



WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday July 5th 2020 – Fourth Sunday after Trinity

WELCOME to the latest weekly letter on this Fourth Sunday after Trinity, as the Church continues its journey through 'Ordinary Time'. In our Gospel Reading for this Sunday, we hear Jesus' command to us to take his yoke upon us, a yoke which he promises is easy to bear. As we consider these words we remember that there are many in the world who continue to bear heavy burdens: burdens of poverty, particularly in the Global South, but also burdens of worry or anxiety, especially as the Coronavirus continues to devastate country after country. Perhaps we too each have burdens that we are bearing at present, burdens that Jesus is ready to share. Perhaps, too, we might be the ones who can share the burdens of others.



Don't forget to keep in touch if there is any way in which I can help you – chaplain@scilly.church / 423911.



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

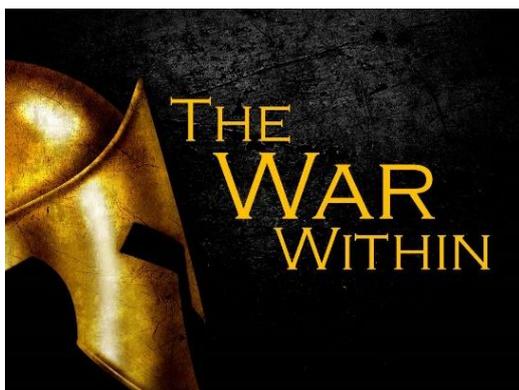
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/477892334?pwd=aWVpWXVidksralpVZm1yUjN6VDg0dz09>. You will be able to join from 10.30 a.m. and chat to others before we start properly at 11.00 a.m. **Please note that there are times during the service when I am unable to admit you, so it would be helpful if you could join 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.

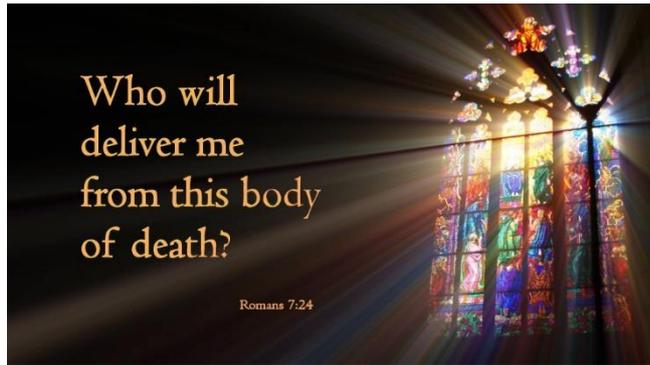
THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS

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 to focus on Jesus's teaching ministry as recorded in **Matthew 11.16-19, 25-30**. But we also continue our reading through St. Paul's great letter to the Romans, this week his



words in **Romans 7.15-25**. He describes the tensions we so often feel between what we should do and what we kind ourselves doing – as if there is a war going on within our very being. 'I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do.'

Some commentators think that this refers to Paul's condition before he became a Christian, and that now he has been set free by Christ from all that. After all, he ends the passage thanking God that Christ will rescue him from his 'body



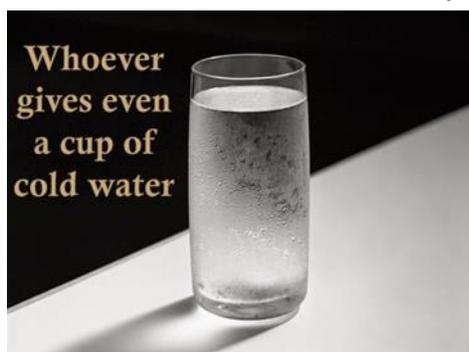
of death'. But I think that a more careful reading puts this deliverance into the future – God **will** rescue me from the complexities of the human condition so that I can be whole in his presence. Paul

knows that his forgiveness is secure in Christ, but he is still acutely aware that during his mortal existence he continues to live with life's complexities. He still knows what it is to do the evil that he doesn't want to do, either because of the competing pull of supernatural forces, or from the unredeemed part of his own being. I hope that we find this encouraging rather than depressing, as we realise that even one of the greatest Christian saints knew the reality of this tension, and that we should expect to know it too, always remembering that we continue to live within God's love and under his mercy.

THINKING IT THROUGH

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

Malcolm Chamberlain, Archdeacon of Sheffield and Rotherham, reflects on the new generosity that the Coronavirus crisis has unlocked within our society. **Rachel Jepson**, a lay member of General Synod, considers some of the implications for education in the 'new normal'.



I'm also attaching/including my sermon from last Sunday for those who may want to read it. It considers Jesus' call to us to be people of welcome, who in welcoming others welcome him.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP – A REMINDER

Just to remind you all of our plans for the next few months, subject to the national and local Covid-19 conditions. From tomorrow (July 6th), we are making the **Old Church on St. Mary's** available to visitors and the local community on Mondays and Thursdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m., and I am grateful to those who have volunteered to supervise this.



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, beginning next Sunday (July 12th), an Epilogue service will be held **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.

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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