

St Martin of Tours

Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs

Langley Vale

The parish of
St Martin of Tours
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter

Registered Charity Number: 1134149

Sunday 25th July 2021 – James the Apostle

Dear Friends,

St. James was someone who could combine theological theory with real world application. So he wrote that salvation is found in faith in Christ, that faith is dead without action. It is an enduring reminder to the Church not to live in its head and always look inwards – the ‘holy huddle’ – but likewise not to be so ‘out there’ it forgets its core message. Our faith is expressed in worship and in community engagement. This balance makes for a vibrant and attractive Church; one that makes a real difference in its community, and provides people with meaningful worship.

Nick Parish

THIS WEEK

Sunday 25th July – James the Apostle

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen’s – led by Nick Parish
- 10.00am – Morning Praise at St Martin’s, in Church and live streamed – led by Ruth Foxcroft
- 11.00am – Baptism of Daniel & Thomas at St Stephen’s – led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – NO SERVICE

Thursday 29th July

- 10.00am – Holy Communion– led by Andris Abakuks

FUTURE SERVICES

Sunday 1st August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen’s – led by David Candlin
- 10.00am – Holy Communion at St Martin’s, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish
- 12.00pm – Baptism of Oliver at St Martin’s – led by David Candlin
- 6.30pm – NO SERVICE

Evening Prayer during August

Evening Prayer has been held using Zoom since April 2020. For the duration of August, anyone who wishes to join should contact Alexander Rennie for details using the following email address:

alexanderrennie@yahoo.co.uk

John Syrad, formerly Verger of St Martin's

Holy Communion at 10.00am on Thursday 5th August will be offered in memory of John Syrad, our former verger, who passed away last year. All who knew John are invited to attend and refreshments will be served afterwards. **David Candlin**

Evening and Choral Services over the summer

Please note that the choir are currently taking their summer break, and evening services have been suspended. Both will be resuming on September 5th. Likewise, there will not be any choral services during that time.



DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS

Creationtide

Advance notice that from Sunday September 5th to Sunday October 3rd we will be observing this season of the Church year. A programme of events, bible study, guest speakers, music and an eco-fair is being planned. Details to follow.

Covid Safe measures from July 19th

We can now make some changes to our practice:

1. Masks – we ask people to wear these whilst moving around the Church, but they may remove them if they wish when sitting down.
2. Hand sanitising – we have moved the station currently at the nave altar to the entrance – thus having two places as people enter – and removed the need to sanitise before receiving the communion bread.
3. We have removed the one-way system.
4. Weekly refreshments will be re-introduced from September 5th.
5. Congregational singing will gradually be re-introduced, up to full resumption from September 5th.

The above is, of course, subject to any changes mandated by government in the meantime!

Sunday 1 August: St Martin's Choir sings at Guildford Cathedral

After over a year's disruption to singing together, we are thrilled that St Martin's Choir will sing the services at Guildford cathedral on Sunday 1 August.

Many of you will recall that, prior to the pandemic, the choir enjoyed a programme of termly musical excursions to sing at Winchester, Chichester, Rochester and Southwark cathedrals. It will be a particular pleasure to visit our diocesan cathedral next month, and we'd be delighted to see you there too, if you can make it. Details of the services are as follows:

09.45 Sung Eucharist -including music by Richard Shephard and Felton Rapley

18.00 Choral Evensong -including music by Sumsion, Dyson and Stanford

Iain will be playing the organ for us as usual, and we certainly intend to 'make a joyful noise' together on behalf of you all!

Richard Dacey



Our ministry for children.

Ark will resume regular meetings from Sunday September 5th. There will also be a new group for slightly older children (year 4+). Both groups will meet during the 10am service. Please pray that they will prosper and nurture faith in the youngest members of our congregation.

For these groups to work additional adult helpers are urgently required. This will not be a weekly commitment and any preparation will be minimal given the resources we use. If you can offer help please contact:



Yvonne (07717 651123 stmartinsark@outlook.com) for Ark or
Graeme (01372 741746 graemelodge@hotmail.co.uk) for the older group.

STEWARDSHIP

Donation Station

We now have the equipment in Church to take card donations. This is located just behind the pews on the right-hand side of St Martin's.

The process is simple – you choose the giving campaign, the amount you wish to donate and then use your contactless card; you can also gift aid your donation using the machine.

The following giving options have been added onto the Donation Station:

- Cards
- Refreshments

So if you purchase a card or would like to make a donation for refreshments when they resume in September you can use your debit card for this.

Please do not hesitate to speak to David or John on a Sunday or Gina or Nicky in the office who will be able to help you.

Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit.

To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below

There is also a "Donate" button on our website.



Thank you for your continued giving directly and via online giving.

Cheques to St Martins

If you would like to give a cheque donation to St Martin's Church, please can you make the cheque payable to:

The PCC of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Epsom

Many thanks.

OTHER NOTICES

David and Nancy moving to the West Midlands

As I come to the end of my curacy at St Martin's, it's a joy to tell you that my next post will be as Team Rector of Bloxwich, a town in the West Midlands near Wolverhampton. Bloxwich is a large parish of 20,000 people served by three CoE churches in the Team Ministry - I will be rector of All Saints on the High Street. There are two churches on the housing estates on the edge of the town, which my soon-to-be colleague Rev Chris Ward looks after. There are five primary schools (two of which are Church of England) and a secondary school in the parish - lots to keep me busy! No date has been set yet for the move or my licensing - but I imagine it might be in late September. I'll keep you posted!

David Candlin

Contested Heritage

You may be aware that the Church of England is encouraging churches and cathedrals to look at aspects of contested heritage - for example, monuments in and around the building which are linked to slavery. There are guidelines about this on their website. The PCC has been discussing the matter, as there are several cases within the grounds of St Martin's church. PCC members have written papers, and first-hand accounts (from previous centuries) have also been researched. Recently, on Radio 4, I came across a series called 'Descendants': "Descendants looks into our lives and our pasts and asks how we are connected to slavery. And, in turn, who does that mean our lives are connected to?" I recommend listening to as many of them as you wish, as they offer often surprising viewpoints on the matter!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wdgh>.

Helen Williams

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

HOME

Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network

Epsom and Ewell Refugee Network help refugees and asylum seekers in this area with support and guidance. They connect with people and organisations who can help with English classes, housing, clothing, food and other essential needs and also organising social events. They collect goods and donations to help all Refugees in the UK and Abroad.

Jill Chapman

ABROAD

USPG

The United Society of Partners in the Gospel are the Anglican mission agency that partners churches and communities worldwide in God's mission to enliven faith, strengthen relationships, unlock potential and champion justice.

St Martins Mission and Outreach make a donation through USPG specifically to South India.

Meg Topley

Can you please hold these Mission areas in your Prayers – Thank you

Parish Office Opening Hours throughout August up to and including the 3rd September.

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

10.00am to 12.00pm

Mondays the office will be closed for August only.



CONTACT US

Parish Office:

Church House, Church Street, Epsom,

KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567

E-mail: stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com

Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org

The Revd Nick Parish – Vicar – 01372 743336

Email: vicar@stmartinsepsom.org

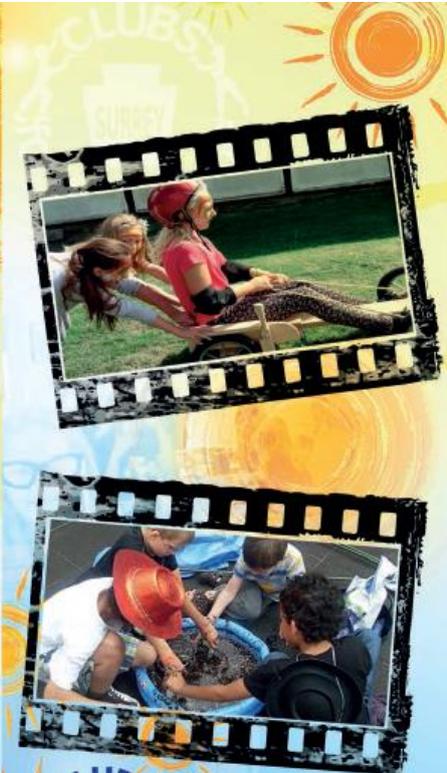
The Revd David Candlin – Curate - 07723 849 477

Email: revcandlin@gmail.com

The Revd Canon Adrian Esdaile - Priest in Retirement - 01372 723770

Email: esdaileadrian@yahoo.co.uk

**(available for Contemplative Prayer, Counsel,
Spiritual Direction and the Healing Ministry)**



Ages 7 to 10 **FREE** SUMMER FUN AND ACTIVITIES

11am-3pm

**The Bridge Youth Centre – Leatherhead
The Edge Youth Centre – Epsom**

**To reserve a place visit www.scyp.co.uk
or email admin@scyp.co.uk**



Priority places will be given to children who are pre-registered. However you are welcome to turn up on any of the Summer Project Days and register your child/children then. Please note priority places will be allocated to those living nearby according to our Admissions Policy.



FREE COOL ACTIVITIES ON HOT SUMMER DAYS 11-17 year olds welcome

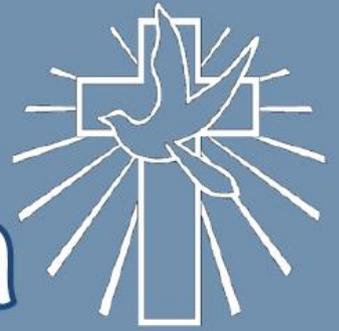
4-8pm

- * Sunbury Youth Centre ***
- * Leacroft Youth Centre ***
- * The Bridge Youth Centre ***
- * The Edge Youth Centre ***

**To reserve a place visit www.scyp.co.uk
or email admin@scyp.co.uk**

Priority places will be given to children who are pre-registered. However you are welcome to turn up on any of the Summer Project Days and register your child/children then. Please note priority places will be allocated to those living nearby according to our Admissions Policy.

Christ Church Epsom Common



GUARDIANS OF **ANCORA** HOLIDAY CLUB

Date:

Monday 2nd August - Friday 6th August

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Where: Christ Church, Epsom Common

Book your place **now** by downloading a Registration Form from

[https://www.christchurchepsom.org.uk/event-details/
guardians-of-ancora-holiday-club-1](https://www.christchurchepsom.org.uk/event-details/guardians-of-ancora-holiday-club-1)

or email Jen @ yfw@christchurchepsom.org.uk

Become a **Guardian of Ancora** and help find and return the wonderful story-treasure items to the Hall of Memory. Each day the Guardians will learn more about Jesus and the amazing things he did through with craft, cooking, games and much more! Also interactive game available via App.

Open to children currently in Reception - Year 6.

Fee £35 including Guardian t-shirt

(This event takes place with applicable Covid Restrictions)

Latest message from Chris Shortt at Food Bank

A huge thanks, as always, for your continued support.

Wishlist: This week we need help with:

Epsom &
Ewell
foodbank
HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS



Urgent:

- Powdered Milk
- Custard
- Mayonaise
- Milk UHT (SS & FF)
- Coffee

- Longlife Sponge Puddings
- Honey
- Crisps and treats for children
- Bags for life

Wanted:

- Noodles
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned Vegetable
- Squash
- Instant Mash
- Hot Chocolate
- Tinned Meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc)
- Pasta/beans with meat
- Tinned fish
- Sugar
- Jam
- Shower gel
- Biscuits

- Washing up liquid
- Tinned soup
- Spaghetti in sauce
- Household Cleaning Products
- Adult toothpaste
- Kids Toothbrushes
- Shampoo
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned potatoes
- Ketchup/brown Sauce
- Nappies – size 5, 6, 6+ and 7
- Pull-ups – size 6, 6+, 7 and toddler training pants

Please, no more donations of the following items at this time: pasta, tampons, marmalade, cat/dog food, spam/corned beef, adult toothbrushes.

You can donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank, Generation Resource Centre, (Behind West Ewell Primary School), Ruxley Lane, Ewell, KT19 0JG

Donation Drop Off Times: Monday to Friday 9am – 2pm

*** PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL DONATIONS ARE SEALED, IN DATE AND DO NOT CONTAIN ALCOHOL ***

Can't get to the shops? You could text to make a small donation, send us a supermarket delivery to the address above, or contact us about sponsoring some fresh fruit & veg!

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT2** to donate £2

Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5

Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15

Kind regards, Chris Shortt

Text **FOODBANKGIFT3** to donate £3

Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10

Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify
and govern both our hearts and
bodies
in the ways of your laws and the
works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and
soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 4:42-end

A reading from the second book of Kings.

A man came bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

PSALM Psalm 145:10-19

R *You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs.*

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

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. **R**

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. **R**

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due
season.

You open wide your hand
and satisfy the needs of every living
creature. **R**

The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works.
The Lord is near to those who call upon
him,
to all who call upon him faithfully. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:14-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven
and on earth takes its name. I pray
that, according to the riches of his
glory, he may grant that you may be
strengthened in your inner being with
power through his Spirit, and that Christ
may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded
in love. I pray that you may have the
power to comprehend, with all the
saints, what is the breadth and length
and height and depth, and to know the
love of Christ that surpasses knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the
fullness of God. Now to him who by
the power at work within us is able to
accomplish abundantly far more than all
we can ask or imagine, to him be glory
in the church and in Christ Jesus to all
generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL John 6:1-21

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

Jesus went to the other side of the
Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of
Tiberias. A large crowd kept following
him, because they saw the signs that
he was doing for the sick. Jesus went
up the mountain and sat down there
with his disciples. Now the Passover,
the festival of the Jews, was near.
When he looked up and saw a large
crowd coming towards him, Jesus said
to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread
for these people to eat?" He said this
to test him, for he himself knew what
he was going to do. Philip answered
him, "Six months' wages would not buy
enough bread for each of them to get

a little." One of his disciples, Andrew,
Simon Peter's brother, said to Jesus,
"There is a boy here who has five barley
loaves and two fish. But what are they
among so many people?" Jesus said,
"Make the people sit down." Now
there was a great deal of grass in the
place; so they sat down, about five
thousand in all. Then Jesus took the
loaves, and when he had given thanks,
he distributed them to those who were
seated; so also the fish, as much as
they wanted. When they were satisfied,
he told his disciples, "Gather up the
fragments left over, so that nothing
may be lost." So they gathered them
up, and from the fragments of the five
barley loaves, left by those who had
eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When
the people saw the sign that he had
done, they began to say, "This is indeed
the prophet who is to come into the
world." When Jesus realized that they
were about to come and take him by
force to make him king, he withdrew
again to the mountain by himself.
When evening came, his disciples went
down to the lake, got into a boat, and
started across the lake to Capernaum.
It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet
come to them. The lake became rough
because a strong wind was blowing.
When they had rowed about three or
four miles, they saw Jesus walking on
the lake and coming near the boat, and
they were terrified. But he said to them,
"It is I; do not be afraid." Then they
wanted to take him into the boat, and
immediately the boat reached the land
towards which they were going.

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the
tokens of your love shine with the
light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been
fed with your body be refreshed with
the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

Sunday Homily

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

25 JULY 2021

YEAR B

“He looked up and saw a large crowd
coming towards him.”

John 6:5

Illustration

Towards the end of the film of *The Railway Children*, from the book written in 1906, by Edith Nesbit, the young people hurry through the countryside to the railway station, wondering at some momentous event which they suspect is in the offing. When the train comes to a standstill, through the steam issuing from the engine, they see a figure standing alone. Roberta, the eldest child, can hardly believe her eyes. After all this long time without him... there he is... she hurls herself along the platform shouting, “Daddy...!” All her dreams had come to fruition, her faith rewarded, all her anxieties could be put aside. There he was, at last, her Daddy. No more need to worry about him and his fate, and their family’s future. They would be together again. Her mother would no longer be lonely, the little children no longer lost without him and Roberta herself would feel secure. Daddy would make their lives complete, he would ensure that they never went hungry again and fill the empty space that his absence had created in their hearts and in their lives. In spite of his long absence, he had not forgotten them.

Gospel Teaching

The people of Israel longed for the Messiah to come, but expected only prophets, because they were all that God had sent to them so far. But how could the Messiah come when the Romans inhabited the land God had given them? Elisha had provided for God’s people through miraculous actions. Numerous other prophets had drawn the people back to God when other diversions had arisen and they had taken other paths, mostly leading to conflict and pain. In this period of cruel occupation people had run to John the Baptist for reassurance and evidence that God had not forgotten his people, but then John was killed.

To whom could they turn, but to the man who seemed so much more than just another prophet? Here was one who could rescue the diseased from their ailments, who offered reassurance of God’s love for them and security to those rejected by the religious authorities as unfit for Temple worship. And Jesus fed them. He fed their minds with the truth, fed their hearts with the compassion he preached and lived, and fed their bodies with nourishment created by a miracle.

They ran to this man expecting a prophet as of old but, because they were prepared to believe, they received the gifts which only God could give them. This was the God whom Jesus referred to as his Father, and who then proved through Jesus that he was indeed the Father of all. Later, with his friends, Jesus would also demonstrate his power over the elements of water, time and space, but the crowd would not be present then. But for the time being they had received what they needed: the reassurance that, in spite of all that had gone before and the present burden of foreign invasion, God had not forgotten them. Their continuing faith had brought this man to them and his availability to them in their dire need was their proof.

Application

Where do we find our comfort, our reassurance, in these days of increasing secularism and continuing conflict? We now know more about God than the crowds fed by Jesus because our knowledge is filtered through the wonder of the resurrection. We know what God is really like because Jesus told us and showed the extent of God's love for us in all of his actions. Jesus told us to call his Father "Abba", which means "Daddy". No longer is God to be the stern and authoritarian patriarch of the ancient times, one who filled the world with awe and anxiety. God became the Father upon whose knee the insecure might find comfort, the weary would find rest and the hungry would be fed from his hand. While remaining the Lord of all creation, in majesty and power, God demonstrated a loving parenthood more encompassing than anything we could even imagine, bending to earth to nurture the little and the lost and give hope to all who turn their faces heavenwards.

Since Jesus, we are no longer alone. Our strength comes not only from bread, hope and guesswork. We have seen the face of God, and the actions of the Almighty, in the person of Jesus. To know him is to know the extent of God, to have the totality of God and the kingdom of heaven among us.

MONDAY**26 JULY**

Exodus 32:15-24.

30-34

Psalm 106:19-23

Matthew 13:31-35

TUESDAY**27 JULY**

Exodus 33:7-11;

34:5-9. 28

Psalm 103:8-12

Matthew 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY**28 JULY**

Exodus 34:29-end

Psalm 99

Matthew 13:44-46

THURSDAY**29 JULY**

Exodus 40:16-21.

34-end

Psalm 84:1-6

Matthew 13:47-53

FRIDAY**30 JULY**

Leviticus 23:1. 4-11.

15-16. 27. 34-37

Psalm 81:1-8

Matthew 13:54-end

SATURDAY**31 JULY**

Leviticus 25:1. 8-17

Psalm 67

Matthew 14:1-12

REFLECTION

God is holy and abhors sin but is also merciful and forgiving, characteristics which are difficult to hold together as our Old Testament readings reflect. God longs to build a relationship with the Israelites, but a holy God requires a holy people and so the Lord gives them the Law to teach them how to live. However, they cannot live up to God's standards. Even while Moses is receiving the Law, they are making an idol to worship.



God is incensed at their sin but still shows mercy. The Israelites are given another chance and receive fresh tablets of the Law. But they cannot come close to the Lord, too vast is the gulf between them and the Holy One. Instead God communicates through an intermediary, Moses, who so radiates God's glory after being with the Lord that he must wear a veil because the Israelites cannot look on such holiness.

It is not until Jesus' death on the cross that sin is finally dealt with and the chasm between God and humanity overcome. As the apostle Paul writes, when one turns to Christ, "the veil is removed" (2 Corinthians 3:16). How blessed are we that we can all now draw near to God!

PRAYER

Dear Lord, help us to fully appreciate your forgiveness and understand that we can now approach your throne with boldness, because of what Christ has done. When we struggle to let go of guilt and be confident in your forgiveness, please help us to know your healing.

PART II – THE EARLY CHURCH TO THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD

When Constantine adopted Christianity as the official Roman religion, the Eucharist moved from private homes into the public sphere, became influenced by court ceremonial and eventually took place in specially designed buildings. Extemporaneous prayers led by the presiding bishop expanded to include the text we know as the Sanctus (beginning “Holy, holy, holy, Lord...”) as well as an account of the Last Supper, the institution narrative, following 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, augmented by prayers that those present might benefit from the sacrament.

As the public nature of worship drew ever larger crowds, the elements of bread and wine gained increasing centrality as the locus for Christ’s presence. This precipitated the introduction of specific prayers for their consecration, that they become Christ’s body and blood. The Roman rite introduced these into the long Eucharistic prayer before the institution narrative, but the Eastern Church also added an extra petition for the descent of the Spirit, called the *epiclesis*. For the West the story of institution was considered to be all that was required; for the East the *epiclesis* was also necessary. Thus liturgies began to diverge.

Reverence before Christ present in bread and wine flourished, prompting major changes in practice, including the addition of fresh symbolic gestures, though the general congregation began to receive communion less frequently. Shifting the altar table from its central position among the people to a separate, screened-off space heralded increasing exclusivity. Only those deemed worthy were now graced by reception of the sacred elements.

While initially only bishops presided at the Eucharist, as Christianity spread local priests took over the role. By the medieval period priests were praying the liturgy for and not with the people, using Latin, a language the majority didn’t understand, saying the most sacred texts inaudibly, often out of sight. The congregation was reduced to passive observers who received communion twice a year only, and even then they were denied the wine in case it was spilled. Matters were ripe for change.

LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
Caroline Hodgson
and
Heather Smith



Eighth week
after Trinity

Monday 26 July to
Saturday 31 July
2021

WEEK

At a crossroads

Julian Smith *reflects on* Matthew 20:20-28

Today we are at the crossroads where two ways meet.

The first way is that of Jesus, outlined in today's Gospel. The mother of James and John asks Jesus if they can have first dibs at seats in glory. The other disciples are angry, so Jesus spells out the facts of life in living his way. Conventional certainties are stood on their head and greatness comes through serving others. "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve," and the same is true for all who follow his way.

The second is the Way of St James, the Camino de Santiago. On this weekend each year tens of thousands of people gather in Santiago de Compostela, the burial place of St James, to celebrate Spain's patron saint. Many of them walk the Camino to get there, following one of the "ways" that spider-web across the map of Europe. In doing so they experience a different way of living, a fellowship of mutual support and encouragement. On the Camino de Santiago walkers begin to experience the way of Jesus.

Always we are called to live at another crossroads, the crossroads where the way of Jesus meets the way of the world. The world can be hostile and unforgiving, yet we are called to a way of life that brings the light of Christ into the darkness of hearts and lives – the way of service. ☺



Jesus, you call us not to be served but to serve; walk with us on our journey of faith. Give us grace to support and encourage our fellow pilgrims as we follow your way in a harsh and unforgiving world. Amen.

Making Ordinary Time anything but

by Caroline Hodgson

To round off this exercise in thinking about the "ordinary" side of life, think of Ordinary Time as a drink of water, and a feast day as a glass of wine. Jesus said: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me," and he also turned water

into wine. a glass of wine might be a real pleasure – but we all know the dangers of over-indulging, and it's no substitute for a long, life-giving drink of water.

We can't live in a permanent state of festivity, or it becomes deeply unhealthy. Ordinary Time makes up most of our lives, so let's find cause to celebrate and thank God for it. Let's also resolve that nothing we do will ever be dull or flat, and keep searching for ways to make every single second as extra-ordinary and remarkable as Christmas, Easter and birthday rolled into one, enlivened by the intoxicating fizz of the Holy Spirit. ☺

International Tiger Day

by Lisa Tulfer

Thursday is International Tiger Day. The day was instituted in 2010 at the St Petersburg Tiger Summit where, with tiger numbers below four thousand globally, governments of tiger-populated countries committed to doubling that figure by 2020. This didn't happen.

There are two main threats to tiger populations. One is

poaching for the illegal trade in body parts. Used in traditional medicine and luxury home décor, this is a multi-billion dollar international trade which involves organised crime. The other is habitat loss – tigers are now restricted to just seven per cent of their historic range across Asia, and populations are down over ninety-five per cent since the start of the twentieth century. There are now more tigers in captivity in the USA than living in the wild worldwide.

The largest of the big cats, and with stripes as individually unique as fingerprints, the tiger is an icon of our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation. ☺

“Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 2:5



IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

JESUS IS  GENEROUS!

Jesus made sure everyone had more than enough to eat.



Dad is making Sky a jam sandwich.

Can you put these pictures in the right order?

Jesus wants to make sure all the people who have come to see him have something to eat. Only one boy has brought some food with him. He has five barley loaves and two fish. Jesus blesses this food and shares it between five thousand people! There are even twelve baskets of food left after everyone is full.

Hidden message

Cross out the letters X Y and Z to reveal the words.

♥ JXKEYSZUS
 GZIYVZES YUXS
 ZEVYEN MXOZRZE
 XTHYAZN ZWZE
 XYNEZEXD. ♥

Sandwich sudoku

Can you complete the grid so that every row, column and mini grid each has **one sandwich ingredient?**

How many?

The apostles are collecting baskets of left-overs. Add together all the baskets. How many can you count?



One boy has some food to share.

How many fish does he have?



How many barley loaves?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for being generous with your love. Help me to be generous too. Amen.