



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

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2023  
Trinity 20

In our reading from St Matthew's Gospel, Jesus pointed to the image of Caesar's head on a coin and said, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.' It was a response the questioners were not expecting and a challenge, as it ever remains to this day, to them to reflect very carefully on what it means to be God's people.

The word 'head' in that Bible reading is more accurately translated 'image' or 'icon.' Icons are signs that remind us of particular phenomena. (think about popular commercial brand logos, for instance.).

The most familiar logo of the Christian faith is the Cross. It is the powerful reminder of the extent of God's deep unwavering love for his creation seen in the life-giving passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. As St Paul puts it, 'The life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.' (Galatians 2:20).

Images and icons are however more than simple logos. In them the reality of the phenomena they represent is somehow seen. In Colossians 1.15, we read that Jesus himself is God's unique icon. 'He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God.' The writer goes on in the subsequent verses to spell out what he understands by this and what it means for humankind. Our Lord, in his life, teaching, healing, passion, death and resurrection is supremely the life-giving icon of God himself. 'Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father' (John 14.9)

Several hundred years earlier, the writer of Genesis Chapter 1 made perhaps an even more pertinent assertion. As the final act of God's creation of the world, he writes that God created humankind 'in his own image' (Genesis 1. 26- 27).

It is another way of thinking about our discipleship. We, each of us, are not just made in God's image, but called in fellowship with Jesus, to be living icons of our Creator God, pointing to that unconditional self-sacrificing agape love of the world which is the very essence of God, seen in Christ Jesus who said, 'By this everyone will know that you're my disciples, if you have love for one another' (John 13.35)

## **Deuteronomy 34.1-12**

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain - that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees - as far as Zoar. The LORD said to him, 'This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, "I will give it to your descendants"; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.' Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord's command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended.

Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

## **Matthew 22.15-22**

When the chief priests and Pharisees had heard the parables, they realized that Jesus was speaking about them. Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

## **TODAY**

9:30am: **Trinity 20** Rev'd Ben Pullan leads our service.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Mon</b>	7:30pm, Zoom: <b>Bible Study Group</b>
<b>Wed</b>	10.00am, Church: <b>BCP Midweek Eucharist</b> 7.30pm, Community Room: <b>Alpha</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	2:00pm, Community Room: <b>Chat and Craft</b>
<b>Fri</b>	3.00-5.30: <b>Halloween Family Fun</b> , Church 6.30-8.30: <b>Beetle Drive</b> , Church
<b>Sat</b>	10am, Community Room – <b>Saturday Café</b>
<b>Sun 29<sup>th</sup></b>	9:30am, <b>Bible Sunday</b> Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our service with readings from Nehemiah 8.1-4a[5-6] 8-12, Colossians 3.12-17 and Matthew 24.30-35

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thur 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	2:00pm: <b>Prayer and Praise</b> , Community Room 8:00pm: <b>Mens Group- 'Mr Newcastle / The Mouth of the Tyne</b>
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:00pm: <b>All Souls Service</b> , Church
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	2:00pm: <b>Film Club – The Book Thief</b> , Community Room
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:00am: <b>Christmas Market</b> , Church

## NOTICES

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/20Trinity>

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING** – we raised an amazing £356 at last week's Saturday café. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

**ALL SOULS SERVICE** – will be held on Sunday 5th November at 6.00pm to commemorate those dearly departed. To have the name of a loved one read out during the service, please add their name to the list at the back of church. Names from previous years will not automatically be read out. If you are unable to add the name yourself, please contact the Administrator or a church warden who will add the name on your behalf.

**ROTA'S** – are at the back of church for both Saturday café and Sunday service coffee. Please add your name to the rota if you are able to help.

**ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT** - We know that there have been many requests for generosity recently. As a church we want to respond with open hearts as much as we can to those facing devastation and loss. This week's collection will be towards Christian Aid's appeal to support victims of the conflict in Israel and Palestine. If you haven't already given and would like to join the church in offering whatever you can, please do give either by cash, card, or online and anything collected will be passed on.

**MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER** – will be held at Northern Football Club on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7:30pm. Tickets available from Vic Spong

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** –will resume on Monday 23 October, 7.30 pm on Zoom, details below. As we approach the season of Advent will be starting a series 'Christmas through the Bible', with an introductory session on 23 October and 'Christmas in the Old Testament' on 30 October. All welcome. Further information from Ken Newitt, kmnewitt@outlook.com.

**HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN** – we're pulling out the stops for our family fun afternoon on Friday (27<sup>th</sup> Oct) at 3pm as we remember the light of Christ on All Hallows Eve. Please come along in fancy dress if you can! All ages are welcome as we'll enjoy various crafts, games, story and food.

**BEETLE DRIVE** – if you'd like to come along to this fantastic social event on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm, please sign up using the sheet at the back of church. If you'd like supper please tick what you'd like so we can pre-order. It's a very easy game to learn so don't worry if you've never been before. It's great for all ages but younger children will need an adult to help them.

**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

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

**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** – Churches in our Deanery: Fawdon, Kenton and Kingston Park Parishes. Food for Thought and those leading it

**For the community** - Great Park Consortium and ongoing development of the Great Park Town Centre

**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, Jack Murgatroyd, Bruce Smith

**For those who have died** –and on their anniversaries: Thomas Atkinson

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