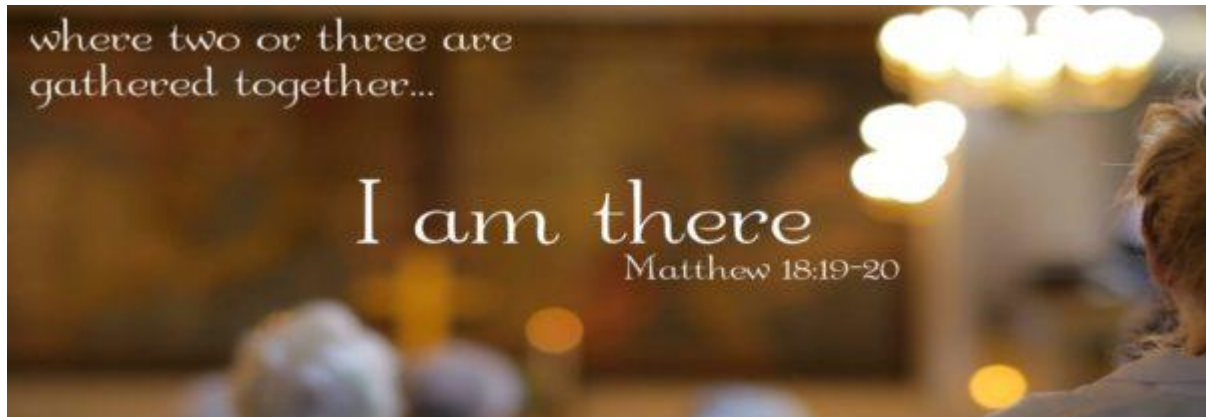




WEEKLY LETTER FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

Sunday September 6th 2020 – 13th Sunday after Trinity

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



In our Gospel Reading for this Sunday, we hear these familiar words of Jesus, which we so often understand in the context of Christian worship: wherever two or three of us come together to worship God, Christ is in the midst of us. I'm sure that it's true that 'God inhabits the praises of his people' as we can read that elsewhere in the Bible (e.g. Psalm 22.3), but interestingly this isn't the context in which Matthew sets these words. Sunday's Gospel is all about Christians falling out with one another, and how they ought to make up: it gives us some detailed directions about resolving disputes within the Church. When we do that, says Jesus, when we find a way through it all and come to an agreement in love, then we will truly know Christ's presence in our midst. More about that in our worship together this week as I 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 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.

Please note that shortly after 11.00 a.m. I will be 'locking' the service, which means that latecomers will be unable to join our worship.

Running the service using Zoom, PowerPoint, iTunes, Word and OneDrive is quite a complicated business involving two computers and three screens, and admitting people while we are listening to music or watching video means interrupting the coverage for everyone. Zoom's latest update has made this more difficult to work around, so once we start on Sunday morning, I won't be able to accept any latecomers. Apologies in advance if you try to join late or if you lose your coverage and try to rejoin – I'll happily share what you have missed at a later date, but you will find yourselves locked out of the live broadcast. Sorry!!

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's directions about dealing with disputes within the Church from **Matthew 18.15-20**. In the Old Testament reading from **Ezekiel 33.7-11**, we hear an Old



Testament precursor to that Gospel passage – it reminds us that God is a God who always wants his children to turn back to him in repentance so that they might receive his forgiveness, and of the

responsibility we have to help on another live faithful lives for God – not to be Christian busybodies interfering with one another's lives of faith, but to be genuine friends, motivated by love, who want the very best that God has to offer for all for whom we care. In our reading from Romans, **Romans 13.8-14**, Paul continues to set out the ethical and spiritual implications for Christian living in the light of the Gospel. As a Jewish Christian who has lived his life according to the law of love, he explores how the law finds its fulfilment in the love of Christ for us, and us for Christ. He also warns us not to put off our seeking that love for ourselves, for now is the moment for us to awake out of sleep, a message that we will be reading again when we come to Advent in just a few months' time.



THINKING IT THROUGH



I'm attaching/including my sermon from last Sunday for those who may want to read it. It is based upon Jesus' prediction of his coming suffering, death and resurrection, and

Peter's reaction to that news.

FUTURE EVENTS

We are hoping to offer a precursor to the reopening of our Charity Shop in a few weeks' time in the form of a **Table Top Sale** outside the Church Pavilion next Saturday 12th September from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. – keep an eye on notices and FaceBook for further details.

Don't forget to make a note of our **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**, arranged for Tuesday 29th September at 9.30 a.m. This is open to everyone on our Parish Electoral Roll – if you are not on the Roll and would like to join it, please contact Karen Phillips (422078) over the next few days.

So far as our worship plans are concerned, just to remind you that 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. On September 20th we look forward to welcoming Bishop Philip as our guest preacher to the Sunday Zoom service. We are aiming to return to Church on Sunday mornings from October 25th – more details later.

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.**

