

Subject: Daily Prayer 15th May 2020 with reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

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Date: 15/05/2020, 08:00

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Good morning to you all

Let us begin by stilling our minds and bodies in expectancy for the Holy Spirit.....

Lord our God, we thank you for the help you have given us so that we can stand before you, rejoicing in the certainty of faith. We thank you for guiding and leading our lives and for letting us see a goal ahead. Be with us in times of silence when we seem to be alone. Keep us strong and steadfast through all the turmoil of life. Help us to remain unshaken, for you walk with us holding us by the hand. Amen.

John 15:12-17

'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 Father Simon

Friday 15 May 2020

John 15/12-17

Jesus continues his discourse with his Disciples

"I have called you friends, for everything I have learned from the Father, I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you." Vs 15/16

Good Morning! There is a sense of urgency about this conversation between Christ and his disciples. The day of his departure was fast approaching ; and the Man from Galilee is anxious that the men whom he had 'chosen' to be his disciples are ready and equipped for the challenge ahead of them! Much of this discourse, as recorded by John, reveals perhaps an anxiety, a fear within Jesus that the nervous young men gathered around his feet, are up to the task. And if they have any self doubts, then he promises to empower them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Now most of the members of our congregation are well experienced travellers. Over many years of experience, we have a system, a routine to ensure that our journey goes smoothly. We have the tickets, the passport and the currency - so perhaps we can understand the length and repeated urgency of Jesus' final preparations, before he bids the disciples 'Farewell' And of course, as Christians, each and everyone of us is on a journey, a pilgrimage from earth to Paradise - and we too need to be prepared!

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

May the love of God enfold us.

The love of the Saviour uphold us.

The love of the Spirit surround us.

May we find in God a sure foundation:

and may the blessing of the Almighty be upon us now and forever.

AMEN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ

AMEN