

Bexley Team News

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood
St James, North Cray
St John the Evangelist, Bexley
St Mary the Virgin, Bexley

Sunday 2 August 2020 Issue 20

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

**** PLEASE NOTE - AS FROM 8 AUGUST WE ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR FACEMASKS IN CHURCH**

Services in Team Churches this Sunday-

St. Barnabas 10.45 am Holy Communion

St. James 9.30 am Holy Communion

St. Johns 9.00 am Matins

3.00 pm Evening Prayer

Please if you can download the Daily Prayer App and get the service by switching to 'Traditional' in the menu. Hard copies will be available.

St. Mary's 10.00 am Morning Prayer

- these will all be said services with no hymns/songs

Team Churches open for private prayer-

St. Johns Sundays between Matins and Evening Prayer

St. Mary's Until midday after 10.00 am service and on Wednesdays 10.00 am to midday

The 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.

The Additional Collect

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Bible Readings for this Sunday

Old Testament: Genesis 32 v22-31 New Testament: Romans 9 v1-5 Gospel: Matthew 14 v13-21

Reflection

"The World has enough for everyone's needs, but not enough for everyone's greed."

Words from Mohandas Gandhi, and he was quite right. It's a sentiment we've been hearing increasingly over the last few years as we've become more aware of our impact on the environment, and we will no doubt be called to be more mindful of as our churches, along with those across the Deanery, make our journeys toward *Eco-Church* status.

To take more than our just entitlement has an impact on the ecosystem locally and globally and also has a direct effect on the huge social chasms which form when the poor become poorer as the stupendously wealthy expand their own nest-eggs.

This was one of the hard lessons of early Lockdown when we were taught not to buy more toilet paper than we need *because everyone else needs toilet paper too*.

Whoever turned up to hear and meet Christ in today's Gospel with the humble fish supper had clearly managed to successfully ration themselves to bring no more than was required for their own personal needs: hence the Disciples surprise when Christ suggested it was needed to meet everyone else's need too...

As we ease out of Lockdown, we begin to see a tsunami of need across the population: we've been hearing about the job losses and redundancies, add to that the psychological impacts of delayed grief, isolation, fear over health, sudden changes in routine and we begin to see how great a crisis we're in – and the mission of

the Church will no doubt take us to the frontline of the emergency.

The problem is that whilst we've all become pretty good ensuring we have enough for our own needs and the needs of those closest to us, how do we feel about responding to everyone else's needs too? So we know how to stay at home *for our own safety* – but how are we when we're told to wear a facemask *for everyone else's safety*? If the former seems obvious but we resist the latter then there may be a word for it: *Selfishness*.

As the disciples discovered Christ often asks us to stretch our resources to meet not only our own need, but the need of others too – in the case of today's passage, the need of the gathered five thousand plus. We may feel our own offering is too humble or too limited to do this, but that lack of confidence then creates a barrier beyond which our fellow children of God are suffering.

The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is that once offered, Christ's abundant grace is somehow able to multiply that humble offering in abundance – but first we need to respond to Our Lord's command, and offer up that which we have. Rev'd Edward

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Prayers

Creator God, we are troubled by the conflict in the world
Help us to confront and challenge prejudice, greed and hatred
and all that prevents people from living fully and freely.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, your son Jesus Christ,
called ordinary people to follow him as disciples.

Help us to respond to that same call
and to share your gospel of hope in our communities.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Healing God, we pray for all those who are sick, that they might be deeply aware of your presence with them.
We pray also for those who care for the sick and the broken.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Eternal God, your love reaches beyond the grave. At the end of our days on earth be with us,
with those we love, and with those whom we love who have gone before us. We hold before you those who
have recently died and those bereaved.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Almighty God,

may we all be changed and transformed to become, day by day, more like your Son Jesus Christ.

Merciful father: **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**



The summer holidays have begun, yay! This week, instead of a session, we wanted to share some resources for faith related activities for children this summer. We hope you enjoy exploring these over the holidays and hopefully we can meet for messy church in person one day soon!

For online festivals for children:

<https://parentingforfaith.org/post/online-festivals>

8 faith filled family activities:

<https://childrensministry.com/summer-faith-builders/>

Virtual events online at Scripture Union

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/>

Dance along with CJ and Friends

Every move

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=MPvnZILn6EY&feature=youtu.be>

Peace like a River

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=d6085sLXCMs&feature=youtu.be>

Annual Parochial Church Meetings.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for St James, North Cray will be at 8pm on Thursday 17th September

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for St Barnabas will be at 7.30pm for 8pm on Friday 18th September

The Annual Parochial Church meeting for St Mary's will be at 11.30 am on Sunday 20th September.

The date for the St John's APCM will be announced shortly.

News from St. Mary's

We have available a small Hitachi 'Turbo Brush' cylinder vacuum cleaner in very good condition and with all the attachments. Interested? Please contact Clive for further details/ viewing.

News from St. John's

Giving to St John's: You can give financially to the continuing upkeep and ministry of St John's via our Just Giving page: www.justgiving.com/stjohntheevangelist-bexley

Suspended Sermons are posted each Sunday at fatheredwardbarlow.wordpress.com

Social Media - engage with us via Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsbexley)) and Twitter (@stjohnsbexley).

Help offered/needed If you or someone you know **needs help** or if you **can offer assistance** please contact- St. Mary's Bexley contact Christine Wood 01322 270942 chrisawood2003@yahoo.com

St Barnabas, Joydens Wood- contact Rev'd Ren or Kevin Clarke 07791582546 kacrat@btinternet.com

St. James, N Cray- contact Rev'd Ren or David Stevens 0208300 0867 davidstevens112@aol.com

St. Johns, Bexley- contact Revd Edward Barlow contact details below

THE BEXLEY TEAM CLERGY

Team Rector: Reverend Ren Harding renharding@hotmail.co.uk 01322 528923 07836644782

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