

Cathedral Life Weekly

18th Sunday after Trinity Sunday | 1st October 2020



A Message from: Canon Ivor Moody

October 12th-18th is not only Baby Loss Awareness Week but also quickly follows Mental Health Awareness Day, which is on Thursday 8th October. The link between these two events is obvious but is even more important in this year when there has been so much pain and loss as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Here at Chelmsford Cathedral The Mariposa Trust once again will be leading two 'Saying Goodbye' services for all those grieving the loss of a child on Tuesday 13th October at 7.00 and 8.15pm. It will be the latest in what is now an annual visit to our Cathedral by the charity as part of a yearly international tour of cathedrals providing a much needed practical and spiritual lifeline for all those wanting to remember lives which have ended too soon. The preacher will be Ivor Moody, Vice Dean and Canon Pastor.



Ivor is also Chair of Essex Mind and Spirit (EMS), a community voluntary organisation dedicated to promoting positive relationships between faith and spirituality and mental health issues. At a time when mental health concerns have never been higher on the agenda due to lockdown and all the difficulties of isolation, bereavement and unemployment, he has been able, through EMS and the Mid Essex Inter Faith Forum and in his role as Chaplain to the Essex County Council (ECC) to represent the Cathedral both on the Essex Faith Covenant (which he also Chairs) and the Faith & Tactical Coordination Group set up by the ECC at the start of lockdown to organise and promote a multi-faith and multi-agency approach to various 'at risk' and BAME communities across Essex. It has helped to ensure that Chelmsford Cathedral has been brought into the heart of a combined effort by many individuals, organisations and charities across the region to bring comfort and reassurance to many in Essex and East London. It is where Chelmsford Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese, should be and needs to be.

If you would like to attend a 'Saying Goodbye' service, due to the pandemic, this year you will need to book a free place. Please go to their website <https://www.sayinggoodbye.org/services/> and to their services. Scroll down and the link to book a free place is listed there. The service has previously been listed at 7.30pm but due to demand, there are now two services.

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Pray with Us:

Give thanks for the work and ministries of our hospices who bring comfort and relief to patients and families in times of physical and spiritual need and stress. Pray for our hospice chaplains.

Pray for Tile Kiln Church and the 'Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship'.

Pray for The Church of the Province of Uganda, The Most Revd Stephen Samuel Kaziimba, Archbishop

Please pray for those who are unwell including Jean Cooper, Rita James, Nicole Landon, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.

Daily Gospel Readings for this week and use in your prayers:

Monday: Luke 11. 29-32

Thursday: Luke 11. 47 to end

Tuesday: Luke 11. 37-41

Friday: Luke 12. 1-7

Wednesday: Luke 11. 42-46

Saturday: Luke 12. 8-12

Study with Us:

Philippians 4.1-9

Ps 23

Matthew 22.1-14



Come to the Wedding!

Images of banquets and feasting, of hospitality and generosity abound in this week's readings. Paul, in the **Reading**, has utter confidence that God will give him strength as he faces hardship in prison. This is revealed through the generosity of others, who will be amply rewarded.

The **Psalm** echoes the theme of the care that God, as shepherd, has for all his people. It ends with an image of a banquet and generous hospitality.

The **Gospel** from Matthew offers us yet another parable of the Kingdom. The messianic banquet is offered to all, Jews and Gentiles – though some refuse and are rejected. All of us, good and bad alike, have only to respond to the invitation.

The parable of the wedding banquet

Jesus uses this parable about the Kingdom of Heaven in reply to those questioning his authority. Once again, his audience is made up of chief priests and elders, the very people who would shortly

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be arresting him. This particular parable has very many parallels with Luke's story of the Great Dinner (Luke 14: 16–24) but it shows evidence of comprehensive rewriting.

A King gives a great wedding banquet for his son

Matthew's listeners were familiar with the image of a banquet representing God's relationship with Israel. Jesus uses this image frequently in his parables – his welcome to sinners and feasting with them is an acted sign of the call to all people to join in this heavenly banquet.

The guests would not come to the banquet

It was a Middle Eastern custom to send two invitations to give people plenty of warning, especially for those coming from a great distance. Wedding feasts would last for weeks and were a good way of showing one's power and wealth. In fact, preparations took a long time as roads sometimes needed to be built for important guests (cf. John the Baptist: 'Prepare a way for the Lord'). In a society where honour and shame were all important, to refuse the King's invitation was a real act of rebellion. The violence towards the servants in his parable would be tantamount to high treason, especially at a time when there was no social mobility, and when 5% of the population owned 95% of the country's wealth.

The King was furious

The burning of the city is probably a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem which occurred some 10–15 years before Matthew wrote his Gospel.

Invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet ... good and bad alike

It is possible to see in this parable a symbol of God (the King) inviting his people (the guests). The original guests (Israel) do not accept his call and newcomers (Gentiles), respond to his invitation. As with any group of people, they are not all virtuous in equal measure. Matthew is preparing his audience for the shape of the new first-century Church.

The wedding feast is not just a heavenly banquet: the Kingdom is in the here and now. What invitations, in the banquet of life, will come my way this week?

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Sunday Services:

7.45am	Morning Prayer	Live streamed on the Facebook page	
10.30am	Cathedral Eucharist	In the Cathedral and live streamed	President: The Very Revd Nicholas Henshall Preacher: Canon Alison Kennedy
10.30am	Junior Church	In Guy Harlings Garden	
5.15pm	Evening Prayer	Live streamed on the Facebook page	
8.15	Compline	Live streamed on the Church at Home Cathedral Facebook page	Gary Fleming

Morning Prayer and the Cathedral Eucharist are available later on our YouTube channel – link from the Church at Home page of the Cathedral website.

This morning Canon Imogen Nay is preaching at St Andrew's, North Springfield to complete their reflections on Creationtide.

News

News:

Choral Evensong is back! From Monday, we will be livestreaming Choral Evensong on Mondays and Tuesdays. You can watch live from either Facebook or YouTube. You do not need to have a YouTube account, simply search for Chelmsford Cathedral. The service will not presently be open to the public. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCygvBaZCltwgWiihNexgl9Q>

Cathedral Eucharist 10.30am on Sundays: Please note there is no longer a requirement to reserve a place/book a ticket. **However, if we reach capacity for any service and it would be unsafe to allow any more people into the building, it is with regret that we would have to close the doors and you would be unable to attend.** Following the latest Church of England guidance, it is now expected that all visitors to the Cathedral, for worship or private prayer, wear a facemask.

Junior Church is also back in Guy Harlings Garden. Please click on the link below to book in as numbers are currently limited in order to comply with government guidelines. You are very welcome to join Jean for some fun activities. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/junior-church-in-the-garden-tickets-121208551039>

Breakfast with the Bible: has started, meeting via zoom from 8.45am to 9.30am. If you would like to join the sessions, please email Canon Imogen Nay on imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk for the Zoom code each week. Breakfast with the Bible is led by various members of the Cathedral congregation, lay and ordained. It includes time for discussion as well as some teaching input from the leaders. See the Breakfast with the Bible page on the website for full details.

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Thursday Eucharist:

We have now introduced a simple celebration of the Eucharist at 10.30 am on Thursdays. Everybody is warmly welcome – and all the procedures in place on Sundays will of course be in place on Thursdays too. That includes leaving contact details, wearing a mask and sitting in a socially distanced way. But – as with Sundays – we will begin to inhabit this new pattern of services as we continue to live through a very provisional time of change.

On-line Giving: if you would like to donate to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral through these challenging times, please visit the Cathedral website. Towards the bottom of the opening page you will see a heading “Supporting your Cathedral”. Simply click the link in the paragraph below to make your donation.

Advent Day Retreat – ‘Jacob Limping’ led by the Dean from Pleshey Retreat House **ON LINE**

Thursday, 26 November 10 am – 4 pm

Nicholas writes:

Vulnerability is how we open up to grace in the upside-down values of the kingdom - in the desert we face ourselves as we really are and discover that God's love for us is without limit. Through prayer, silence and a series of addresses we will go on a journey with texts from Scripture and wisdom from the tradition - the desert fathers, the cloud of unknowing, Teresa of Avila through to Thomas Merton and other contemporary voices. Please visit the Pleshey website (<https://www.retreathousepleshey.com>) to find out more and to book your place.

On Sunday 11 October there will be a special Evensong at which the 50th anniversary of **Paul Beasley-Murray's** ordination will be celebrated. However, the service will be streamed (for the link see under ‘Church at Home’ on the Cathedral website).

Are you missing **Coffee in the Cathedral?** Host a coffee morning, lunch or afternoon tea. See the attached flier for more details or contact Yvonne Spence tel: 01245 465108.

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