

Subject: Daily Prayer 7th April 2020 - with reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

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Good morning everyone

As usual let us begin with a few moments of silence.....

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference.
AMEN

John 13:16- 20

Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me." I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.'

Reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

Thursday 7 May 2020

John 13/vs16- 20

Jesus Predicts His Betrayal

Good Morning. From the sparkling joy of Psalm 67, this morning, we move with John into the gathering darkness of Our Lord's betrayal and crucifixion. Quoting Psalm 41/9, Jesus sitting at table surrounded by his disciples, says " He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me". Betrayal is a bitter word and as many of us will know from personal experience, it breaks hearts and destroys families. The Man from Galilee was in increasing conflict with the Rabbinical Authorities who saw him as a threat to their authority. When storm clouds gather, the support of family and friends is all important, but Jesus discovers that even among his nearest and dearest, betrayal is close at hand! Perhaps this morning, we could make time to consider the role of betrayal in our own lives - how we have been betrayed by those whom we love ; and our own acts of betrayal. This is the place for honesty, confession and the grace to accept forgiveness. The Lord's Prayer invites us to forgive those who hurt us, but the ability to forgive, to be reconciled and to embrace is totally dependent, on our seeking God's grace to forgive. Failure to do that ,leads us into that gathering darkness. So please can we make time this Thursday morning to think about the role of betrayal in our own lives ' and to seek God's grace to forgive the unforgivable.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
'I am with you always'.
Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.
Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

from St Patrick's Breastplate

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