



**DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

# Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 21 June*

*The Second Sunday after Trinity*

*During this time of great anxiety and uncertainty, we want to stay in touch with our regular worshippers and indeed with everyone who is associated with the Cathedral family.*

*This is particularly important to us at a time when, following the Church of England's instructions, public worship at the Cathedral has been suspended. The residential clergy are still saying the Daily Offices at home or from church, and they are being live-streamed via the cathedral website where there is a link that takes you to the Cathedral's Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account).*

*We are delighted that Durham Cathedral will reopen for private prayer and quiet reflection on Monday (22 June). If you'd like to come to the cathedral for prayer, there are some important measures we'd like you to know about, to ensure the safety of members of the public and staff. You can find this information on our website: [www.durhamcathedral.co.uk](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk) We will continue to live stream services until such time as congregational worship is permitted inside the Cathedral again.*

## **Gospel**

**Matthew 10. 24-39**

Jesus said, 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set

a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

## **Thought for the Day**

*by* the Reverend Canon Charlie Allen

As many of you will know, I am part of a shielding household. Being hidden away behind closed doors for the past few months with two lively children has been something of a challenge!

So you can imagine the sense of liberation we have experienced over the past few days as we have been enabled to go outside and enjoy an early morning walk. Yesterday we celebrated this freedom with a 15 mile hike in the countryside around Durham. It was marvellous and we hardly met a soul.

We visited Finchale Priory, trekked through woods, down lanes and across fields; we enjoyed a picnic, delighted in the scenery, and paddled in various rivers, streams and babbling brooks along the way.

There is something about paddling in rivers that always reminds me of baptism. I think of a visit to the river Jordan some years ago, where we waded into the water and renewed our baptism promises, accounts of Jesus' baptism in the same river vivid in our minds.

I think of time spent in the chalk streams surrounding Salisbury where I used to live, renewing baptism promises with those on retreat preparing to be ordained – and I remember with delight the water fights that would follow, and the joy of returning dripping wet to the Cathedral Close to dry ourselves off in time for Evensong!

Baptism is such a central part of our identity as Christians – it symbolises who we are, and who we hope to become. And I think, in an indirect way, it's what today's challenging and complex Gospel reading is all about as St Matthew helps us grasp what it means to live as those who are baptised - and to ponder how it shapes and forms us as individuals and as communities.

In this reading Jesus says, “those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it”. At first glance this seems completely confusing; at second glance it seems to turn everything we know on its head.

And it’s meant to. Because what Jesus is inviting his followers into is a way of living that isn’t about that bit of our ego that is so often tempted to be seen as successful or powerful by the standards of the world around us. Jesus is inviting his followers to reflect a little less of themselves, and a lot more of God.

It’s an important message for the disciples to hear, because in this reading they are being sent out to preach the good news of the Kingdom – to shape the world around them in a new and deeper way.

And it’s just as relevant for you and for me: disciples called and sent in our own day. Because we too have responsibility for shaping the world around us in response to the baptismal faith that is within us.

We too are called to work for a world in which God’s love is made manifest; a world in which poverty and war are no more; a world in which racism and discrimination are no more; a world in which each and every person knows that they are valued and rejoiced in by the God who created them - by the God who notices even when a tiny sparrow falls to the ground; by the God who loves each individual so much that even the hairs of their heads are counted and treasured in his heart.

What a timely reminder in these weeks in which we have heard again and again the phrase ‘Black Lives Matter’ - a cry from those who have suffered prejudice for the world to become a place in which prejudice is a failing of the past, not the present or the future.

“Do you turn to Christ?”

Words from the liturgy of baptism.

The life of the baptised involves continual turning to Christ. A constant redirection of our lives and our communities to reflect the hope of the one we seek to follow.

Today we reaffirm that hope, and our vocation to be part of it.

# A Form of Intercession

For the peace that comes from God alone,  
for the unity of all peoples,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church of Christ, for Paul our Bishop  
and Sarah, Bishop of Jarrow,  
for Durham Cathedral, for our local church communities,  
and for the whole people of God,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the nations of the world,  
especially those experiencing conflict and tension right now,  
for Elizabeth our Queen and for all in authority,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the cities, towns and villages where we live,  
for our neighbours and our friends,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us,  
and for the wisdom and will to conserve it,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the aged and infirm,  
for the widowed and orphans,  
for the sick and suffering,  
and for all in any need,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed,  
for the unemployed and the destitute,  
for prisoners and captives,  
and for all who remember and care for them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray to the Lord  
for those whom we name now.....:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the dying, for those who mourn,  
for the faithful whom we entrust to the Lord in hope,  
as we look forward to the day when we share  
the fullness of the resurrection,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the communion of  
Cuthbert, Bede, Oswald, Margaret, Hild, Aidan,  
and all the saints,  
let us commend ourselves, and one another,  
and all our life, to God.

*Silence is kept.*

For yours is the majesty,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# Hymn

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine,  
Didst yield the glory that of right was thine,  
That in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine:  
Alleluya!

Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;  
By thee the outcast and the poor were sought,  
And by thy death was God's salvation wrought:  
Alleluya!

Let this mind be in us which was in thee,  
Who wast a servant that we might be free,  
Humbling thyself to death on Calvary:  
Alleluya!

Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou  
Art high exalted o'er all creatures now,  
And giv'n the name to which all knees shall bow:  
Alleluya!

Let ev'ry tongue confess with one accord  
In heav'n and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord;  
And God the Father be by all adored:  
Alleluya!

*F Bland Tucker  
based on Philippians 2: 5-11*

# Calendar of Holy Days

Monday 22 June      Alban, first Martyr of Britain, c 250

Tuesday 23 June      Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c 678

**Wednesday 24 June    The Birth of John the Baptist**

Almighty God,  
by whose providence your servant John the Baptist  
was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour  
by the preaching of repentance:  
lead us to repent according to his preaching  
and, after his example,  
constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;  
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.

*Saturday 27 June      Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher of the Faith, c 200*

God of holiness,  
your glory is proclaimed in every age:  
as we rejoice in the faith of your saints,  
inspire us to follow their example  
with boldness and joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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**A Prayer for use during the Coronavirus outbreak**

**Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.**

**Creator of rainbows,  
come through the closed doors  
of our emotions, mind and imagination;  
come alongside us as we walk,  
come to us at work and worship,  
come to our meetings and councils,  
come and call us by name, call us to pilgrimage.  
Wounded healer,  
out of our dis-unity may we be re-membered,  
out of the pain of our division may we see your glory.  
Call us from present pre-occupation  
to future community.  
Spirit of Unity,  
challenge our preconceptions,  
enable us to grow in love and understanding,  
accompany us on our journey together,  
that we may go out with confidence into your world  
as a new creation – one body in you,  
that the world may believe.  
Amen.**

**The next issue of *Praying Together*  
will be published on Monday 29 June**