

The Rector's Ramblings: Living our lives to the fullest – May 2021

Dear Friends

I am writing this the day after we received the news of the death of HRH Prince Philip, and the news that his funeral, like so many others in the past year will be considerably smaller than we would have wanted or expected. Perhaps it is a good reminder that in death we are all equal, and all of us, whether a Prince or Pauper, each must make that last final journey on our own.

As people of faith however, we believe that our death is not the end, but is in fact the beginning of something far greater, a time when all our doubts and questions are finally answered, all our concerns and worries are laid down, and we can truly be free and surrounded by the loving embrace of the God who created us and knew us before we were even born (*c.f. Psalm 139*).

And although none of us knows when we will be finally called home to God, whether we will have many years or decades, or just a few short hours or days, as the Priest and Spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, reminds us “far more important than our quantity of years is the quality of our lives. Jesus died young. St. Francis died young. St. Thérèse of Lisieux died young, Martin Luther King, Jr., died young. We do not know how long we will live, **but this not knowing calls us to live every day, every week, every year of our lives to its fullest potential.**”

In our churches during May we continue to try to live our lives well, to continue to celebrate Easter, after all you cannot have too much of a good thing! In fact Easter remains on our hearts and minds all the way through to Pentecost on the 23rd May when we then give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit and is considered to be ‘The Birthday of the Church’ the point when the disciples and first followers of Jesus began to spread out across the world proclaiming the Good News that with Christ’s resurrection, death had been beaten, and that our end isn’t really the end after all, and we are therefore able to live fully all that days that are given to us.

May God bless you, your families, and your neighbours, and may all our endings be new beginnings.

Mark

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