

A Message from the Ordinand Gary Fleming: Celebrating Colour

While sitting at home enjoying a morning break from studying, the TV in the background is showing an art program. And as splendid as the various pieces of art form may be, I was taken more by the expressive clothes being worn by the presenters and the participants of the show. No colour was spared, and the external expression of the artists seemed to match perfectly their inner creative selves.

Personally, I like bright colours; after all the natural environment that we celebrate and protect is full of such colour. So why not celebrate the splendour of colour in ourselves.

The artists were not expressing an internal garishness, but an enjoyment of all that God has created in nature and in themselves. I am more of a red and orange person; it just seems to match my inner and outer self. It can lift mood, create a talking point or help you explore a creative side of your personality.

In reading Psalm 139 v14 we pray, 'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made'. In praising God, I praise all that I am in God's eyes inside and out using the colours of His creation.



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Pray with Us:

Please pray for all who work in our local hospitals, both medical and ancillary, that they may feel valued and appreciated. Pray also for all who work in the Ambulance and Air Ambulance Services.

Please pray for the work of Christchurch URC in the city centre

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

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

Monday: Matthew 13. 31 - 35

Tuesday: Matthew 13. 36 - 43

Wednesday: Matthew 13. 44 - 46

Thursday: Matthew 13. 47 - 53

Friday: Matthew 13. 54 - end

Saturday: Matthew 14. 1 - 12

Muddy Church: 'Let the trees of the forest rustle with praise'.

Exciting news! We're launching Muddy Church this Sunday at 3pm. Muddy Church is worship for everyone in the great outdoors. It's currently taking place in Guy Harlings garden but will eventually move out of the garden and explore God's beautiful creation, getting to know Him and each other better as we do. Taking place on the fourth Sunday of each month, at present, we need to ask you to book in but it's simple to do and free. Either click on the link below or go to the Church at Home page on the website. Look out for more information on the Cathedral's Face Book page @chelmsfordcathedral.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/114254626664>



Study with Us:

Study Notes on the Sunday Gospel:



Romans 8.26-39 Ps 119.129-136 Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

The Kingdom of Heaven ...

As Ordinary Time continues, we are still in the central part of Matthew's Gospel where Jesus is teaching by means of parables. Today we have more parables to add to the four already heard over the last couple of Sundays. These parables stress in particular the great value of the kingdom.

Gospel Matthew 13: 44–52

For the third consecutive week we are reading and praying parables from Matthew, Chapter 13. The parables we have today are only found in Matthew's Gospel. They all try to give the reader an idea of the Kingdom of Heaven and involve to some extent searching, finding, rejoicing and selling everything. Matthew is now only addressing the disciples, not the crowd.

Treasure hidden in a field

At a time when banks did not exist, it was common practice for people to bury part of their fortune in the hope of protecting it from thieves and brigands. In the Parable of the Talents, the third servant buries his talent (Matthew 25: 18). Archaeological digs to this day still occasionally come across such hoards. The concept of treasure occurs several times in Matthew's Gospel – see 6: 19–21: 'Do not store up treasures for yourself' or 19: 21: 'Sell what you own ... you will have treasure in heaven'.

A merchant looking for fine pearls

Pearls had great value at the time and were sometimes worth more than gold. In both of these parables the people take risks and sell all that they have to attain a greater reward. It could be seen as a way of describing the cost of discipleship.

A dragnet cast into the sea

The scene moves from agriculture and trade to fishing, which was, of course, a setting familiar to the disciples. As in the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds read last week, here we find that the Kingdom of Heaven includes 'all kinds', good and bad. The reference to good fish and those that are 'no use' may also be an allusion to Jewish strict dietary laws.

The Kingdom of Heaven is a mixed body of saints and sinners; the final sorting out can be left to God and his angels at the end of time.

Every scribe who becomes a disciple

Some Christian converts may have been scribes: indeed some scholars see in this phrase a self-description of Matthew. Things both old and new. The 'old' would be the Law and the Prophets; the 'new' the Gospels, Jesus's teachings. Both are equally needed, as the Gospels are the fulfilment of the Law.

Maybe this week we can pray for the grace to recognize the kingdom amongst us and around us.

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 with a simple booking system. People should register in advance by ringing Laura Dolton on 01245 294470 on Friday 24th July between 1pm and 3pm.

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/114253049948>

Don't forget – Muddy Church is this Sunday too!

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>

A Cathedral "Bring it Yourself" Coffee Morning is taking place on **Saturday 1st August 10 - 12** noon in Guy Harlings Garden. Come along, bring your own chairs, drinks and nibbles and spend time outside with friends, at a SOCIAL DISTANCE - **no charge!** To book in contact Yvonne Spence tel: 01245 465108 or yvonespence@hotmail.com.

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 Monday 3rd August at 7.30. All are welcome to join us – email sallydilley@tiscali.co.uk for more information.

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 - a Breakfast with the Bible series. The series ends this week. Thank you to everyone who has provided material, study notes and reflections for this programme. Breakfast with the Bible will now have a summer break and resume in September. This will be on zoom. More details will be released in August.