

St German's Church

12 July 2020 - Ordinary Time 15 (5th after Trinity)



The parable of the sower invites us to ponder what kind of “soil” we are. In doing so, it focuses our attention on how to become more receptive and responsive to grace. Our part is not as the initiator, nor is it entirely passive. It is God who gives the increase, but he chooses to make us his co-workers.

By our life of prayer, and, in particular, through recognising and repenting of our sins, we can become deeper and more fruitful soil, allowing the Lord to uproot the “thorns” that choke off the growth of his life within us. Explaining this parable to his disciples, Jesus identifies these thorns as “the cares of the world” and “the lure of wealth”.

(Angus Ritchie, ChurchTimes 8208)

Parish Notes:

Churches Now Open for Private Prayer - the opening times reflect when our churches would normally be open each week (before the lockdown): In St German's: Sundays from 10:30-12:00; Mondays 17:30-18:30; Wednesdays 10:00-11:00; on Saturdays 11:00-12:00. N.B. There are strict guidelines on safety that must be followed by all visitors to church as well as those volunteering to be stewards supervising each opening time.

Resumption of Public Worship - It is with great delight that we welcome the news that our churches can resume public acts of worship from 19 July. The Church in Wales will publish its guidance on Monday 13th and we will need a brief meeting of our PCC and probably a detailed plan and risk assessment before we can announce specific dates and services. Realistically we are more than likely looking at 27 July by the time we get everything ready. More details next week.

The Rev'd Geraint John - Geraint was ordained in a private service in Llandaff Cathedral on Saturday 27 July by bishop June. We wish him every joy in his future ministry and look forward to his safe return to celebrate and receive our gratitude later in the autumn.

Online Worship - As we await the reopening procedures a church we are still very conscious that some of our of our people will still be shielding and so we will maintain some online worship services in addition to those taking place in church. More details asap.

Church Hall - Church halls can not open even though in England many community halls have already received this permission. The Church in Wales is lobbying hard for Church halls to be treated equitably and not suffer undue financial cost because of the pandemic. **P**

Faith Nurturing - The next faith group will be a book group looking at 'In Search of a Way' by Gerard Hughes SJ. This will begin this Wednesday, 15 July, at 7pm via Zoom. Contact Fr Phelim for details. We'll look at the first three chapters only.

Lift Up Your Hearts - Spiritual Support during the pandemic. This week's reflections are from the Rev'd Tom Clammer, former Canon Precentor of Salisbury Cathedral.

Recently Departed - Dudley Walwyn, Bernard Lewis (RIP)

This Week - Church events & when open for private prayer:

Sun 12 - Ord. Time 15 (5th after Trinity)

09:00-10:30 (St Saviour)
10:30-12:00 (St German)
Troedrhwiwgarth,
Christopher Reaney.
Anglican Church of Papua
New Guinea.

Mon 13:

17:30-18:30 (St German)

Tue 14:

10:00-11:00 (St Saviour)

Wed 15:

10:00-11:00 (St German)

Thur 16:

17:00-18:00 (St Saviour)

Friday 17:

Saturday 18:

10:45-11:45 (St Saviour)

11:00-12:00 (St German)

St Benedict

Sun 19 - Ord. Time 16 (6th after Trinity)

09:00-10:30 (St Saviour)

10:30-12:00 (St German)

Cwmbach, Christopher

Smith (PinC).

Episcopal Church in the

Philippines.

Parish Priest:

Fr Phelim O'Hare,

02922 411229,

phelimohare@gmail.com

Churchwardens:

Peter Lovitt 02920 763754

Richard Hill 07519 352840

Online Services:

Sunday Mass from each church will be recorded each week and links to these films are available on our website on Sunday morning.

READINGS THIS WEEK

Isa 55:10-11
Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
Rom 8:18-23
Matt 13:1-9

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Wis 12:13, 16-19
Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
Rom 8:26-27
Matt 13:24-30

PSALM:

Some seed fell into
rich soil and produced
its crop. (4vv)

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Isaiah 55:10-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. **R/**

And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows; you level it, soften it with showers; you bless its growth. **R/**

You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R/**

The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R/**

Psalm 65

SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

This is the word of the Lord.

Romans 8:18-23

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; whoever finds this seed will remain for ever. Alleluia!

GOSPEL:

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others

fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!' Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled: You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Matthew 13:1-9