

The Smestow Vale Team Ministry



St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede Keeping in Touch with our Church Family

Sunday 21st June

Trinity 2

& Father's Day

Faithful Creator
whose mercy never fails:
deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your Living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah cried out: O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,' then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: 'Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!' All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. 'Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.' But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Jeremiah 20-7-13

Jesus warns the Disciples

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction: 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master.'

If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? None of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Matthew 10:24-39

A Reflection for Trinity 2 from William Coles

Whether it's been like the sudden stabbing of a knife or an unsettling 'what-if' anxiety, there can be no

doubt that the Covid-19 pandemic has unleashed much fear in our lives.

Acknowledging these fears, it's good to listen to the bracing words of Jesus 'Do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul' [Matthew 10, vs28]. Addressed to his followers as they face hostility and opposition, Jesus could have been talking about Covid 19. Rather, he calls us to a wholesome fear, reverence for God, the One who judges us truly. The last word belongs not to a cruel virus, nor to those who oppose and obstruct God's work but to the living God whose clear-sighted love notices sparrows falling and counts the hairs on our head. Here is a picture of the depth and detail of God's care. You are valued, cherished by God our Father and nothing can afflict us which takes us outside his love. Our fears do not usually vanish but their debilitating grip on our lives is broken and we can live with courage, trusting the One who holds us in love whatever we face.

Loyalty to Jesus can indeed entail facing severe opposition, a terrible reality for many of our Christian brothers and sisters across the globe today. They know what it is to 'take up the cross' [verse 38]. For some, loyalty to Christ entails ostracism by their communities and rejection by their families, as in verse 35. Take Cheu in Laos, viciously beaten up by his brother and uncle for refusing to renounce Jesus Christ. For Cheu, and for us often so hesitant and awkward to speak of our faith in Jesus, we hear his encouraging command 'Fear not'. May our lives and our words speak of God's kingdom. Lord Jesus Christ, let my life make you known, through my silence and my speech, in ways that will help others trust in you
William

Prayer During the Week

For all Dads'

Sunday

Pray that we may be like Jesus in our discipleship.
(Matthew 10: 25a)

Monday

Pray for all who have non-Covid conditions, that they may resume treatment safely.

Tuesday

Pray for wisdom and care as we start to gather in larger groups.

Wednesday

(Birth of John the Baptist)

Pray that God may be present with all those who have been born in these unusual times. (Luke 1: 66)

Thursday

Pray for equal and fair treatment for all races and cultures.

Friday

Pray for all who feel called to protest, that they may do so safely.

Saturday

Pray that the will of God may be discerned among the many voices.

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Heather Gent, Jean, Margaret Hatton, Margaret Ward, Joy Waistell

Those who have died

Jim Harris, Emily Preece, Dorothy Godwin, George Penk Donald Wadeley and Thelma Cooper.

Sunday Worship

Thank you to Preb Ben from Penn for all the help our Sunday's services. Paul has learnt how to do it ! Don't forget you can both like and share. There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook and on **You Tube** this Sunday.

Share the Good News

You are very welcome to share Keeping in Touch with others. If you know of anyone who would like it emailing to them direct please let Maxine know.

Sunday Worship for Trinity 2 10.45am BBC 1

Please join in prayer and worship on Sunday. A service for Father's Day from Holy Trinity Platt Church in Manchester led by the Rector, Rev Dr Paul Mathole

Stewardship Envelopes

Thank you to everyone who is saving up their weekly Stewardship Envelopes. They are important to us as despite very careful management we still have bills to pay.

St Benedict's Open for Private Prayer

St Benedict's is open for private prayer. Special arrangements have been put in place and it is important that we maintain 2m social distancing.

