calmed the storm, called them to faith and left them in great awe that he could command the wind and the waves to obey him.

Having landed safely they were immediately confronted by this very frightening, mentally distressed man, so violent that the towns people had cast him out to live among the tombs. We might say that having faced nature's aggressive power on the lake, Jesus and his companions were then faced with what today we would say was a mentally storm ridden man. But, just as in the boat Jesus addressed the storm, without asking any questions of the man, he immediately began to heal him. The man is described as demon possessed. Demon possession was seen as the cause of disturbing behaviour and attempts to cure people were aimed to rid the demons, to send them into the eternal abyss where they would find eternal punishment. It is not surprising that the man initially shouted out for Jesus not to torment him [v.31]

Jesus then asked the man for his name [v.30]. For Jesus this was not just a nameless sick man, but an individual in his own full right to be recognised as such – a vital principle of good practice for those in the medical and caring professions, but also for any of us who care for those in need. Unfortunately, such was the depth of his illness, all he could say was *'legion, for many demons had entered him.'* As in Old Testament times, then so today to you and me, He calls us by name. *'I have called you by name; you are mine.'* And God's promise is that will be with us through whatever storms we face [Isaiah 43. 1-2], [Psalm 23.4].

Then we read of the demons leaving the man, entering a herd of pigs who rushed headlong to their deaths in the lake. Not sure what we make of that. More significant for Luke's readers is that when the towns people came out to see what was happening, they found the man sitting quietly with Jesus, naked no more but *'clothed and in his right mind.'* [v.35] In our epistle reading St Paul uses the image of being clothed in Christ and being clothed in Christ brings a wholeness of being which spans all human

differences, of gender, of status and nationality and into the divine family of God. [Galatians 27-29]

So yet again we read of Jesus bringing the sick and distressed to wholeness as they reached out to him.

A final thought: the man wished to go with Jesus, but he directed him to return to his home community to witness to Christ's grace. Some may feel called to leave home areas to serve Christ, but for most of us, as we are clothed with Christ, we are called to witness to God's healing love just where we are, in our home communities, our family circles, neighbourhoods, work places, schools, our daily settings.

First Reading: Galatians 3:23-end

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring heirs according to the promise.

Luke 8:28- 39

When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So, he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much

God has done for you.' So, he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

TODAY

9.30am: 1st Sunday After Trinity Mr Bernie Troughton leads, and Rev'd Ben Pullan will Preside and Preach

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 22nd June 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 23rd June, 1pm, Newcastle Cathedral: **Launch of 'If I Told You' strategy and resources engaging with faith based abuse**

Thurs 23rd June 2.00pm Community Room **Chat and Craft**

Fri 24th June 4pm **Messy Church** in the Great Park Community Centre

Sat 25th June 10am – 12pm: **Saturday Café**

Sun 26th June 9.30am, Church: **2nd Sunday After Trinity**: Rev'd Gerard Rundell will Preside and Preach from Gal 5. 1, 13-25. Luke 9. 51-62

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 29th June 7.00pm **Community Centre AGM** all are invited to attend.

Sat 2nd July 3.00pm, Newcastle Cathedral: **Ordination of Rosemary New**

Thurs 7th July 8.00pm, Community Room: **Men's Group**

Sun 10th July Team Walk from St Columba's Church Wideopen to St Matthew's Dinnington.

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/1Trinity22>

OPEN GARDEN -In conjunction with All Saints' Open Garden series we will be opening our garden on Sunday 26th June between 2.30 and 5pm.

We would welcome anyone from St Aidan's who would like to drop in.

Pat and Vic Spong 16 Milford Gardens.

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY WINDBAND – We enjoyed a wonderful evening of musical entertainment last Tuesday which raised £300 for St Aidan's Church. Many thanks to Revd. Chris Clinch, the very talented students and those who gave their support.

MEN'S GROUP - For your diaries, gentlemen!

The first meeting of the Men's Group since lockdown in March 2020 will be on Thursday, 7th July, 8.00pm in the Church Community Room. Part of this meeting will be discussion with you about speakers and ideas for future meetings. Regular meetings will be held on the first Thursday evening of every month, starting on Thursday 1st September. Please come along on 7th July and invite

neighbours, friends or anyone you know who might be interested in our gatherings. Suggestions or ideas for speakers and activities are welcomed. More details about the July meeting will follow soon. For further information, please contact Ben Pullan on 07977320895.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOUltQjQ0OQ> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – face masks are optional, please sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

USED STAMPS – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – a little reminder that we still collect for the foodbank. There is a box at the back of church for donations.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church –, Mark Edwards, St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's our Sunday School, Family Service and all involved in our work with children and young people.

For the community – The West End Food Bank.

For the world – particularly for Ukraine, her people, refugees and the Ukrainian community in the UK, and our own national and political life.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Dorothy Clasper.

For those on their anniversaries: Kenneth Thompson, Miriam Large, Val Hay, Doris Smith, Connie Inglis

CONTACTS

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St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle

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