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ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St. Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St. Luke's
Prodromi

WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 21st May 2023
(Seventh Sunday of Easter)

WELCOME

Past the halfway point in May, my goodness it's getting awfully near Christmas already. Hope you enjoy this week's edition. There are more than a couple of interesting articles to set you thinking.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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.

The new week starts, and we can shout hurray! May it bring happiness, friendship, love and health, and blow any past troubles away so that we can start afresh, full of praise for God and full of life for his people. Amen.

A Prayer for a new Incumbent.

Please pray for someone to see the advert in the Church Times for a new Priest for our Parish and feel called to come and serve you lovely people.

Encouraging Words:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you." (Deuteronomy 31: 6)

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

A bit long for the God Spot; but well worth reading.



Men don't have babies because God saw the way they handle a cold and knew the species would never survive.

Extract from The Friendship Book

Tuesday 10th May 2022

This life has many problems,
Some days of tears and frowns,
And like a roller-coaster ride
So many ups and downs.
But don't forget the joyful times
To cherish and to hold,
For some days when the clouds are grey
They comfort and enfold.

And see how nature celebrates
Each season of the year,
The beauty, wonder and the joy
Around us everywhere.
So keep this hope within your heart,
This warm anticipation.
Enjoy the many gifts each day,
For life's a celebration
(Submitted by Maureen Gage)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (A CONVERSATION WITH GOD)

Our Father who art in heaven ..."

"Yes?"

"Don't interrupt me. I'm praying."

"But you called me."

"Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. **Our Father which art in heaven ..."**

"There ... you did it again."

"Did what?"

"Called me. You said, Our Father which art in heaven. Here I am. What's on your mind?"

"But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting a duty done."

"All right. Go on."

"Hallowed be thy name ..."

"Hold it! What do you mean by that?"

"By what?"

"By 'hallowed be thy name'?"

"It means ... it means ... good grief! I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?"

"It means honoured ... holy ... wonderful."

"Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. **Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**"

"Do you really mean that?"

"Sure, why not?"

"What are you doing about it?"

"Doing? Nothing, I guess! I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there."

"Have I got control of you?"

"Well ... I go to church."

"That isn't what I asked you. What about your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money ... all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?"

"Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at the church."

Excuse me. I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones who are praying for it ... like you, for example."

"Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others."

"So could I."

"I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to ... you know ... be really free."

"Good ... now we're getting somewhere! We'll work together, you and I. Some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you."

"Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. **Give us this day, our daily bread.**"

"You need to cut out the bread. You're overweight as it is."

"Hey, wait a minute! What is this ... 'Criticise me day?' Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups."

"Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer ... (pause). Well ... go on!"

"I'm scared to."

VARIETY SHOW

Saturday 27th May at Stage One Theatre, Emba. Tickets are available price €15 each from your usual sellers at church. **Please** support this event, which is raising funds for the church and three local charities. Don't leave it any longer, go out and get your tickets now! Drag your friends and neighbours along too.

SAVE THE DATES

27th May Variety Show - Don't forget to invite your friends and neighbours

24th June Mini Golf

22nd July Annual BBQ

SERVICES

Sunday 21st May – 7th Sunday of Easter

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki Revd William

11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's Jayne

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's Revd Ken

Readings:

Acts 1: 6-14; Psalm 68: 1-10; 1 Peter 4: 12-14 – 5: 6-11; John 17: 1-11

Sunday 28th May – Pentecost

8.15am Sung Eucharist Ayia Kyriaki + Incense Revd Ken

11.00am Holy Communion St Luke's Revd Ken

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's Revd Andrew

Readings:

Acts 2: 1-21; Psalm 104: 26-37; 1 Corinthians 12: 3b-13; John 20: 19-23

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

I say, 'Now, don't get me wrong, Lord. I do all I can within reason, but I can't afford to go overboard. I mean, I have to live in this world.'

And he says, 'I love you.'

I say, 'It's all very well to talk about love, but love is dangerous. It can get people crucified. At the best it can be misunderstood. If I go round telling people I love them, someone's going to lock me up.'

And he says, 'I love you.'

I say, 'The trouble is, I'm not ready. Come back in a few years when I've got my life sorted out. By then I should have something to offer you.'

And he says, 'I love you.'

I say, 'Lord, don't look at me like that. You're making it very difficult. All right. I'll spell it out. I'm a sinner. I'd let you down. I'd give my life to you and then try to take back it again. I'm weak, Lord.'

And he says, 'I love you.'

I say, 'You don't understand what I'm telling you. I'd deny you and betray you. There'd be times when I'd crucify you. And what would you think of me then?'

And he says, 'I love you.'

NOTICES

BIBLE STUDY

Our new Bible Study has started and we meet on Monday's at 10.30am at St Stephen's, if you are interested in joining this lively group then please contact me. The study is aimed at people who are new to the faith and those of us a bit long in the tooth in our journey. Why not come along and give it a try.

THINGS ON AT THE CATHEDRAL

On **Saturday 3 June at 4 pm** there will be an Island-wide service at St Paul's Cathedral in thanksgiving for the many years of service Archbishop Michael and Julia have given to this Diocese. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Hall and garden. All are warmly invited.

"Scared? Of what?"

"I know what You'll say."

"Try me and see."

"Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

"What about Ann?"

"See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Why Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories about my family. She never paid back the debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!"

"But your prayer? What about your prayer?"

"I didn't mean it."

"Well, at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying that load of bitterness around inside, is it?"

"No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for that neighbour. She'll wish she had never moved into this neighbourhood."

"You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you already are. But I can change all that."

"You can? How?"

"Forgive Ann. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Ann's problem and not yours. You will have settled your heart."

"Oh, you're right. You always are. And more than I want to revenge Ann, I want to be right with you. Ann, I want to be right with you ... (pause) ... (sigh). Alright! Alright! I forgive her! Help her to find the right road in life, Lord. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody who goes around doing the things she does to others has to be out of it. Someway, somehow, show her the right way."

"There now! Wonderful! How do you feel?"

"Hmmm ... well, not bad. Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest."

"You're not through with your prayer. Go on."

"Oh, all right. **And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**"

"Good! Good! I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted."

"What do you mean by that?"

Don't turn on the TV when you know the laundry needs to be done and the house needs to be picked up. Also, about the time you spend having coffee with your friends ... if you can't influence the conversation to positive things, perhaps you should re-think the value of those friendships. Another thing, your neighbours and friends shouldn't be your standard for "keeping up with." And please don't use me for an escape hatch."

"I don't understand the last part."

"Sure you do. You've done it a lot of times. You get caught in a bad situation. You get into trouble and then you come running to me. "Lord, help me out of this mess, and I promise you I'll never do it again." You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?"

"Yes and I'm ashamed, Lord. I really am."

"Which bargain are you remembering?"

"Well, there was the night that Bill was gone and the children and I were home alone. The wind was blowing so hard I thought the roof would go any minute and tornado warnings were out. I remember praying, 'Oh God, if you spare us, I'll never skip my devotions again.'"

"I protected you, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?"

"I'm sorry, Lord. I really am. Up until now I thought that if I just prayed the Lord's Prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did."

"Go ahead and finish your prayer."

"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen."

"Do you know what would bring me glory? What would really make me happy?"

"No, but I'd like to know. I now want to please you. I can see what a mess

I've made of my life. And I can see how great it would be to really be one of your followers."

"You just answered the question."

"I did?"

"Yes. The thing that would bring me glory is to have people like you truly love me. And I see that happening between us. Now that some of these old sins are exposed and out of the way, well, there is no telling what we can do together."

"Lord, let's see what we can make of me, okay?"

"Yes, let's see."

God Bless,

Revd Ken

JOKE SPOT

Little Johnny and a man called James, applied for an engineering position. Both applicants having the same qualifications were asked to take a test by the department manager. Upon completion of the exam both men only missed one of the questions. The manager went to Little Johnny and said, "Thank you for your interest, but we've decided to give James the job." Little Johnny replied, "Why? We both correctly answered nine questions. I believe I should get this job, especially since I've grown up in this town and James just moved here." The manager said, "We made our decision not on the correct answers, but on the question you missed." "How could one incorrect answer be better than the other?" asked Little Johnny. "Simple," said the manager. "James put down on question #5, 'I don't know', and you put down, 'Neither do I.'"

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The Call (Joy Cowley) (From *Aotearoa Psalms: Prayers of a New People*)

Jesus says, "Come follow me"

I say, 'Lord, you're calling the wrong person. I'm not the following type. It takes me all the time to stand on my own two feet.'

And he says, 'I love you.'