

ST. NICHOLAS, NEWPORT, LINCOLN, LN1 3DP
Registered Charity Number: 1133977
www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk
8th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
2nd August 2020

Please read the Notices below carefully with regard to all services and events.

TODAY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

TUESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

WEDNESDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
9:30 am Said Eucharist
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer

THURSDAY

8:45 am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer



*Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page,
or speak to Alice,
for information about St Nick's Nippers*

FRIDAY

8:45am Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00am Church Open for Individual Prayer

SATURDAY

10:00 am Church Open for Individual Prayer
Weekend e-Church available from Noon

NEXT SUNDAY – 9th AFTER TRINITY

9:00 am Said Eucharist
10:30 am Said Eucharist
5:00 pm Evening Prayer on Zoom

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

<u>SUNDAY 9th</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY 12th</u>
1 Kings 19:9-18	Ezekiel 9:1-7;10:18-22
Psalms 85:8-13	Psalms 113
Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 18:15-20
Matthew 14:22-33	

FROM THE VICAR

This week I offer the third in a series of reflections on the lessons of the lockdown. I began a fortnight ago by writing about the painful privilege of prayer. Last week I explored the role of places and objects in our spiritual lives. And this week I want to share a few observations about the way that being in crisis brings out both the best and worst in human beings.

At one level, that is the most commonplace and trivial of observations. In war time, in times of famine, or in a time of plague such as this one, we see human nature through a magnifying glass. Extraordinary acts of courage, kindness and compassion sit side by side with baffling displays of cruelty, cowardice and complacency. These patterns, I say again, are well known and easily recognised.

What is perhaps a little harder to see is that all of this emerges from a tension between love and fear. Saint John taught that perfect love drives out all fear, recognising that this is the fundamental spiritual conflict within every human being.

Times of crisis are frightening. They raise our anxiety levels, which is fine, if unpleasant. They also tempt us to allow fear to become the leading principle in the governance of our lives, which most definitely isn't fine. Fear of infection, fear of illness, fear of death, fear of other human beings... These are the things that, in the reverse of the process observed by Saint John, choke our capacity for love. They tempt us to defend ourselves, our families, our tribe, our institutions and to see others as a threat.

But a crisis also provides opportunities for the opposite. People are suffering and they need our help. In our own parish, as well as across this city and nation, Christian folk have been busy and active in activities to help and support the most vulnerable. In all this, they have remembered Our Lord's injunction that whatever we do for one another, even the least in our midst, is a service to Christ Himself.

We have seen this tension between love and fear, between the best and the worst of human nature, played out at local, national and international level throughout this crisis. As a church we certainly have plenty to fear. But we are called to a radically different posture. The commandment to love one another doesn't come with an exemption clause for times when it seems like there may be higher priorities. On the contrary, it is in times like these, when our faith is tested and we are tempted to entrench ourselves against all that threatens our sense of safety and identity, that the call to allow the perfect love of God to drive out our fear is most urgent.

May God bless you all,

Hugh

PARISH INFORMATION

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Parish Office

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Notices for next week's sheet by Wednesday please.

Online & Social Media

🐦 @StNicksLincoln 📘 @stnicholaslincoln

www.stnicholaslincoln.org.uk

NOTICES

THANKS

I am so grateful to those who are providing service cover during my Annual Leave. My thanks also to the Churchwardens, Stewards and other volunteers who have worked so hard to keep public worship going in a radically constrained format while I am away.

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC WORSHIP

Most readers will now be familiar with the arrangements for public worship since we resumed on 6th July. However, please do continue to read this notice on a weekly basis, as changes are happening frequently and may be introduced at short notice.

Painful Restrictions

I am aware that for many, myself included, returning to a form of public worship that is radically restricted has in some ways been as painful as not being able to worship together at all. I am doing my best to follow the Government's rules and the national church's guidelines in a way that is sensitive to our context. Please continue to pray for me and for all those who lead our parish as we try to respond with wisdom in these challenging circumstances.

Face Coverings

Following the recent change in Government regulations with regard to face coverings in some public places, the Church of England has published the following statement:

We strongly advise that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing.

The full guidelines can be accessed via the Church of England website, where a statement about visitors has also recently been published. All of these guidelines are, of course, advisory. The decision about whether to use a face covering in church, and what sort of face covering to use, is the responsibility of the individual, including the officiating priest.

Morning Prayer

The morning office is taking place in the Sanctuary. If you want to come along you will need a device with the Common Worship Daily Prayer App installed. Please get in touch with me, Alice or Peter Elsmore if you need help with this. If attending, please sit only in the seats provided, and do not move the chairs.

Private Prayer

The building continues to open daily for private, individual prayer. Please follow the instructions on the various signs around the church, and of the stewards on duty.

Eucharists

It remains essential that you contact the Parish Office in advance of a Eucharist if you wish to attend. If possible, please do so **by email**. The Administrators will be keeping a list, and stewards will give priority to those who have registered. Services will offer communion in one kind only, and various social distancing measures will be in operation. Please follow the instructions given in church by the Priest and stewards. The order of service for the eucharist is available on the parish website and the link has been published by email circulation. **We encourage as many people as possible to download the service at home and bring it with them, either as a print out or on a phone or tablet.** There will be a very limited number of freshly printed service booklets in church for each service. If you need to use one of these, please do not hand it back in. Take it away with you, and be prepared to use it again.

e-Church

e-Church continues, but there is now only one video each week. This video will appear on a Saturday. Anyone who can access the internet can see these videos. If you need help with this, please do get in touch.

DAILY OFFICE ONLINE

With the resumption of Morning Prayer in church, our online daily office will now change. Evening Prayer will happen on Zoom twice a week, on Tuesdays and Sundays at 5.00pm.

While I am away on holiday, Alice will be hosting this. Please get in touch with her if you would like to join. Please do *not* use the previously published link. We are also exploring the possibility of streaming Morning Prayer in church via YouTube Live. This would allow those at home to listen to the daily office as it is being said in church. Watch this space for more information.

CHURCH FINANCES – THANK YOU

We are so grateful for the continued generosity of our many regular supporters during the lockdown period. Members of congregation have continued with their monthly standing orders and direct debits, and without their support we would not be able to meet our monthly commitments. Sandra says, 'I am very grateful to them all for helping me keep the books balanced and me sane.'

We need to continue to ask those whose regular giving is by cash in the collection plate or by weekly or monthly envelopes to continue to put their donations on one side ready to bring when we finally reopen. Every penny will be needed. Thank you!

READINGS

Sunday 2nd August – 8th after Trinity

COLLECT

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:1-5

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

PSALM

PSALM 145:15-END

Refrain: You open wide your hand, O Lord.

The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

You open wide your hand
and fill all things living with plenty. **R**

The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works.

The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully.

He fulfils the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them. **R**

The Lord watches over those who love him,
but all the wicked shall he destroy.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord,
and let all flesh bless his holy name
for ever and ever. **R**

SECOND READING

ROMANS 9:1-5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred

according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 14:13-21

When Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**

Wednesday 5th August

COLLECT

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 31:1-7

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword

found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

the Lord appeared to him from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant,

and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

'Come, let us go up to Zion,

to the Lord our God.'

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

'Save, O Lord, your people,

the remnant of Israel.'

PSALM

PSALM 121

Refrain: The Lord shall keep you from all evil.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;

he who watches over you will not sleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel

shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;

the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,

neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;

it is he who shall keep your soul.

The Lord shall keep watch over your going out

and your coming in,

from this time forth for evermore. **R**

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**