

Newsletter 2nd August 2020

Musings

On 25th July it was the day of James the Apostle. James the fisherman (Matt 4:21) who was killed by Herod (Acts 12 1-2). In my last church there was a stained glass window portraying James. It was the oldest window in the church and believed to be 14th century. Apparently, James was a common subject of medieval stained glass. It was a small window, a slit really. It was a leper window. Before it was glazed it would have been just an open slit in the wall and it was placed at such an angle that, if you looked in from outside you would be able to see the altar. *This window was for lepers. Lepers, who were not allowed to mix with society because leprosy was believed to be very contagious, could, through the gap, watch the Mass taking place even though they were not allowed to be part of the service.*

Jesus, however, didn't shun lepers, he spoke to them and he healed them (Luke 17:11-14). But Jesus didn't shun any outsiders, at times he actively sought them out. He invited himself to dinner with Zacchaeus, the tax collector (Luke 19: 1-6), he accepted the woman of ill-repute who poured perfume on his feet, washed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair (Luke 7:36-47) and he pardoned the woman caught in adultery (John 8:10-11). He even made a tax collector one of his disciples (Matt 10:2-4). This was Jesus' example to us, but, I wonder, how often do we seek out the marginalised, the problem filled, the outsider, those who are just different. We like people who are like us, it's human nature. It's easier to talk to those with whom we have something in common. But we have something in common with all God's people. He made us all in his image (Gen 1:27). God loves all of us and he wants all of us to know him and love him. Do we, as Christians, sometimes give the impression that we belong to an exclusive club or do we make sure that everyone knows that God's door is always open and that all are welcome? Do we sometimes leave people watching through the leper window?

Sandra

Services

St Michael and All Angels

Sunday 9.00am Holy Communion

St Nicholas

Sunday 10.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 11.15am – 12.15am Open for Private Prayer

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Sunday	10.30am	Holy Communion
Monday, Saturday	12.00noon	Mid-day Pause
Tuesday, Thursday,		
Friday	12.00noon	Mid-day Prayer
Wednesday	10.30am	Morning Worship

Youtube

Sunday morning Holy Communion will be uploaded later that day.

We hear on the news daily of companies which are closing or reducing their workforce, please remember in your prayers those who have lost their jobs and those whose future employment is uncertain.

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear." (Psalm 46:1-2a)

We pray especially this week for; Walter and Joyce Thornley, John Baxter, John Fowler, Tini and Perez, Peter, Lisa and Family, and for the families of Muriel Wheeler, Judy Fox, Anne Dobson, June Sanders and Ron Hincks.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and for evermore Amen

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