

Third Sunday after Trinity

Prayers, Readings, Reflection and Song.

“Welcome to another short act of worship for the Parish Church of St Martin. For those who are able to follow it as written or listen in, I hope it offers some comfort, encouragement and a sense of being together despite the distance between us.” Rev Jonny



*Be still, and draw yourself closer to the God who rests beside you,
before you and within you.*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

‘How often have I longed to gather your children,
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,’ says the Lord,
‘but you would not come to me.’
Let us as wayward children return to God
and confess our sins.

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord, have mercy.
All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive *you* by the death of his Son and
strengthen you to live in the power of the Spirit all *your* days.
All **Amen**

The Collect for the day

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading, Matthew 10: 40 - end

Jesus said:
“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever
welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever
welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a
prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in
the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the
righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one
of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you,
none of these will lose their reward.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ**

Reflection

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me”

There is something very special about this phrase. It is one of the very few – less than a handful – of verses that appear in all four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

There are plenty of stories, occasions and events that appear across all four gospels; but there are very few phrases of the words of Jesus that make an appearance in all four. This is one of them.

So I suppose we should take it very seriously indeed.

Richard Rohr, a Catholic Franciscan priest from the USA, and one of the greatest contemporary theologians, reflects on it in this way. “Jesus is saying there is a moral equivalence between you, your neighbour, the Christ and God!”

All who receive the disciples of Jesus receive Jesus, and God who sent him. That’s a pretty clear lesson: whenever we ‘receive’ someone, or at least show hospitality or welcome someone we don’t know, we are showing the same attitude to God. If I believe that, then the reverse must also be true: whomever I don’t receive or don’t welcome, I am doing so to God.

Really and truly, what you do to your neighbour, you do to God *and to yourself*, in a roundabout way.

This is such an important message for our time.

In recent years there has been an enormous global attention given to the issue of migration. For some countries the burden had become unsustainable. For many migrants the journeys had become suicidal. For some governments, the issue became a rallying cry for draconian policies, isolationism, building walls and it was certainly a huge influence in the vote for Brexit.

Ah Brexit, do you remember that? It seems like decades ago now, in the time before Coronavirus; but it was all we ever talked about.

Perhaps that has been one small mercy of this pandemic – finally there was something else to talk about. But now, of course, we are pretty sick of talking

about Coronavirus, too.

With the closing of borders across the world, and the strict limitations on international travel, the plight of migrants has fallen away from public consciousness. But rest assured it will return. Flimsy boats will once again be overcrowded and sent on treacherous journeys to unknown destinations, and be assured, many more hundreds and thousands will die on the way.

Our borders in Jersey will begin to open again sooner or later. And while we have not had to confront the issues faced by Greece and Italy, and whilst we are not going to be a likely landing ground for those seeking asylum, we will – in our own way have to think again about how we welcome the stranger. Even if they are just tourists trying to find the way to the Hungry Man.

I hope and pray that the experiences of this pandemic will not lead us to be suspicious of strangers. I hope and pray that we will not see a threat in the face of every visitor to our shores.

If anything, I hope and pray that we might now perceive in the stranger a shared experience; because there is no one - no country – that has not also been ravaged by the horrors of this virus. Globally, it is now one of the few things that truly unite us. To the virus, we are all alike.

It will not be easy, and there will many voices crying out to insist that we do not offer welcome and hospitality to people from foreign shores. I do not envy the policy makers in the government who have to make the final decision.

But when the time comes, and the Island's doors are open once again, let us remember those words of Jesus. *"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me"*

I hope and pray that the lasting lesson of this virus will not be fear and suspicion, but unity, generosity and love.

Amen

Song

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Prayers of Intercession

Pray for one another – those in our church community

Pray for the Parish, the Island and the World

Pray for the sick, the isolated, the anxious and depressed

Pray for the dying, and those who mourn

Pray for yourselves, and for your own needs

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

The Intercessions may end as follows

Merciful Father

All Accept these prayers

for the sake of your son,

our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

The Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour taught us

All Our Father

who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

For ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,
defend you on every side,
and guide you in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**