



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St Luke's
Prodromi

WEEKLY NEWS

**Sunday 26th March 2023
(Fifth Sunday of Lent)**

WELCOME

Summer draws ever nearer. What joy when I had to take my fleece off when walking the dog this morning ☺. It's good to see that there are a couple of contributions from our readers this week. Please read and enjoy this week's edition and have a blessed week ahead. **DON'T FORGET THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS WEEKEND.**

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

A Prayer for the week ahead for our Parish and Ourselves.

Lord, let us greet the week ahead with a smile. Let us thank you for opportunities it can bring us. Lord, a week of forgiveness, that stretches out like a lake of never ending grace. A week of promise, of love in action, alive and outstretched. A week of unity, mending broken lives, where we build bridges of peace and restoration. A week of celebration, of worship to a living Lord who holds heaven out to us and proclaims life over death. Let us greet the week ahead with a smile. Amen.

Encouraging Words.

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.
(Mark 11: 24)*

Our Diocese:

See the downloadable Prayer Calendar here: <https://www.cypgulf.org/prayer-diary/>

Daily Readings

For readings and the daily service of morning prayer, evening prayer and compline, please download <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

GOD SLOT

I wonder how many sermons spoke of 'Love' this past Sunday...? The late Queen Elizabeth II, when addressing family members of those who perished in the 9/11 terrorist attack, said: "*Grief is the price we pay for love.*" Our Gospel reading on Sunday spoke of the foretelling of the grief that Mary would experience. CS Lewis also spoke of love: "*To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. To love is to be vulnerable.*" We are called to be a people of love: "*We love because Christ first loved us.*" [1 John 4:19] and 1 Corinthians 13 reminds us of how that love is demonstrated - not in the 'Hollywood Blockbuster' ways, nor in the value of a gift given, but in our everyday actions. Love demonstrated through patience, humility, truthfulness, forgiveness, bearing with one another and building one another up. In a few weeks time we will be reminded of the way in which God ultimately demonstrated the depth of love he has for all humanity - a demonstration of an unconditional and sacrificial love.

God Bless
Revd Ken

JOKE SPOT

Little Johnny fell off the edge of a cliff and, as he tumbled down, he caught hold of a small branch. "Help! Is there anybody up there?" he shouted. A majestic voice boomed through the gorge: "I will help you, my son, but first you must have faith in me." "Yes, yes, I trust you!" cried Little Johnny. "Let go of the branch," boomed the voice. There was a long pause, and Little Johnny shouted up again, "Is there anybody else up there?"

A SHORT REFLECTION ON SOMEONE ELSE'S REFLECTION!

I picked up an old favourite of mine today by Charles Spurgeon. I can really recommend it, 'Cheque Book of The Bank of Faith'. A wonderful title especially in today's financially focused volatile world! Today's reading was Proverbs 15:8. "The prayer of the upright is His delight." Spurgeon challenges us to "*pray much and pray in faith. If our prayer is God's delight, let us not stint Him in that which gives Him pleasure. He does not consider the grammar of it, nor the metaphysics of it, nor the rhetoric of it; in all these, men might despise it. He, as a Father, takes pleasure in the lisplings of His own babes, the stammerings of His newborn sons and daughters. Should we not delight in prayer since the Lord delights in it? Let us make errands to the throne. The Lord finds us enough reasons for prayer, and we ought to thank Him that it is so*".

I loved this and two main things struck me. Am I "upright" in God's eyes today and should I be afraid to just pray for and with others? Firstly "upright"! Basically am I right with God? Have I listened for the Holy Spirit convicting my heart of any area where I am straying away and the confessed my sin? The practice of confession is possibly one area, outside church services, where I can be spiritually lazy! Possibly (almost certainly!) because I don't like to be told where I am going wrong! None of us do! Sigh! When I have confessed and repented (turned away from my sin) then, I am once more in a state of grace - "right" before God! Upright even! Of course some of us (sigh again!) may need to practice this discipline of confession and repentance more often! Please tell me I am not alone! God delights in my prayer? What mine?! Even when I am so often afraid/embarrassed to offer to pray with someone out loud? Afraid of the wrong words, of forgetting something, of sounding stupid, or of sounding fake, or just not even being able to utter the words! Yet, we are told He delights in our prayers. How many times have I so appreciated that someone has asked me, can I pray with you, can I pray for you? How can I then not do the same, to offer to pray, to bring my sister or brother before our God who delights in my prayers? I hear my girls saying "get over yourself Mum!" So I am challenged again, as I hope you will also be challenged to pray! Alone quietly or out aloud with or for others.

My words may stumble but God knows my heart and He is listening and delighting in my humble and often ineloquent efforts, as He will with yours!

(Caroline Cliff)

NOTICES

CHARITY COLLECTION

Sue & Lou's Charity Bottles. The last date for collection of bottles is **this Sunday 26th March**, please have yours ready to hand in by that date. Many thanks.

NICOSIA COACH TRIP

Still time to book your place on the bus for the Nicosia trip (including Ikea) on **28th March**. Tickets available from your friendly Churchwarden.

SPRING FAYRE

The Spring Fayre is planned for **Saturday 22nd April** at St Stephen's in Tala. We are looking for bric-a-brac items, cakes, preserves, jewellery, plants and, of course, refreshments that will help raise money for the church. Any new stall ideas would be much appreciated. Contact Chris Hoskins on 97753973.

EASTER FLOWERS – ST STEPHEN'S

Message from Lisa Smith.... "I will be arranging the Easter Flowers for St Stephen's again this year; if you would like to contribute a small donation towards the cost of the flowers it will be much appreciated. Many thanks, Lisa.

SAVE THE DATES

28 th March	Nicosia Coach Trip
9 th April	Easter Lunch (venue to be advised)
22 nd April	Spring Fayre
8 th May	Coronation Garden Party
27 th May	Variety Show
24 th June	Mini Golf
22 nd July	Annual BBQ

SERVICES

Sunday 26th March – Third Sunday of Lent

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki
11.00am Holy Communion St Luke's
11.00am Morning Worship St Stephen's

Readings:

Samuel 1: 20-28; Psalm 34: 11-20; 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; Luke 2: 33-35

Sunday 2nd April – Palm Sunday

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki
11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's
11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's
6.00pm Holy Communion Ayia Kyriaki

Readings:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 31: 9-16; Philippians 2: 5-11; Matthew 26: 14 –75, 27: 1-66

Mid-week Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at 9.00am at Ayia Kyriaki



Maureen Gage writes...

We used to frequent a café in Norwich run by St Stephen's Church. Tables were placed inside the large building and the coffee, toasted sandwiches and cakes were excellent. On the tables were things to read and you were free to take them home. 'A Memo from God' caught my eye and I took it home. I thought it would be good to share it with you here in Paphos.

A Memo from God

*I Knew you before time began. I even know how many
hairs are on your head!
Like parent, like child: you're created in my image
Not only have I got plans for you, I've also given you the
talents you need to fulfil them.
And what I give you, nobody else can take away from you
But don't neglect them; remember to exercise them
and stir them up daily.
Rest assured that I've started a good work in you and I'm
going to finish it. I always finish what I begin
My word concerning you is forever settled in Heaven.
My commitment to you is unending.
In this life you'll have challenges, but cheer up!
I've robbed Satan of his power to hurt you and the world
of it's power to destroy you. When you're in trouble,
remember I'm a very present help.
Give me the burdens and I'll sustain you.
But a word of caution: don't take advice from those who
are spiritually blind, and don't hang out with sceptics..
Delight yourself in my word, and like a big oak tree
growing by a river, you'll be fruitful and prosper in all you do
PS. I'd love to hear back from you.
See you at MY Place on Sunday?
UCB Word for Today 03*



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(Don't forget Friday is my day off (most weeks☺))

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www.paphosanglicanchurch.org

www.facebook.com/Anglican Church of Paphos

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