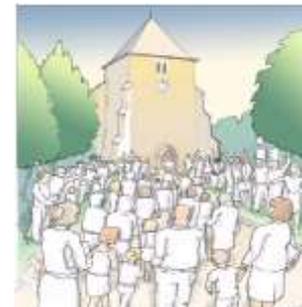


St. Mary's Weekly Newsletter



Dear Friends,

I do hope that everyone continues to remain safe and well. This week has seen the 75th Anniversary of the Allied Victory in Europe. Many people marked this occasion by decorating their houses and gardens, then coming together with neighbours, albeit at a safe distance. It is important to remember though that for many families this was not the end of 'their' war. Loved ones were still away, often having not been heard from for many years. 'Their' peace didn't come till the surrender of Japan in August 1945. Celebrations, anniversaries and acts of remembrance are different for each one of us, and it is good to be mindful of that at this time. This week in the church cycle of remembering, we were reminded of Julian of Norwich, mystic and spiritual writer, and I finish with these words she wrote. 'The best prayer is to rest in the goodness of God, knowing that the goodness can reach down to our lowest depth of need'.

Do please keep checking the church website (www.stmaryshadow.org.uk) for news and services, and the church Facebook page. We are planning to have coffee 'virtually' between 11.00am and 12.00pm again this Sunday after the service, via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please contact me via email so I can send you a link.

Every blessing,

Nicky rev.nickyharvey@gmail.com 01732 852564 07919075470

Homily from Wednesday 6th May 2020 – John 12: 44 – end

The words we hear in these verses of John's Gospel, describe Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. He had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. In the preceding verses, Jesus was preparing his disciples for what would happen to him in the next few days. He tells them that whoever believes in him, also must believe in the One who sent him. Then Jesus says that his purpose for coming into this world was to be "light." And anyone who believed in Him would no longer be in darkness. Jesus reassures his disciples that he has come not to condemn the world but rather to save the world!

Jesus also warns his disciples. He says that anyone who rejects him or does not believe his words will be judged by the word Jesus spoke. He added that if a person rejects Him or does not accept His words, this individual will be condemned on the last day! These are extremely harsh words and most likely, these are words we prefer not to listen to. Yet, Jesus also is warning us what the price will be if we don't accept and believe Jesus' words.

Perhaps the question is: how seriously do we take Jesus' words? Do I truly believe what Jesus is saying? Do His words make a difference in my life? Do I act on His words in my daily life? Or do I simply say: "I believe," but there is no evidence of my "belief" in my daily life?

If we truly accept and believe what Jesus teaches, there should be some evidence in our lives of that belief. It might be seen in our actions or in how we treat people. Are we loving and inclusive? Or are we harsh and judgmental? Are we loving and accepting of others, even when we may not agree with their beliefs or actions? Do we live out what Jesus teaches us by forgiving a person who has hurt us deeply? Do we reach out to people who are lonely or isolated?

We are not Jesus! Yet we do have the power to share Jesus' love, forgiveness, care and acceptance with the people in our lives! How will we do that today? Amen

Parish News

Financial giving. Thank you to all who are continuing to give to St. Mary's at this time. Your contributions are vital. While saving money on heating, lighting and salaries the church still needs funds for ministry and ongoing costs. With the church closed we are losing income from fund-raising events and collections. If you can and would like to give on a regular basis, a standing order with your bank would be much appreciated. Equally one-off donations can be made by bank transfer too. Please contact me on mhmassy@btinternet.com or 07725 603952 for further details, or if you would like to give by cheque or have your envelopes collected. Martin Massy - Treasurer

Materials still needed. Many people in the village are sewing scrubs etc. for the NHS. They require more sheets, duvet covers, elastic or tape. If you have anything to donate, please ring Rev. Nicky on 01732 852564 to arrange collection. Thank you.

Collect for the 5th Sunday of Easter

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

We pray for those living in:

Carpenters Lane and Steers Place.

We pray for those who have recently died:

Bill Green, Joan Ball and Rodney Mannell

From our Book of Remembrance, we pray for:

Anthony David Gibbs (10th)

John Simison (12th)

Les Fuller (13th)

Mandy Allott (14th)

Ada Louise Allott (14th)

Eileen Prosser (15th)

