

Parish of Ribbleton

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

Sunday 31st July

Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Alleluia! Alleluia!

'Watch out!

*Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'*

Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;
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 (Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23)

'Meaningless! Meaningless!' says the Teacher.
'Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.'
I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.
I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all
that is done under the heavens.
What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!
I have seen all the things that are done under the sun;
all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.
I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun,
because I must leave them to the one who comes after
me.
And who knows whether that person will be wise or
foolish?
Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil
into which I have poured my effort and skill under the
sun.
This too is meaningless.
So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome
labour under the sun.
For a person may labour with wisdom, knowledge and
skill, and then they must leave all they own to another
who has not toiled for it.
This too is meaningless and a great misfortune.

What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving
with which they labour under the sun?
All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night
their minds do not rest.
This too is meaningless.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Psalm 49:1-12)

The response to the Psalm is:

**God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end.**

Hear this, all you peoples;
listen, all who live in this world,
both low and high,
rich and poor alike:
My mouth will speak words of wisdom;
the meditation of my heart will give you understanding.
I will turn my ear to a proverb;
with the harp I will expound my riddle. **R/**

Why should I fear when evil days come,
when wicked deceivers surround me –
those who trust in their wealth
and boast of their great riches?
No one can redeem the life of another
or give to God a ransom for them –
the ransom for a life is costly,
no payment is ever enough –
so that they should live on for ever
and not see decay. **R/**

For all can see that the wise die,
that the foolish and the senseless also perish,
leaving their wealth to others.
Their tombs will remain their houses for ever,
their dwellings for endless generations,
though they had named lands after themselves.
People, despite their wealth, do not endure;
they are like the beasts that perish. **R/**

SECOND READING (Colossians 3:1-11)

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

THE GOSPEL (Luke 12:13-21)

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.'

Jesus replied,

'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?'

Then he said to them,

'Watch out!

Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'

And he told them this parable:

'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

He thought to himself,

"What shall I do?

I have no place to store my crops."

Then he said,

"This is what I'll do.

I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.

And I'll say to myself,

'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years.

Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

But God said to him,

"You fool!

This very night your life will be demanded from you.

Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'



Sunday Reflection

Reflecting on our readings for this Sunday, I was reminded of the time David and I lived and worked in Jamaica.

Although this Caribbean Island is very beautiful, and we see this reflected in various travel brochures, the 'real' Jamaica is very different.

Although there was, and still is a great deal of violence and crime, corruption, and poverty in Jamaica, whilst we were there, we had the privilege of meeting and working with some of the most beautiful Christian people we had ever met.

What was it that made them beautiful?

It was the fact that many of them were materially very poor, living in shacks, having very little yet just wanting to share with others whatever they could whenever they had the opportunity.

Their main focus was in having their thoughts and affections set on Jesus, building their relationship with him and looking at things in the light of eternity, rather than just thinking about the here and now.

Seeking first the kingdom of God was a priority, and they had a genuine desire to read God's word and pray together about everything.

In fact the prayer meeting was the most important meeting on the church's agenda.

Although these people were very poor in the eyes of the world, spiritually they were very rich indeed!

What a contrast between them and the so called 'rich fool' in our Gospel reading today.

Jesus used parables to teach a lesson on covetousness and that true 'life' has got nothing to do with possessions.

The fool in this parable put the focus on himself rather than God (Notice how many times the word 'I' appears in the passage).

He mistakenly looked upon his possessions as his own, rather than as gifts dependent on the will of God and to be used unselfishly in order to bless others.

He lays up treasures for himself and is not rich toward God.

He fails to understand life's true objective.

He should not have allowed material concerns to be his main focus.

He could have been truly rich if his life was measured not by what he possessed, but by a good relationship with God and others.

The richest person is not the one who has the most, but the one who is able and willing to give the most – like our Jamaican brothers and sisters who wanted to give as much as they could out of what little they had because of their love for God and the desire to seek first the things of his kingdom.

Life consists of far more than obtaining and possessing things.

Rather, God wants us to enjoy a full, complete and balanced life and he has made provision through his word for us to be fulfilled in that way.

He has promised to supply our every need and he has also promised to fulfil the desires of our hearts.

However, he also wants us to keep our priorities clear – to seek first the Kingdom of God and be good stewards of all the gifts he has given us, both as individuals and as a church.

Love and prayers,

Linda Thorp

Intercessions

Generous God, your love sets us free and fills us with your grace. Inspire your Church with the treasure of your eternal presence and teach us to place our trust in your grace and mercy alone.

Hear our prayers for all who you have called and commissioned to work as leaders and prophets in your Church, for those attending the Lambeth Conference, and for our bishops, Julian, Philip and Jill.

We hold before you those who live in fear and danger because of their faith, and ask your blessing on the Christian communities of Egypt and Nigeria.

We pray for our worshipping communities. Make us ready to work for the growth of your kingdom here in our parish.

We give thanks for the work and witness of Fr John, Fr Chris, Linda and Captain David as they minister to our parish. We ask your blessing on them and on our parish wardens, Ron and Barbara.

We hold before you the person you are calling to serve and lead our parish. May they, and those with the responsibility to select and appoint them, be open to the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

We pray for Samuel, being baptised today. May he and his family grow in faith, surrounded by your love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Gracious God, direct our gaze beyond personal gain and satisfaction. Open our eyes and hearts to the issues and struggles of our world, and teach us to share the gifts of your abundant love.

We hold before you those with power and authority in the nations. Give them the wisdom and strength they need to meet the challenges and demands of our world, and to walk the paths of righteousness and truth.

We ask your blessing on those who work to restore peace and justice and to bring healing in our broken world.

We hold before you those who live in fear and turmoil, because of violence and warfare, and those whose lives and livelihoods are damaged by the extremes of weather. We pray for the people of Afghanistan, Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Ukraine, and for the peoples of East Africa, facing famine.

We pray for peace in Ukraine as we say the diocesan prayer together...

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Generous God, you pour out the riches of your love on all people, and draw us together to share in your harvest. Guide us to reach out in your name to those around us. Make our communities places of welcome, care, praise and thankfulness, in every situation.

Bless all who live and work in our parish, our neighbours and work-mates, our friends and families

Use us to serve and comfort those of our neighbours who struggle with the demands and needs of daily life, especially using the community pantry, and those struggling to feed young families during the school holidays.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Gracious God, your love extends to all your creation. Look in mercy on all whose hearts are faint, strengthen the weary, and uphold them all in their troubles.

We give thanks for all who work to bring comfort and healing to those who suffer in any way.

We hold before you all who are sick, in need or in distress, and ask your blessing on those known to us, those named on our prayer list and those among us now. 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

Merciful God, all things are possible with you. In your love, raise to everlasting life those who have died, and grant that we may join with all your saints before your throne of grace.

We pray for those who are close to death, those who are dying alone, unnoticed or unprepared, and for all who have died this week in the ongoing conflicts and disasters of our world.

We pray for those known to us who have died recently, and those whose anniversary 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

Loving God, in all things teach us to celebrate the gifts of your abundant love and open our hearts to share the riches you give us.

Confident in your love for us, we bring the silent prayers of our hearts - for ourselves and those we love.

Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

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

The Diocesan prayer for Ukraine

*Almighty God,
seated above all the affairs of humankind
and sovereign over nations and leaders,
hear our prayer for Ukraine at this time of war;
that lives may be spared,
that national boundaries be respected
and that forces of aggression be restrained.
Grant, Lord God,
peace in your world in our time.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen*

Sunday 7th August

Feast of the Transfiguration

8th Sunday after Trinity – 19th Week of Ordinary Time

President: Rev. Canon Grant Ashton

9:30am Eucharist at The Church of the Ascension

11:00am Eucharist at St. Mary Magdalene's

Readings

Daniel 7:9,10,13,14; Psalm 97;

2 Peter 1:16-19; Luke 9:28-36

Mid-week services and activities

Tuesday 10am – 12 noon – Community Pantry at ASC

Tuesday – Eucharist at Preston Private

Wednesday 10am – Eucharist at SMM,

Thursday 10am – 12 noon – Place of Welcome at ASC

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 1st August: Baptism Preparation Class,
7:00pm at St Mary Magdalene's

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