

**Subject:** Daily Prayer 14th May 2020 with reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

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Good morning everyone

Thanks so much to Lyn for pointing out my lockdown mentality of going back to April instead of May! Hopefully I am back on track now - welcome to May!!!

Let's begin with a few moments of silence.....

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
for you have called us out of darkness  
into the glorious light of your presence;  
you fill our emptiness with the richness of your love.  
We rejoice in the power of the resurrection  
and in your gift of eternal life.  
Blessed are you, father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN

### **John 15:9-17**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

### **Reflection by Canon Simon Stephens**

Thursday 14 May 2020

John 15/9-17

Jesus teaches his Disciples

"My command is this ; love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends". Vs 12/13.

Good Morning! During the past three months, the Pandemic has revealed more than 300 NHS staff dying in pursuit of their vocation to heal the sick. Sadly, they have not always been successful, but their courage, love and dedication to the sick is not in question!

However, we are challenged to-day here on this lovely island and far away from the ICUs of Europe, to think very carefully about the impact of John 15/vs 12/13 on our own lives ; and our ministry of care and love.

Blessed Mother Teresa, when teaching us volunteers in Calcutta, always told us that we fail Christ if we only love the

lovely. Love is transformative, it is a gift and grace bestowed upon us by the Holy Spirit, to transform the lives of others, and indeed to change the world. But sadly, because of the sinners that we are - we feel more comfortable with like-minded people ; and the unlovely are either forgotten or ignored! This week each one of us needs to pray that the Holy Spirit will use our lives and the love that we have, to transform the lives of other people in Pollenca, who ever they may be. And of course, we have to pray for the humility that we can accept the love of others, that they too may be our partners in the miracle of transformative love.

Canon Simon Stephens

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 Father guard us and each action,  
the Son protect us in each thought.  
The Spirit guide us in all our dealings,  
and the blessing of the Giver of all good gifts  
be upon us and all that we do, now and evermore  
AMEN

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore. AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
In the name of Christ  
AMEN

Blessings  
Vicky