

A Message from The Revd Kate Moore: Time to Rest and Recharge

Nearly 17 weeks ago on a Wednesday evening schools were told to close that Friday and then reopen on the following Monday as child care facilities for the children of key workers or the children in our schools that we thought were particularly vulnerable. It has been an extraordinary few months and for pupils, parents, staff and governors the holidays now approach as very welcome relief.

Everyone needs to rest and recharge. The only task the children at my school have over the coming weeks is to relax and read. Read on the beach, read in the garden, and enjoy as many types of books as possible. But mainly just rest and recover.

Schools and families have developed many new skills. Online learning, online meetings, new ways of keeping in touch as a school community. We have all made mistakes. We have all got cross with one another. We have all failed to see each other's points of view. But there have been many moments of grace and generosity and forgiveness.

It feels as if we have completed the first stage of a longer journey. There is much more to come. There is much to reflect on. Some rejoicing in being temporarily released from the tyranny of testing and assessment data and some thinking about the changes that we might want to try and hold on to. We will have to spend time in the future helping children to process everything that has happened to them and to their families. But at the moment, after all the busyness and all the fear and all the demands, a holiday of some sort is on the horizon and a time to rest in God's love.

'Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'
Mark 6:31



I hope you all have some opportunity this summer to laugh and rest and recharge.

Contact Us:

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Pray with Us:

Please pray for the men and women of the RNLI and HM Coastguard, who risk their lives to protect those who travel the seas around our coast.

Pray for Christians Together in Chelmsford and All Saints, Springfield

Pray for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, The Most Revd Joel Atiwag Pachao, Prime Bishop

For those who are unwell: Jean Cooper, Rita James, Winnie Towers, Jill Withams and all those in need of our prayers.

Junior Church:

It is great news that **Junior Church is back** and will be running again this Sunday at 10.30am in Guy Harlings Gardens. This will be an All Age Service, and places must be booked in advance here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/junior-church-in-the-garden-tickets-113476218424>



Safeguarding Officer: Elizabeth Marshall tel: 07902 225131
or email: safeguarding@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Study with Us:

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel: Romans 8.12-25
Ps 86.11-17
Matthew 13.24-30,36-43



The Lord is our Merciful Judge

This Sunday we are, again, reminded of God's central characteristic – merciful love. We are always in need of forgiveness, and the readings today assure us both of God's mercy and compassion and the promise of assistance. The Holy Spirit is given freely, to help us in our weakness.

Let's ask, this week, for the help of the Spirit, who prays in and for us. May we receive what we need to cope with the evils of the world and with our own weaknesses, and may we find our strength in the loving mercy of God.

Romans 8

Paul's letter to the Church in Rome, which included both Jews and Gentiles, was probably written 57–58 AD in Corinth, when Paul was nearing the end of his third missionary journey around the Eastern Mediterranean. It was written before any of the Gospels. It is unusual in that it was written to a church that Paul had yet to visit. Rome was the most important city of the Roman Empire, and the Christians of Rome had contacts with many of the outlying districts of the empire.

Over the centuries, the Letter to the Romans has been regarded as one of the most influential texts of the New Testament. The most-read chapter is Chapter 8, an excerpt from which we are reading today. It comes at the end of a section where Paul discusses the Christian's spiritual life. When Paul writes about "us" and "we", he means himself and other fellow Christians in Rome. But we, as Christians today, can also feel included. The Holy Spirit is there to help us transcend our weakness, and makes us able to express what we find difficult or don't even realise we need to formulate. It is part of God's loving plan for us that the Holy Spirit should play that helping role.

Matthew 13: 24–30

The Parable of the Weeds among the Wheat

This parable is unique to Matthew. It follows last week's Parable of the Sower. Here, too, the setting is agricultural. Farming was the principal occupation of those in Palestine at the time. Just as in last week's story, it attempts to answer the underlying question of the previous chapter: why is Jesus failing to win over the people of Israel?

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to ...

This is clearly a Kingdom parable which deals with God's judgement at the end of time. A man sowed good seed in his field. The attention of the listeners is caught straight away. It would be unusual for a landowner, who we learn has slaves, to have done the sowing himself while everybody was asleep. This rich owner, able to grow wheat rather than the more ordinary barley, was very lax. It would have been expected that he would have protected his land.

Some enemy has done this

Another unusual element to keep the audience alert. The owner knows that the weeds have not occurred naturally, but have been put in by an enemy. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the weeds appeared as well. The roots would have been entangled; pulling out the weeds would disturb the wheat. Scholars also note that according to the Book of Leviticus, 'you are not to sow two kinds of grain in your field' (19: 19): the field was thus impure and simply removing the weeds would not be enough to satisfy the Law. At harvest time The good and the bad will be separated at the Final Judgement. The darnel will be burnt. Fire is often used as a purifier in the Old Testament (see Malachi 3: 3)

Daily Gospel Readings for this week, to use in your daily prayer:

Monday: Matthew 12. 38-42

Tuesday: Matthew 12. 46-50

Wednesday: John 20. 1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Matthew 13. 10-17

Friday: Matthew 13.18-23

Saturday: Matthew 20. 20-28

Cathedral Eucharist 10.30am on Sundays

The **Cathedral is now open for a 10.30am Sunday Service**. The biggest difference for the moment is that we can only have limited numbers gathering together in the building, so we are having to regulate numbers by a simple booking system. People should register in advance by ringing **Laura Dolton on 01245 294470** on **Friday 17th July** between **12 midday and 3pm**. If you came last week feel free to book again, there will be priority for those who have not been yet, but please don't let that put you off. The booking system may change, **please keep yourself updated** by looking on the website, reading your newsheet or calling.

Eucharist Online 10.30am Sundays

We apologise that there was a problem with the live-stream last week. We hope that all will go smoothly this week; thanks for your patience as we work out church in the building and church online.



News

On – line giving: via the website: A huge **thank you** to everyone who has used the on-line giving link and donated recently. We really appreciate your gift as we continue to work in these challenging times. If you would like to donate on-line, simply go to the home page of the website and click on the link, or click <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/0c7bf37c-62f7-4011-b9f0-854ead22f93a>

Book Group: This month we are reading Honour by Elif Shafak, a novel which explores the experience of living between different societies. We will be meeting via Zoom to discuss the book on Monday July 27th at 7.30. All are welcome to join us – email sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk for more information.

If you would like to see the video introducing **Archbishop Stephen to the Province of York**, please click on the link below.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/confirmation-election-98th-archbishop-york>

Being Resourced:

If you would like to receive the Dean's letter emailed to you once a week and you do not already receive it, please email clare.broome@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Growing in Faith resources in a weekly email. If you would like to receive it, please sign up via the 'Church at Home' page of the website or email imogen.nay@chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

Stations of the Resurrection: How do we encounter the Risen Lord in this time of darkness? Join with the Rev'd Canon Imogen and others as they lead us through personal encounters with the Risen Jesus, look at the website, or sign up to the Growing in Faith mailing, details above.

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