

Parish of Ribbleton

St. Mary Magdalene (SMM) The Ascension (ASC) -Longsands (LS)

Sunday 25th October

Last Sunday after Trinity

Alleluia, alleluia.

*Whoever loves me will keep my word, says the Lord,
and my Father will love him and we will come to him.*

Alleluia

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of
Christ and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation the joys
of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

FIRST READING (Leviticus 19:1-2 & 15-18)

The LORD said to Moses,
'Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to
them: "Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am
holy.
Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the
poor or favouritism to the great,
but judge your neighbour fairly.
Do not go about spreading slander among your
people. Do not do anything that endangers your
neighbour's life. I am the LORD.
Do not hate a fellow Israelite in your heart.
Rebuke your neighbour frankly so that you will not
share in their guilt.
Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against
anyone among your people,
but love your neighbour as yourself.
I am the LORD."'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 1)

The response to the Psalm is:

**The LORD watches over the way of the
righteous.**

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night. **R/**

That person is like a tree planted by streams of
water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither
– whatever they do prospers.
Not so the wicked!
They are like chaff that the wind blows away. **R/**

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the
judgement,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
For the LORD watches over the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction. **R/**



SECOND READING (1Thessalonians 2:1-8)

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results.

We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition.

For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.

On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel.

We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.

You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness.

We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority.

Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you.

Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

GOSPEL (Matthew 22:34-46)

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together.

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’

Jesus replied:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it:

“Love your neighbour as yourself.”

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’

While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

‘What do you think about the Messiah?

Whose son is he?’

‘The son of David,’ they replied.

He said to them,

‘How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him “Lord”?’

For he says,

“The Lord said to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.’”

If then David calls him “Lord”, how can he be his son?’ No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.



Sunday Reflection

'All you need is Love'

I don't know for sure, but I think that there have probably been more songs written about love than about anything else in the world.

Probably one of the best known is 'All you need is love' released by the famous Liverpool band, The Beatles in 1967.

Written by John Lennon the lyrics were deliberately simplistic as the song was Britain's contribution to Our World, the first live global television link seen by an audience of 400 million in 25 countries.

What an impact it had!

The song topped sales charts in Britain and the US and many other countries.

Jesus Christ also made a massive impact in the world with the things he said.

Often simplistic words, but with a shrewd and profound meaning.

In our Gospel reading from Matthew 22:34-46 today, when the lawyer asked Jesus,

"Teacher which is the greatest commandment?"

there were a lot to choose from.

God gave to Moses 10 Commandments that were carved on the stone tablets, but there were 613 commandments given to the people of Israel - that is a lot of commandments to keep track of isn't it!

In asking Jesus "Teacher which is the greatest commandment?" the lawyer was testing Jesus to see if he knew the correct answer.

And he did!

Jesus answered him like other great teachers of the faith had always done.

He said:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind, this is the greatest commandment."

And then he added,

"And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"

Why do you think Jesus said that these were the greatest commandments?

It is because Jesus knew that if we could keep these two commandments, we would not have any trouble keeping all the others

and most specially we will not have a problem with the big 10 - the ones that include things like "Do not steal," or "Do not murder" or "do not covet or desire the things you neighbour has".

All we need is love and JESUS!

Especially in these difficult times with the impact of the Coronavirus in our lives and in our world.

Let us pray and ask Him to help us to love as we ought.

God first and to love our neighbours - as we love ourselves.

Amen.

Love and prayers,

Captain David

Intercessions

God of mercy, before you rulers and governments are humbled. Inspire the leaders and law makers of our world with a vision of the equity of all people, allowing justice and mercy to flourish in nations and between peoples.

Bless those who work to restore peace and justice and to bring healing in our broken world.

We pray for those whose lives are disrupted by conflict and disaster, and who find it hard to love their neighbours. We hold before you the people of Syria, Yemen and Libya - and those still held in refugee and transit camps throughout our world.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

God of hope, before you we kneel in humility and adoration. Inspire us to love you with our whole hearts and give us the grace to show that love towards our neighbours and ourselves. As we learn to love and serve each other, may divisions and disagreements die away, and every trace of hatred be cleansed from your Church.

Bless the leaders of your church and all who teach and proclaim the gospel.

We pray for our Bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill, and for Fr Keith, Fr Chris, Captain David and Linda, as they serve our parish and congregations day by day.

Bless Jacqueline and Ron, our parish wardens, and those who work with them to keep our churches open.

Direct and guide us, whether worshipping at home or in church, so that we may grow in faith and love for each other, and for the neighbours you have given us.

We ask your blessing on Fr Keith in the plans and decisions he is making.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

God of compassion, before you we meditate on your law. Inspire us to answer your call to love our neighbours as ourselves. Send us out in love, to share the hope Christ gives us, with all we meet.

Open our eyes to the needs of all those you trust to us as family, friends, workmates and neighbours. May we support the vulnerable, encourage the timid, and provide practical help for those in need.

We ask your blessing on all who live in our parish and on those who work for their safety, comfort and wellbeing.

We pray for the children and young people of our parish, and for all involved in their education. May they be kept safe during the half term break.

We hold before you those who struggle to feed their families, or whose homes and livelihoods are under threat because of the pandemic restrictions.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

God of pity, before you we cry out for mercy and release from our suffering. Inspire us with faith and courage to bear all that afflicts us.

Open our eyes and ears to the needs of all your people, and use us to serve them.

Bless those who are hungry, homeless or displaced from family and community, and those who work to restore them to full life.

Protect and encourage those who work to heal, comfort and support those who are sick, frail or vulnerable,

We hold before you those bowed down by grief, and those named on our prayer list. May they know your healing touch in their lives.

Open our hearts to those who feel alone in their troubles and grant them the comfort of your presence.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

God of life, before you we plead Christ's cross and resurrection. Inspire in us the faith to look to the coming of your kingdom. May we rejoice with all your saints in the glory of your presence.

We pray for those who have been killed this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters in our world, and for all the victims of the coronavirus.

We remember before you those who have died recently and those whose years mind is around this time.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace and rise in glory

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

God of love, before you we kneel in awe, surrounded by the mystery of your love for us. Renew us in our faith, and restore in us your image, and grant us your peace.

Trusting in your eternal love, we bring the silent prayers of our hearts - for ourselves and those we love - and our thanks for the work of your love in our lives.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.



If you would like to sing:

Come down O love divine

<https://youtu.be/IZEpPol1moE>

A new commandment I give unto you

<https://youtu.be/vitewSCAHhU>

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee

<https://youtu.be/Of4I5bTdZ8M>

Will you let me be your servant

https://youtu.be/k-Pk2NHKg_o

**Readings for Sunday 1st November
All Saints Day**

*Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10;
1John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12*

We note with sadness the death this week of
Rosemary Boyle,
a member of our Lunch Club.
Please hold her family in your prayers

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