



From the Curate

Today's Old Testament text recounts a heartfelt reconciliation between Joseph and his brothers. This occurs against the backdrop of Joseph's betrayal by his brothers and a dramatic change in fortunes that sees Joseph elevated to a position of authority in pharaoh's Egypt and his brothers struggling to feed their families amid famine. They are forced to ask Joseph for help and confront their misdeeds. The scene is awash with the complex dynamics that hang over siblings who bear a heavy burden of guilt towards each other. Yet in their physical proximity and vulnerability – where brother looks upon the face of brother – hearts are rent asunder, denial is abandoned, claims of just resentment forfeited and tears of repentance, forgiveness and compassion flow. God's healing mercy is at work in the salt of these tears. Out of this exchange, the life-giving energy of love breaks through impervious barriers. This all has a poignant edge as we are faced with new restrictions on our capacity to meet to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Social gatherings are now limited to groups of six. This rule would have precluded Joseph and his brothers from meeting and reconciling, just as it will exclude many today from vital social interaction. This may be necessary to protect the most vulnerable. The virus is indiscriminate. It respects no barriers or distinctions between people. But as a church we should pause for thought, especially as acts of worship are exempt from the rule. Are we worthy of this exemption? Only if we recall that at the heart of worship flows the same life-giving waters of repentance, forgiveness, compassion and healing that gave life to Joseph and his brothers – waters which are meant to irrigate not just our parched souls but all souls. For the Christian community, gathered face-to-face, as a physical body of sisters and brothers in Christ, in a tangible place, bears concrete witness to how the reach of God's love far exceeds even that of the coronavirus. God's love exempts itself from all limitations, all distance, all separation, all guilt, despair, fear, even death itself. If our exemption to worship is to be true, then we cannot set any limits on our love for others and a concern for their welfare.

Fr Angus

Giving to All Saints

No cash? Tap to donate!

You can donate by debit or credit card. Choose from the three donation amounts and tap your card on the reader located at the welcome desk.

Gift Aid: Adding value to your donation

If you are a UK taxpayer and do not have a set of planned giving envelopes, please place your donation inside a white envelope (available from the welcomers). Remember to fill in your details completely or we cannot claim Gift Aid (a further 25%) on your donation.

Regular Giving

Should you wish to make regular donations to All Saints, our preferred method of giving is via the Parish Giving Scheme. Further information about the scheme is available online at www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk. Forms are available from the Parish Office.

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Electronic versions of the latest Sunday sermons and the current issue of PewNews are available to download on the website.

Today's Readings

A reading from the book of Genesis

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Genesis 50.15-21

A reading from the Letter to the Romans

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Romans 14.1-12

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Matthew 18.21-35

The stories of the ancestors in the book of Genesis are so beautiful to read and so pertinent for our own lives as they deal with issues which affect us all, everyday issues of jealousy, family strife, anger and rivalry. Sometimes we think God is too distant from such matters, but we actually find that God is intimately involved with every area of our lives, working through the muddle of our human relationships to bring us to a place of blessing and reconciliation.

We often hear that the apostle Paul is a rigorous and doctrinaire writer, but we might be surprised by the inclusive picture he paints here of God's church. He celebrates the diversity of opinions and perspectives within the church, with some eating only a vegetables and others meat, with some sharing in feasting and fasting and others viewing each day as the same. This diversity can be celebrated because everything is not done for ourselves, but to honour and thank God. We are not to be quick in judging others, but to leave such judgements to God.

In the law of Moses the spiralling forces of retribution and violence are to be held in check by a prohibition that only allows violence to be in proportion to the violence that has been done. Here Jesus asks for an entirely different imagination to be at work, not a prohibition that curtails violence, but an abundance of forgiveness that overwhelms violence with reconciliation and peace. Today's parable speaks of the danger of experiencing forgiveness but refusing to pass on this forgiveness to others. Perhaps forgiveness seems easy from a distance, but when it is up close and personal it becomes very costly indeed.

Today's Mass

Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Parish Notices

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

Our APCM will be held on Sunday 27th September in the church, immediately after the main Eucharist service and adhering to social distancing protocols. The APCM is a meeting for all those on the church's electoral roll. If you are not currently on the electoral roll but would like to be, please contact the parish office, churchwardens or clergy for a form. We would encourage anyone who regularly attends worship at All Saints to complete a form.

Welcome back to our All Saints Choir

Our choir has returned albeit in reduced numbers so that we can conform to government social distancing guidelines. It's great to have James Elias step up into the role of interim Director of Music following Jon Rawles' return to Bristol to be with his parents in April. A big thank you to all our choir members for sticking with things during this difficult time, it really is fantastic to have you back.

Current Guidelines for Public Worship

To ensure the safety of all who come to worship at All Saints, we continue to follow government guidance. Please listen to the usher's instructions on arrival. Hand sanitiser is to be used at the door and when using the toilet facilities and face coverings are now required by law in places of worship, unless you are medically exempt.

Sunday 8am BCP Mass & Midweek Evening Prayer

From September we will re-introduce our Sunday 8am BCP Mass on the first Sunday of every month. We will also hold weekday evening prayer from Monday – Thursday at 5pm. Thank you for your patience as we slowly work back to our previous rhythms.

Hall Hirers

From this month we are beginning to open up the hall for our regular hirers. With restrictive conditions on size of groups and cleaning, we are currently much reduced in the number of hire slots we can offer. A number of groups will also be using our Church spaces for choir rehearsals as well. Although this helps our finances a little, we are still unable to host all the community groups we are used to having and so our income is much smaller. We are still very much reliant on your generosity!

All Saints Food Spread

We continue to raise funds through our Food Spread project to provide food deliveries for local charities. See www.justgiving.com/campaign/Allsaintshovefoodspread for

details and also email any questions to allsaintsfoodspread@gmail.com.

Completion on East End Tower Repairs

Peter Millar, the vicar and our architect Richard Andrews inspected the stone work now completed on the east towers. Universal Stone have worked to an incredibly high standard and it's all looking great. The scaffolding will be coming down over the next few weeks so please take extra care if you are in that area. There will be photos of the work at the back of church and on our website and even a stone or two for auction. A big thank you to Universal Stone and the team for a job well done.

Generous Giving

Thank you to the many people who have made very generous donations to the Church during the closure. It has been a great help in partly offsetting the considerable loss of income we have suffered during the lockdown. Now that the Church is reopening, and following Government guidelines, we will not be accepting coins in the collection plates, only notes. We would much prefer you to make contactless donations by credit or debit card if you are able to. The card reader is available at the entrance desk. Tony Mollett, our treasurer, is available via email (see contacts on first page) for more information on other ways of giving.

Flowers

This week's flowers are donated in memory of Pippa Jewel.

For our Prayers

Sick: Lou; Martyn; June & Sara Cuttress; Kala; Wyatt Baker; Sheila Dishington; Joy; Sheelagh; James Walker; Lorna; Fleur Boxell; Hunter; Betty; David James; Heather, June Elves, Trish Abala; Derek, Jane Stone, Margaret Giddings, Anne Ore, Jonathan Davidson, Audrey Ryder. For those who have recently died: Mary Birch; and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time: John Arrowsmith (priest) and Wayne Roxburgh (priest).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Available by appointment with the Vicar.

Next Week's Readings: Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Jonah 3.10 – 4.11; Philippians 1.21–30; Matthew 20.1–16

This Week

The Daily Office

Morning prayer Sun-Thurs, 9:00am

Evening Prayer Mon-Thurs, 5:00pm

Weekly Eucharists

Tuesday

11.30am Mass

Wednesday

9.30am Mass

Sunday

8:00am BCP Mass (1st Sundays only)

10:00am Mass

Sunday Mass Congregational Texts

Please respond with the words in bold (unless they are sung by a cantor).

The Gathering

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Kyrie

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy,**
Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy,**
Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Acclamation

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The Blessing

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**