

Subject: Daily Prayer 11th April 2020 with a reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

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Good morning everyone

Let us be still and know that God is with us as we take a few moments of stillness and silence.....

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Our Gospel reading for today is:-

John 14:21-26

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

The following is a reflection by Canon Simon Stephens

Monday 11 May 2020

John 14/vs 21-26

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

"Peace I leave with you ; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid". Vs 27

As the Church prepares to celebrate the glorious Feast of Pentecost (The Birthday of the Church) on Sunday 31 May, so the Church Lectionary permits us to rejoin the nervous group of disciples in conversation with Christ.

The Man from Galilee seeks to prepare them for his imminent departure into Heaven. Even at this late stage, he finds the Apostolic Company, seemingly ill-prepared after all his teaching, to bid him 'Farewell'! Seemingly, they lack confidence which perhaps is not surprising after all the trauma, the highs and lows, of recent weeks. In verse 27, Jesus bestows upon them the gift of his dynamic peace which will replace the fears and the anxiety in their hearts. They now enter a time of waiting - will the Man from Galilee be true to his word? Will they be empowered by his Holy Spirit and strengthened to develop the growth of the Early Church?

During these challenging times, each one of us, every day, needs to ask Christ for that gift of peace and quiet confidence

which will empower us to be valued members of our local community.

Have a blessed week.

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 peace of God go with us wherever He may send us,
May He guide us through the wilderness protect us through the storm,
May he bring us home rejoicing at the wonders He has shown us,
May He bring us home rejoicing for today 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