



Our Mission Statement

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself. Matthew 22:37-38

Sunday Podcasts

of each Sunday Morning Service are available after the service on YouTube.

A time to speak

Parish Podcast on the YouTube channel.

Quotes

The face of the Church is the face of the sinner.

Martin Luther

The Church is the teaching of Christ made visible.

Vinoth Ramachandra

A mother of three notoriously unruly teenagers was asked whether or not she'd have children if she had it to do all over again. "Yes," she replied. "But not the same ones."

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

Jewish Proverb

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

One of the great themes of Lent is prayer. And THE greatest prayer you or I can pray is, of course, the Lord's Prayer. But although many people have learnt the words of the prayer, how often is it said or prayed from the heart? That is, with meaning.

I think part of the problem is that people don't fully understand it or fully think about what is being said or prayed for.

The prayer contains six petitions. The first three are concerned with the glory of God (His name, His kingdom, and His will), while the second three are concerned with us and our needs (daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance). We see a similar priority in the Ten Commandments where the first five are to do with our duty to God and the second to our neighbour. Here, briefly, we look at the first three.

In the **first** petition we ask for God's name to be hallowed. A name stands for the person who bears it, for his nature, character and activity. So God's "name" is God Himself as He has revealed Himself. His name is already holy in that it is exalted above every name. Yet we pray for its hallowing, that is, that it may be given the honour due to it in our lives, in the Church, and in the world. Please note, as with all prayer, we must be sure that we are part of the answer to our own petition in that we should love, revere and show devotion to God in our own lives.

Second the kingdom of God is His royal rule, especially as we see it breaking into the world in Jesus. To pray for its coming is to pray both that it may grow, as through the church's witness people submit to Jesus, and that it will reach its fullest extent when Jesus comes in glory. Again we must be the answer to our own prayers in being willing to live and share our faith by word and deed.

Lastly, because God's will is the will of Him who is perfect in knowledge, love, and power, it is folly to resist, and wisdom to discern, desire and do it. We need to pray therefore that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. This is something that even as we pray, we must be open to God's will in our own lives.

In his commentary John Stott adds this:

"It is comparatively easy to repeat the words of the Lord's Prayer like a parrot, or indeed like a heathen 'babbling' (the meaning of Matthew 6:7). To pray them with sincerity, however, has revolutionary implications. Our priority becomes no longer the advancement of our own little name, kingdom, and will, but of God's. Whether we can pray these petitions with integrity is a searching test of the reality and depth of our Christian profession." (Through the Bible Through the Year: John Stott).

And one final thing as we celebrate Mothering Sunday. The prayer Jesus gave us in the Lord's Prayer, is the prayer of the Church. Our prayer to our Father. We never pray this alone but always side by side with our brothers and sisters in Christ across time and space.

I hope you will sit down quietly and think through what Jesus is inviting us into praying with Him and other Christians. It is the most important prayer we will ever pray. We should therefore take extra care to mean what we pray when we pray it.

I will be putting out a podcast soon on the subject of prayer so please look out for it.

God bless you all. Keep safe

Mark

THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE:

www.stjameswarsea.org.uk

St. James Sunday Services on YouTube are available here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOnVea6r8mEr_KnOkSv6qQA/

The Vicar's New blog can be found here: sonofzebedee.blogspot.com

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Operation Christmas Child appeal. The 25 shoeboxes, packed online last December because of Lockdown, were sent to Nigeria, giving hope and joy to children living there.



Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday

Merciful God, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily lives that in joy and sorrow we may know the power of thy presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings

1 Samuel 1:20 - end (or Exodus 2:1 - 10);
Psalm 127:1 - 4;
2 Corinthians 1:3 - 7 (or Colossians 3:12 - 17);
Luke 2:33 - 35 (or John 19:25b - 27).

Five Questions

- What is your name?** Wing Chung Tsoi (Chung)
- Where were you born?** A village inside Fujian in China.
- What is your earliest memory of Church?** On a TV programme (Some church scenes were shown in a TV programme in Hong Kong).
- When did the Christian faith become important to you?** I was baptised in 2014 in London, it was already important to me at that time, as I went through a tough process and I really wanted to repent and be baptised. However, now I think it was just a start of the journey at that time. I think my faith and spiritual life grew slowly until 2018. In 2018, God led us to start a Bible study group and I think my Christian faith started to grow in a more mature way causing me to love to read the Bible.
- What is your favourite Bible verse/s and why?** Honestly, there are a lot! And indeed, it is the nature of our God (gracious, righteous, merciful, faithfulness...) which is reflected from the whole Bible. For example this includes: John 14:6 - Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

A Mother's Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray my saintly soul to keep.
For if some peace I do not find,
I'm pretty sure I'll lose my mind.
I pray I find a little quiet
Far from the daily family riot
May I lie back—not have to think
about what they're stuffing down the sink,
or who they're with, or where they're at
and what they're doing to the cat.
I pray for time all to myself
(did something just fall off a shelf?)
To cuddle in my nice, soft bed
(Oh no, another goldfish—dead!)
Some silent moments for goodness sake
(Did I just hear a window break?)
And that I need not cook or clean -
(well heck, I've got the right to dream)
Yes now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray my wits about me keep,
But as I look around I know -
I must have lost them long ago.

There is only one Saviour

There is an old legend that tells of a man who fell into quicksand and started to sink. While he was sinking Confucius walked by and said, "There is evidence that men should stay out of such places." But the man was still sinking in quicksand. Then Buddha walked by and seeing the man in trouble said: "Let that man be a lesson to the world." But the man was still sinking in quicksand. Then Mohammed walked by and seeing the man's predicament said: "Alas, it is the will of Allah." But the man was still sinking in the quicksand. Then a Hindu walked by and said, "Never mind, you will return to earth in another form." But the man was still sinking in the quicksand. Finally Jesus walked by and reached out his hand and said, "Grab hold of my hand and I will pull you out."

Contact information

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