



WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday August 16th 2020 – Tenth Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME to the latest weekly letter on this Tenth Sunday after Trinity, as the Church continues its journey through 'Ordinary Time'. In our Gospel Reading for this Sunday, we read the story of Jesus and



the Canaanite woman, a story that has puzzled scholars and theologians for 2,000 years, as Matthew presents us with a rather different picture of Jesus from the one we are used to in our devotional and

spiritual life. What is going on in this story? As ever, I will try to make sense of it in our Zoom service on Sunday morning and the Epilogue on Sunday evening.

Don't forget to keep in touch if there is any way in which I can help you –

chaplain@scilly.church / 423911.



SUNDAY WORSHIP



Our Parish Morning Service via Zoom on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. As for every Sunday, the code is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>. You will be able to join from 10.30 a.m. and chat to others before we start properly at 11.00 a.m.

It is also possible to join our Zoom service by telephone, and I have sent details of how to do that to some of our regular worshippers across the islands. If you would like details of how to do this, or know someone who would, please let me know. If you have a telephone contract that covers national calls to 01 and 02 numbers, this service will be free.

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

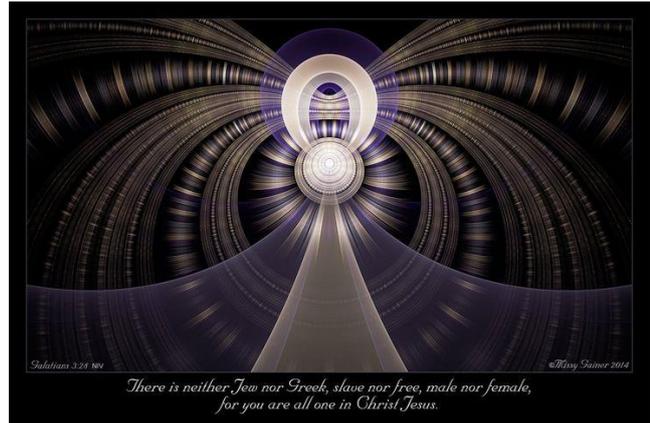
You can find the Sunday readings and prayers on one of the other attachments or enclosures that I have sent to you. In our Zoom service and Epilogue we will be considering the story of Jesus and the Canaanite Woman from **Matthew 15.21-28**. We also continue our



reading through St. Paul's great letter to the Romans and his long treatment of the place of the Jewish people in God's great plan of salvation., this week reaching **Romans 11.1-2, 29-32**. In the Old Testament reading from **Isaiah 56.1, 6-8** we hear God's promise to bring foreigners to his holy mountain, because his house 'shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples/nations'.

All of these passages ask questions of us in their different ways about who is 'chosen' and who is not. Can the pagan woman be admitted to the table of the House of Israel, or is she, in Jesus' own words 'a dog' reliant on the scraps that are left over? Does the unfaithfulness of the people of Israel who seemingly reject Jesus as Messiah actually lead to the Gentiles being saved? If so, will that result in mercy being shown to them as well? If foreigners come to worship in

the Temple, how will they be treated: on equal terms with the Jewish worshippers or as second-class citizens? The Bible as a whole takes us on an amazing journey from seeing the religion of Israel as one among many religions, even if the best and most successful of them, to a vision where everyone, Jew or Gentile, is somehow included in God's purposes of love. What boundaries do we set up in our own day between those who go to Church, and those who do not; between those who believe and those who do not?



THINKING IT THROUGH

I'm attaching/including my sermon from last Sunday for those who may want to read it. It is based on the story of Jesus (and Peter) walking on the Water and explores the different approaches of the



one who leapt out of the boat and the other disciples who stayed together in it. Perhaps we need to reexamine that story in the light of what we can learn

from other parts of Matthew's Gospel about the Church and our need to stay together on our journey of faith. Perhaps Peter may not be the hero of the story after all.

WORSHIP – A REMINDER AND A LOOK FORWARD



A reminder that it is now mandatory **to wear face coverings in Church**, and everyone who is not specifically exempted from the need to wear one will be expected to do so. We are also requesting that those attending services in Church should leave contact details to assist the government's Test and Trace initiative. **Even if you are a regular, we ask you to do this each time to come to worship**, as the information needs to be date specific.



It has just been confirmed that Bishop Philip and his wife Ruth will be making their first official visit to us next year over the weekend of Sunday 18th April, COVID restrictions permitting. We also hope to welcome our Bishop virtually in a few weeks' time as our guest preacher at our Zoom service on Sunday 20th September. Please keep these dates free if you can.

A PRAYER DURING THE PRESENT PANDEMIC

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.**



Please be assured of my love and prayers.
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