

# The Twenty First Sunday after Trinity 2023

The 8am Sunday Eucharist will now take place on the first Sunday of each month,  
with Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November being the next one.

There is also a weekly 10am Tuesday morning eucharist in the Lady Chapel of the church.  
All are welcome.

**PLEASE READ THE OTHER NOTICES AT THE END OF THIS SHEET.**

-----  
*The Collect:*

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

-----  
*The Old Testament lesson is written in the book of Deuteronomy:*

Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. The Lord said to him, ‘This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, “I will give it to your descendants”; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.’ Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigour had not abated. The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab for thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua, son of Nun, was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses. Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. He was unequalled for all the signs and wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

*The word of the Lord*

(Dt 34.1–12)

-----  
*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:*

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.' Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet' " ? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(Mt 22.34–46)

-----  
*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord. Amen.*

In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy God gives His people the greatest commandment: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." (Dt 6.5) This is a central part of the 'Shema' the daily prayers of a faithful Jew. Jesus is tested once again by the Pharisees. They ask which is the greatest commandment in the hope his answer gives them something to attack his faith, or status as a teacher with. It is not a surprise when Jesus replies with the most obvious answer; "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind,*" but then Jesus adds a new stipulation to the command; "*You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*" These, two elements, are two sides of the same thing, and on them, everything else hangs. You can't truly have love for God without love for neighbour and vice versa. Jesus is emphasising that, whatever anyone might claim "*Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.*" (1 Jn 4.8) This is about our commitment, as Christians, to the life and well-being of the other. It's a choice to make every day – to love or not to love. The Greeks had various words meaning 'love' but chiefly the word *Agape* meaning a self-emptying or divine love, that is key for people of faith. The exemplar of this is our belief that, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them." (1 Jn 4.16) But what might that love look like for us? What would our lives be like if we had those two commandments as the chief guiding principles for all we do, and think and say? What world might we create if we truly embodied and lived these two commandments on which, "*hang all the law and the prophets.*" What are we doing to bring that world into existence, starting with that bit of the world immediately around us?" What are we doing? It's not enough to only want, wish, or pray for that world. Love is a verb, an action. The love that Jesus speaks about is all or nothing, not something half-hearted or full of caveats and provisos. God holds nothing back in loving us, becoming one of us and even being willing to face rejection and death on the cross. If we are honest, such monumental love on God's part seems both unimaginable and unattainable to us. How can we hope to emulate such love, even to come close to it once seems impossible, let alone on an ongoing and daily basis. So, what hope do we have in living up to Jesus clear command to love God and neighbour? Well, Jesus words are there to make us think about the claims we make. They are there to make us to try to conform our words and deeds to match our claims to follow him. Our striving to conform our lives to 'loving God and neighbour' is clearly understood by Jesus to be the vehicle for the good news entrusted to us. However, no matter how hard we try, or how much we want to, we can't truly expect to keep God's greatest commandments all the time, or even most of it. But we have hope in God's grace, made real in

the atoning death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. As St John puts it, “*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*” (Jn 3.16) That eternal life begins in the here and now. The God of love leads us beyond what is simply good for us and into what is simply good. Abundant life is life for others too, living in generosity, living in God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Being connected in love is what gives life and seeing how Christians love and care for each other, and for others has always been the greatest draw into the good news the good news of love and a God who in Christ’s dying and living will ultimately “*draw all people*” (Jn 12.32) to himself. May God Bless you all. **Amen.**

---

*Additional prayer:*

Merciful God,  
teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty,  
that trusting in your word  
and obeying your will  
we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

---

The Blessing:

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the + blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

Please pray for peace and especially for peace in Ukraine and the Holy Lands.

Wishing you all every blessing - Fr. Peter

---

NOTICES

COMMUNION IS NOW IN BOTH KINDS BUT BE ASSURED THAT COMMUNION IS COMPLETE IN THE BODY OF CHRIST – THE CONSECRATED BREAD, SHOULD YOU NOT WISH TO RECEIVE THE WINE. THIS POLICY WILL BE KEPT UNDER REVIEW BY THE CLERGY AND PCC PLEASE READ COMING NEWSHEETS FOR CHANGES.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT CORONAVIRUS IS STILL CIRCULATING IN THE POPULATION. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WEAR A FACEMASK WHEN MIXING CLOSELY INSIDE THE CHURCH. IF YOU, OR ANYONE YOU HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID 19, OR IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 YOURSELF – PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND CHURCH.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT DUE TO THE RECENT SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN ENERGY COSTS THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE HEATED AS OFTEN AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS. WE ARE EXPLORING WAYS TO IMPROVE

ENERGY USAGE OR SWITCH TO ALTERNATES BUT FOR THE TIME BEING PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY DURING THE COLD WINTER MONTHS.

EVERYONE AT CHRIST CHURCH IS ENCOURAGED TO TAKE TIME TO REVIEW THEIR LEVEL OF GIVING, TO SIGN UP TO REGULAR GIVING IF YOU HAVENT ALREADY DONE SO, AND TO CONSIDER WHAT ELSE YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER IN TERMS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH THE RUNNING OF THE CHURCH, THE PCC ETC. SINCE THE COVID PANDEMIC THE MAKE-UP OF THE CONGREGATION HAS CHANGED, AND WE ARE NOW SEEING SOME HOPEFUL GROWTH. HOWEVER, GIVING HAS FALLEN OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND THIS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED FOR THE FUTURE CHRISTIAN MISSION, AND FINANCIAL SECURITY OF THIS BEAUTIFUL PARISH CHURCH. LENT PROVIDES A USEFUL SPACE TO REFLECT UPON WHAT YOU MIGHT DO TO HELP.

WITH MY THANKS - FR. PETER

THERE IS A 'FOOD BANK' BOX OF VARIOUS FOODSTUFFS; TINS, CERIALS, BISCUITS, JUICES ETC IN THE CHURCH PORCH. ANYONE WHO FINDS THEMSELVES IN NEED DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES IS WELCOME TO TAKE SOME ITEMS TO HELP OUT WITH THE WEEKLY SHOPPING. IF YOU ARE ABLE, WE ALSO NEED REGULAR DONATIONS FOR THE BOX TO KEEP THIS SERVICE GOING. ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. AGAIN, MANY THANKS – FR. PETER.

OUR SUNDAY EUCHARIST IS AT 10AM EACH WEEK AND EVENSONG IS AT 6PM SUNDAY.  
PLEASE SEE NEWSHEET FOR DATES.

THE 8AM EUCHARIST TAKES PLACE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, AND THERE IS AN EUCHARIST IN THE LADY CHAPEL EACH TUESDAY AT 10AM.

PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THIS, PLEASE EMAIL FR. PETER:

[fr.peterday@virginmedia.com](mailto:fr.peterday@virginmedia.com)

OR TELEPHONE:

07702043857