



**DURHAM  
CATHEDRAL**

THE SHRINE OF ST CUTHBERT

# Praying Together

*during the week beginning Sunday 28 June*

*The Third 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 is open for private prayer and quiet reflection. 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. 40-end**

Jesus said, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

# Thought for the Day

by the Reverend Canon Michael Everitt

My brother is a priest in Bristol. He sent me a text at about 6am a couple of weeks ago, my phone woke me “Help I have to preach on Romans 6:12-end and its all about slavery, and that is quite a live issue here.” I made suitable responses about how the transatlantic slave trade was horrific and a dehumanising dreadful abuse of fellow human beings, which sadly this country economically deeply benefited from. How it has continued to shape societies and responses and that the death of George Floyd in the United States has focused Black Lives Matter.

I wrote that what St Paul was doing was trying to use the image of being owned. He seeks to show that in Christ, God has paid for our freedom and that we are no longer enslaved to anyone or anything. I sent the email, turned over, went back to sleep and then woke up with a cold sweat. That is the same Sunday I am preaching.

A line often missed out that prefixes the 10 commandments is: “I am the Lord your God who brought you out of slavery. In Judaism, central to the understanding of life is that as a people, the Children of Israel who once were enslaved in Egypt became free at the Passover. The relationship with God as his people, and the journey to freedom and the promised land is central to Jewish identity. God shows that he is a God of freedom and life, not enslavement and death.

For Christians, this journey of freedom continues, Jesus is shown to be the Passover lamb who not only enables freedom but also identifies with the first born of Egypt who died at the first Passover. It is a universal settlement that enables freedom for all who take it. And in our first reading, Paul makes it clear that because of Christ we are free, for if there is any “ownership” involved, we are now owned by God.

Prof Jimmy Dunn, the former Lightfoot professor of Divinity here in Durham who died this weekend, brings out that this free gift of God is at the heart of Paul's writing. And crucially it develops, for God's free gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus makes us more than his property, we are adopted by God in his Holy Spirit to become his daughters and sons. We then need to live according to our new identity and not fall back into old ways.

This is our new starting point, and any pattern of life that does not resonant with this, is part of the old pattern of sin, and therefore of enslavement. Thus, our new life must show the pattern of the family that we are now incorporated into.

This is deeply challenging. For it means we need to welcome others, just as God has welcomed us. We need to show kindness to others, just as God has done to us. For in doing so, we are not just being true to our new status as children of God, we are also serving and welcoming others who are also the adopted children of God.

All this is deeply challenging. All too often I can find myself being shaped not by this new identity, but by the past. Not living as one whose end is eternal life, but short-term expediency and therefore ultimately death. We all need to live up to our new identity, and Jesus shows us that we can do this with something as simple as being welcoming, seeing the worth in those around us. Seeing the world through the perspective of God.

# A Form of Intercession

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Lord, come to bless us.

**Fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God, we thank you for the power  
of your Holy Spirit.

We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us.

**Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us.

**Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to keep us confident of your love,  
wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us.

**Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.

We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness  
where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us.

**Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us.  
**Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.  
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us.  
**Fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit,  
given by the risen Lord.  
We ask you to keep the whole Church,  
living and departed,  
in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless us.  
**Fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God,  
you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah  
at the River Jordan,  
and upon the disciples in the upper room.  
In your mercy fill us with your Spirit.  
**Hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever.  
Amen.**

# Hymn

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,  
Pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand:  
Bread of heaven,  
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through;  
Strong deliv'rer,  
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death, and hell's destruction,  
Land me safe on Canaan's side;  
Songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee.

*William Williams*

# Calendar of Holy Days

**Monday 29 June**      **Peter the Apostle**

Almighty God,  
who inspired your apostle Saint Peter  
to confess Jesus as Christ and Son of the living God:  
build up your Church upon this rock,  
that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth  
and follow one Lord, your Son our Saviour Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Wednesday 1 July*      *Henry, John, and Henry Venn, priests,  
evangelical divines, 1797, 1813, 1873*

**Friday 3 July**      **Thomas the Apostle**

Almighty and eternal God,  
who, for the firmer foundation of our faith,  
allowed your holy apostle Thomas  
to doubt the resurrection of your Son  
till word and sight convinced him:  
grant to us, who have not seen, that we also may believe  
and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. 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.

## A Prayer of St Augustine

Look upon us, O Lord,  
and let all the darkness of our souls  
vanish before the beams of thy brightness.  
Fill us with holy love,  
and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom.  
All our desire is known unto thee,  
therefore perfect what thou hast begun,  
and what thy Spirit hast awakened us to ask in prayer.  
We seek thy face;  
turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory.  
Then shall our longing be satisfied,  
and our peace shall be perfect.  
Amen.

The next issue of *Praying Together*  
will be published on Monday 6 July