

Stainton, Kilton and Brookfield parishes

**4TH SUNDAY AFTER
TRINITY - 5TH JULY 20**

WELCOME

Thought for the day

To all who are weary with carrying heavy burdens in life, Jesus offers rest for our souls and unthreatening relief

COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

The book of the prophet Zechariah. ch9.9-12

Zechariah gives us a clear image of peace and humility. A triumphant king on a donkey, totally in touch with ordinary people and their needs. A king who is unimpressed with the worldly idea of wealth and power. A picture Jesus made his own.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle-bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

PSALM 145.8-15

I will exalt you, O God my king, and bless your name for ever.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is loving to everyone and his compassion is over all his works.

All your works praise you, O Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power;

That the peoples may know of your power and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and merciful in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all those who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down.

Paul's letter to the Romans. Ch 7.15-25a

Paul is baring his soul. It is part of the human situation that at times we know the right but we do the wrong. Thank God for Jesus

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no

longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. Ch. 11.16-19, 25-30

The Jesus we find in this reading is completely in keeping with the discernment of the Old Testament writers who had waited on God and trusted him. Jesus' welcoming offer is not to do with the endless strict rules of the Pharisees, rather He offers relief and rest for our souls. With sorrow he likens the religious leaders of his day to a bunch of quarrelsome children unable to take advantage of what God was doing in their lifetime.

At that time Jesus said, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not

dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYERS

Father as we prepare to open our church buildings we pray that your church may always be open to receive your love, coming humbly and simply into your presence, knowing our dependence on you and rejoicing in it.

Please remember to pray for all who are working to open our buildings safely. For those involved in the search for a new priest to lead these parishes

Father we pray for world leaders and their governments. Let them come to know that strength of authority does not come through force and domination but through co-operation and mutual respect.

Please remember here all the countries and people who are facing hunger, war, and disease in our world today.

Father we pray for all who cry out for rest and relief from all the troubles that wear them down.

All whose poverty denies them the fullness of life that you wish for us all. We pray too for all whose wealth denies them the chance of knowing their need of you.

Please pray here for Food Banks and Charities in this country, and Voluntary agencies and Aid agencies in many lands. For all people who risk their lives for strangers.

Father we pray for those who are ill in body, mind or spirit. Give them healing and peace.

We continue to pray for all Carers and all who work in public services ; give them the strength and support of knowing how valuable their work is to us all.

Many unsung heroes , the NHS, the Police and Armed forces, Public health workers, refuse collectors and so many others,

We pray for all who have died recently, both those well known to us and those dying unknown and often unnoticed all over the world.

Especially the many children who die each day for the lack of basic care, food or clean water.

Father teach us to trust more and more in your

truth, enable us to see the true worth of what the world considers essential and help us always to rejoice in your freedom.

This is a Fable but thought provoking in this time of COVID lockdown:-

There was a man who spent his whole life longing to go to heaven. When he died he was taken on a tour of the most beautiful places he had ever seen . Misty lavender coloured mountains and sparkling streams flowing between banks of bright coloured flowers, magnificent forests with tall trees and wide calm lakes, lush green meadows peaceful in the golden sunshine, and awe inspiring waterfalls, foaming and crashing down on the rocks beneath .

" How beautiful it all is" he exclaimed "this must be heaven " " Oh no" replied his guide "This is the world you lived in but were too preoccupied to see"

I used to want a lot of things, and then I realised that God had given me everything I ever wanted , except I had been too foolish to see
Rabbi Lionel Blue

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