



## WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020 – Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

**WELCOME** to the latest weekly letter on this Eleventh Sunday after Trinity, as the Church continues its journey through 'Ordinary Time'.



In our Gospel Reading for this Sunday, we read about the important moment in the ministry of Jesus that takes place in the northern village of Caesarea Philippi. Jesus asks his disciples to report on how his ministry is being received by the people. Who do the people think he is? Then he asks a much bigger question: – 'Who do you say that I am?' It is a question that extends across the centuries and still addresses us today. Who do we think Jesus is? What kind of question is Jesus posing for us to consider? How



will we answer it? 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](mailto:chaplain@scilly.church) / 423911.

## SUNDAY WORSHIP



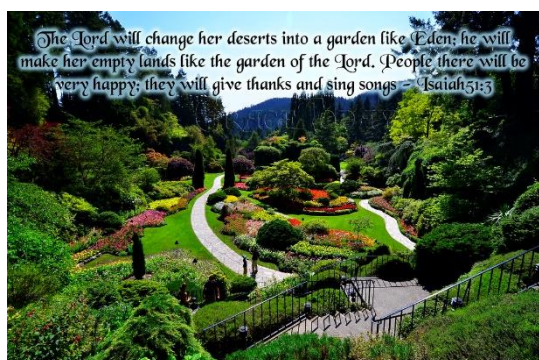
Our Parish Morning Service via Zoom on Sunday at 11.00 a.m. As for every Sunday, the code is

<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 who cannot presently access the service on their computers or smartphones. There are also instructions on how to use the telephone access attached to the email message sent with this weekly letter. If you know of anyone who might like to join in this way, please pass on the relevant information or ask them to contact me.

## 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 Jesus' question to his followers: 'Who do you say I am?' from **Matthew 16.13-20**. In the Old Testament reading from **Isaiah 51.1-6**, we hear God's promise to bring glory to his people, restoring the

desert so that it becomes a garden just like Eden, and bringing justice to all the peoples of the earth. In our reading from Romans, we have reached **Romans 12.1-8**. After Paul's long and wonderful description of the journey of salvation (Chapters 1 -8), and the long interlude in which he attempts to explain the place of the Jewish people within God's greater purposes (Chapters 9-11), we now reach the final section of the letter (Chapters 12-16) in which Paul sets out the ethical and spiritual implications for Christian living in the light of God's great work. God's call to us is both personal and communal: as individual Christians we are to seek God's transformation 'by the renewing of [our] minds'. At the same time we are to recognize God's renewal in the lives of others, rejoicing in the different gifts that he gives to each of us, and seeking to work together to use those gifts for the good of all.



## 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 the Canaanite Woman – which I encourage us to see as a major moment in Jesus' own discovery of God's purposes for him and his unique mission. At first sight, it's a shocking story, but one which repays careful study and thought, as we ask the question of how the very human Jesus portrayed in this passage is also the Son of God – a paradox that has always been at the heart of our faith.



## WORSHIP – A LOOK FORWARD



We've heard much of the Prime Minister's 'roadmap' for the gradual journey out of lockdown into the 'new normal', and I thought it might be helpful to offer our own 'roadmap' for our worship provision on St. Mary's over the next few months. Because of capacity issues within

the Parish Church, as well as because of varying levels of enthusiasm for and anxiety about returning to live worship amongst our regulars, we intend to continue with Zoom worship on Sunday at 11.00 in the morning and the Epilogue at 8.15 in the evening up to and including the first Sunday of October. There will be transitional arrangements (probably by Zoom) for the mornings of October 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>; on October 25<sup>th</sup> I hope that we will be able to meet in the Parish Church for a final Service of the Word; on November 1<sup>st</sup> we are intending to resume our Eucharistic worship. All of this is provisional, and subject both to national and local conditions, and to continuing consultation amongst the members of the PCC and more generally, but I thought it might help you all to know our likely direction of travel. Please do get in touch with any comments or questions about this.

## 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.**

