



WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday July 19th 2020 – Sixth Sunday after Trinity



WELCOME to the latest weekly letter on this Sixth Sunday after Trinity, as the Church continues its journey through 'Ordinary Time'. In our Gospel Reading for this Sunday, we continue to listen to the parables of Jesus, and this time to the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (or as lovers of the King James Bible may know it 'the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares'.) It's a story which tries to explain the puzzle of the world as we know it, where good and evil seem so intertwined together, and it invites us to receive God's truth as **paradox**. If that hasn't put you off, there's more to come in my sermon on Sunday – and a reminder for those who have been unable to access our Sunday worship via Zoom that there is also the option to join on your telephone line.

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

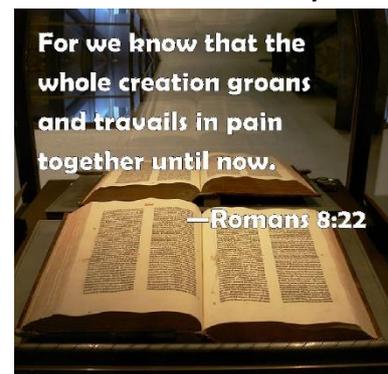
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>.

You will be able to join from 10.30 a.m. and chat to others before we start properly at 11.00 a.m. **Please note that there are times during the service when I am unable to admit you, so it would be helpful if you could join us by 10.55 a.m. if possible.** If you need to join later, you may need to wait for a few minutes until there is a suitable moment for me to admit you. Do feel free to invite your friends or family to join us, wherever they are. It is good that our numbers for this service are still growing, but we have plenty of room for more!

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 we will be continuing our study of the Parables of Jesus by reading **Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43**. But we also continue our reading through St. Paul's great letter to the Romans, this week reaching **Romans 8.12-25**. In this passage, Paul speaks of the promise that the suffering we face today will lead eventually to a full experience



of God's glory, as our bodies are set free from decay. We looked a little at what that mean last week, in Paul's description of the resurrection of the body, but in this passage he goes further, speaking not only about our bodies, but also about the whole creation. As we have become more aware of the great dangers of climate change and the need to preserve the diversity of the species who share this planet with us, these words written nearly 2,000 years ago have gained a new freshness and relevance. We share the



plight of creation – indeed we are at least partly responsible for it; now, through the mystery of God's purpose, the whole creation will be saved and set free from decay together with us. This means that caring for the creation is not just a good

thing to do, but something fundamental to our calling as Christians, and as much a part of a Christian lifestyle as saying our prayers and being kind to one another.

THINKING IT THROUGH

As usual I'm attaching/enclosing a thought provoking article reflecting on the current crisis.

This week it comes from Bishop Sarah Mullaly, the Bishop of London, who in a previous existence was the Chief Nursing Officer for England. She

reflects on mental health issues in the light of the pandemic, and I commend her message to you. I'm also including some mental health guidance that I sent out very early on during lockdown, but which still has some helpful pointers for us as we gradually emerge into the 'new normal'.

I'm also attaching/including my sermon from last Sunday for those who may want to read it. It offers what might be a different 'take' on the Parable of the Sower.



WORSHIP – A REMINDER

In order to respond to the concerns and needs of both regulars and visitors, for at least the next two months, and unless circumstances change dramatically, our principal act of Sunday worship will remain our Zoom service at 11.00 a.m., to which visitors are most welcome. In addition, we are holding an Epilogue service **in the Parish Church**



at 8.15 p.m. (as Old Town Church has very little space for social distancing). This will feature much of the same content as the Zoom service in the morning, so if you Zoom in the morning and come to Church in the evening, just a warning

that you may find the sermon familiar!

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.

Perran

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