



Sunday
July 26th 2020

SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER TRINITY

10.15am Eucharist
Celebrated at home by
the Vicar on behalf
of us all

Message from Fr Kevin

In his parables, Jesus likens the Kingdom of God to treasure hidden in a field and to a pearl of great price, that we should be prepared to sacrifice everything else for it. Jesus likens the Kingdom to an insignificant tiny mustard seed hidden in earth, but which in time will grow to become the largest tree in the garden. We are to seek the priceless treasure of the Kingdom, hidden in plain sight, in the circumstances of our day to day lives; to sow well now through faithful obedience, in order to reap the Kingdom, remembering that whatever is sown now, we will one day reap as our destiny.

Notices

Our team have been busy, working through the substantial amount of official guidance and putting into place the necessary provisions and protocols to enable St Paul's to re-open for worship as safely and as soon as possible. Every church is different and enabling our re-opening is far more complex and detailed than might first appear. With the Bishop's encouragement we are taking the necessary time to get it right; he has emphasised that opening from 4 July was always permissive and not prescriptive. We also need to continue to provide for our new online congregation and for our regular members who may feel unable to worship in church. Nevertheless, we expect to restart a weekly service with a said Eucharist at **10.15am on Sunday 2nd August**. We thank you for your patience and will provide further details next week. *(Fr Kevin)*

Spire subscriptions for 2020/21 are now due. Please use the payment slip attached to the weekly news email.

We have started Morning Prayer by Zoom at 9am Monday to Friday. Details of how to log-in to join the meetings, including password and links are included again on your weekly email.

There is a Disasters Emergency Appeal on behalf of Coronavirus support in the third world. The Outward Giving Committee is to donate £200. If you would also like to give please donate directly through Christian Aid at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/coronavirus-emergency-appeal>

Readings for Sixth Sunday After Trinity

Old Testament

1 Kings 3:5-12

3:5 At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." 3:6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. 3:7 And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. 3:8 And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted.

3:9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" 3:10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 3:11 God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right,

3:12 I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

New Testament

Romans 8:26-39

8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. 8:27 And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

8:28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. 8:30 And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

8:31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 8:32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 8:33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

8:34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. 8:35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 8:36 As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

8:37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 8:38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 8:39 nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

13:31 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; 13:32 it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

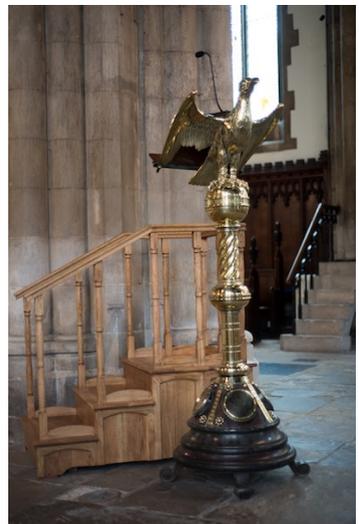
13:33 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

13:45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 13:46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. 13:47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 13:48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 13:49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 13:50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13:51 "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes."

13:52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."



Useful links for services online and broadcast schedules

For those with access to the internet St Albans Cathedral is running regular live streaming of service found here:

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/live-streaming-at-st-albans-cathedral> .

Collect for the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things:

Graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God now and for ever.



For your prayers

- Daily:** Simon Parker
Yvonne Parker
Maurice Leusby
David Butson
Marion Ridgeway
Sarah Chatwin
John Hartup
- Mon:** Susan Middleton
Dorothy Holland
Patricia Ffolkes
Michael Bartlett
- Tue:** Andrew Fensome
Peter Snook
Margaret Brown
- Wed:** Pamela & Peter Brown
Deirdre Pearson
Ray Edwards
Tom Roy
- Thurs:** Akhmat Jan
Heike Kreuer
David Price
- Fri:** Wendy Goss
- Sat:** Frederik Arvidsson
Simon Baynes
Peter Haslett
- RIP** Ian Taylor
Martin Harris
Eddie Hownam
Barbara Darnell

Year's mind:

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| Eric Yevana Decloedt | 27th |
| Judith West | 27th |
| Lucy Evelyn Hay | 28th |
| Calan James Hampton | 28th |
| Helen McNamee | 29th |
| Norma Threadgold | 29th |
| Jane Western | 31st |
| Dylan Chalker | 1st |