



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

**Sunday 20th August 2023
Trinity 11**

The story of Joseph, he of the coat of many colours, is one of the great stories of the Old Testament. It's the longest single narrative in the book of Genesis, taking up 14 chapters, nearly a third of the whole book. Joseph is given more space by the final editors of Genesis than his great-grandfather Abraham and as much as his grandfather and father, Isaac and Jacob, put together. It's Joseph's story that is crucial to the emergence of the nation of Israel through the Exodus.

At one level, it's a straightforward story of how the descendants of Abraham came to be in Egypt – though, surprisingly Joseph doesn't figure anything like so prominently in the rest of the Old Testament; it's always just Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who are the patriarchs of Israel, never Joseph.

At another level, we can read the story 'spiritually' as Joseph foreshadowing Jesus, the innocent one through whom God chose to save his people and bring them into a new relationship with each other and with himself – although Joseph is scarcely mentioned in the New Testament, indeed in the genealogies in Matthew and Luke, Jesus' ancestry is traced back to Abraham not through Joseph but through his older brother Judah.

But dig a bit deeper, and there's a darker side to the story – a story of sibling rivalry, intrigue, deception, manipulative actions and power play, on Joseph's part as well as others'. At its the heart is how, having manoeuvred himself into the position of Pharaoh's right-hand man, Joseph deals with the famine that threatened the whole of the then-known world, leading to the unexpected appearance of his brothers in Egypt and his eventual reconciliation with them in the dramatic climax of the story in our first reading this morning.

Joseph's actions, whatever his motives, and the God-given principles underlying them, provide some resonances for us today, as we shall hear.

Genesis 45.1-15

Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there – since there are five more years of famine to come – so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Matthew 15.21-28

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

TODAY

9:30am: **Trinity 11:** Rev'd Ben Pullan leads and Mr Ken Newitt preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room – **Saturday Café**

Sun 27th 9:30am: **Trinity 12** – Rev'd Ray Devenney leads and preaches with readings from Exodus 1.8 - 2.10, and Matthew 16.13-20

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 31st Aug 10:30am **Men's Group Summer Outing:** Newcastle Cathedral

Sun 3rd Sept 9:30am **St Aidan's Family Service with Bishop Mark**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/11Trinity23>

ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL LEAVE – our administrator will be on annual leave until Monday 4th September. Any general enquiries will be answered on her return. Please direct urgent requests to Rev'd Gerard Rundell or Rev'd Ben Pullan, and newsletter notices to Catherine.

CHANGES TO NEWSLETTER - in September we are making changes to our newsletter. It will become a shorter A5 version. The email version of the newsletter is also being re-designed, and will be in a much easier to read format (and with no need to open an attachment). If you would like to receive a longer email version and aren't yet on our mailing list, please email our administrator to be added: infostaidans@gmail.com

60th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING - on Sun 3rd Sept we will be celebrating St Aidan's Day which this year coincides with the 60th anniversary of our church building. There will be a 9.30am Family Service with Bishop Mark, followed by a variety of games both in and around the church and then a light buffet lunch in the Community Room with drinks and a special 60th anniversary cake. All are warmly invited to worship with us, to meet informally with Bishop Mark and to join in the celebrations on this special day.

REV'D GERARD RUNDELL ANNUAL LEAVE – Gerard will be on annual leave until Monday 28th August. If you need any help during this time, please contact Rev'd Ben Pullan or a Churchwarden.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

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 – Diocesan office staff and diocesan advisers, Readers Ken Newitt and Chris Sayers and Authorised Minister Bernie Troughton

For the community – businesses on the Great Park

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Sofiiia Karnaukh

For those who have died –and on their anniversaries: Doris Gray, Hal Gibson, Derek Usher, Mona Watson, Richard Potts



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