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

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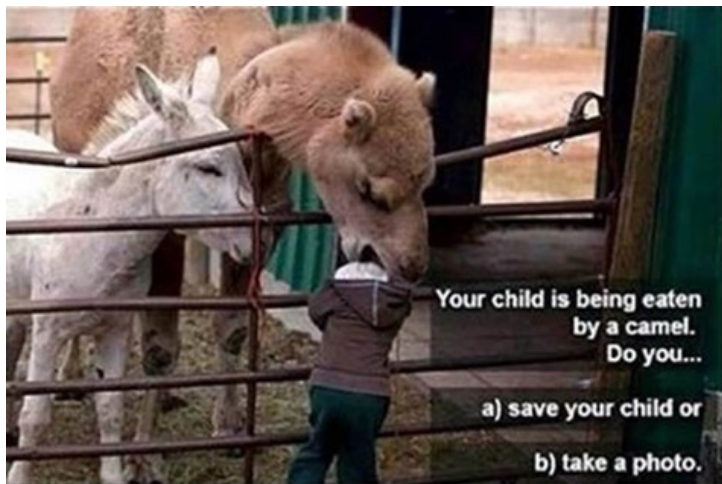
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ANGLICAN CHURCH OF PAPHOS



St. Stephen's
Tala



Ayia Kyriaki
Kato Paphos



St. Luke's
Prodromi

WEEKLY NEWS

Sunday 23rd April 2023
(Third Sunday of Easter)

WELCOME

The 'God Spot' comes from a submission from one of our readers. It's quite long but worth the read. As a reminder, all contributions are gratefully received. On another note, I am off duty this weekend, thank you to Revd William for covering for me. I am still in the Parish but having a rest after the Easter rush (well deserved I hear someone yell!). Enjoy this week's edition.

PRAYERS FOR THIS WEEK

Collect:

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; 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.

Dear Lord, let us greet this coming week with a smile. Let us thank you for this glorious week and what it can mean to us. 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. We greet this week with a smile. Amen

Encouraging Words:

"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1 John 4: 16)

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

THAT TIME RC SPROUL SAID HE WOULDN'T SEE BILLY GRAHAM IN HEAV-

How beautiful is the night

Oh, how beautiful is the night, all those stars that shine so bright, and when
all is still

And silent, and in awe one wonders, moonlight silhouetting both the tree
and hill.

And something surely shouting that there must be a Someone behind it all,
but we

Looking elsewhere or distracted, and therefore, that Someone are unable to
see.

Yet how could it be otherwise, chance knowing nothing of such order and
beauty,

That intricateness and complexity, and that high IQ of humanity.

Yes, it all too amazing, too clever, like that ability to procreate,
And why the wonder of it all, something well beyond the ken of humans
must state,

And that being, that all was created, no big bang causing life on Earth, or
you,

But an ability far more superior than anything humans can do.

Yes, we dummies compared to such, ignorant of so much, and why in awe
one views

That galaxy that operates as if on cue, and why a *Creator* I choose

(Lance Landall)

Hall and garden. All are warmly invited.

LAY WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING

Are you interested in becoming a Lay Worship Leader? The Diocese are arranging another course in July/August this year (I'll be one of the instructors, so you've got a friendly face). There are two face-to-face sessions at the start and end of the training with the remainder of the training being held on Zoom. Come and have a chat with me to see what it involves (Revd Ken 99555290).

SAVE THE DATES

8 th May	Coronation Garden Party
27 th May	Variety Show
24 th June	Mini Golf
22 nd July	Annual BBQ

SERVICES

Sunday 23rd April – 3rd Sunday of Easter

8.15am Sung Eucharist

11.00am Morning Worship St Luke's

11.00am Holy Communion St Stephen's

Readings:

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; Psalm 116: 1-3, 10-17; 1 Peter 1: 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

Sunday 30th April – 4th Sunday of April

8.15am Sung Eucharist

11.00am Holy Communion St Luke's

11.00am Morning Worship St Stephen's

Readings:

Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2: 19-25; John 10: 1-10

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

EN

“Grace should always impact how we relate to others. But how does Jesus want his people to relate to one another on matters that are important, but that are also *non-essential*? Unlike the *essentials* which are best summarised in ancient consensus statements like the Apostles and Nicene Creeds, and which also include those things about which Scripture speaks unambiguously (i.e., “You shall not commit adultery”), *non-essentials* are matters about which Christians may disagree freely while enjoying fellowship and holding each other in high esteem. Wherever the Bible does not speak with certainty on a particular matter, wherever the Bible leaves room for varying perspectives, such matters should be treated as a non-essential.

I am told that the theologian RC Sproul once gave a talk at our church on the nature of how God brings people into a saving relationship with himself. On this particular issue, Dr. Sproul is well known for emphasising the sovereign, electing grace of God. Others like Billy Graham are known for emphasising human free will. While Dr. Sproul would say we chose God only because God first chose us, Dr. Graham might say that God chose us based on his prior knowledge that we would one day choose him. This is an intramural debate between believers. It's an important one, but on whichever side a person lands, it will not determine his or her eternal destiny.

During the question and answer time after Dr. Sproul's talk, someone asked him if he believed he would see Billy Graham in heaven, to which he replied:

“No, I don't believe I will see Billy Graham in heaven.” Of course, there was a collective gasp! But then he continued, “Billy Graham will be so close to the throne of God, and I will be so far away from the throne of God, that I will be lucky even to get a glimpse of him!”

What RC Sproul demonstrated is that sincere believers can disagree on certain matters, sometimes quite strongly, and still maintain great respect and affection for one another.

It is no coincidence that the longest recorded prayer we have from Jesus is his famous High Priestly Prayer, in which he asks that his wildly diverse communion of followers be united as one. It is no coincidence that the Apostle Paul would begin his letters with the two-part salutation, “grace to

you” (the standard Greek greeting) and “peace to you” (the standard Jewish greeting). It is no coincidence that he would insist that Jews and Greeks, slaves and free people, men and women, are *as one* through Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:28). All three pairings represented the deepest forms of relational hostility to the first century reader. Jews looked down their noses at Greeks, and Greeks despised Jews. Men were dismissive toward women, and women were embittered toward men. Free people saw slaves as sub-human, and slaves resented free people. Paul would put an end to such divisions because Christians are in many ways a band of opposites, who over time grow to love one another through the centering, unifying love of Jesus.

But there is more to unity than the cooling down of hostility. There is also much that Christians from differing perspectives can learn from one another. I treasure the fact that some of my closest “pastor friends” are from traditions other than my own. Besides being excellent company, these friendships are meaningful and necessary for my own development as a minister and as a believer.

What’s more, I don’t know where I would be without the influence of others who see certain non-essentials differently than I do. I need the wisdom, reasoning, and apologetics of CS Lewis, though his take on some of the finer points of theology are different than mine. I need the preaching and charisma of Charles Spurgeon, though his view of baptism is different than mine. I also need the Kingdom vision of NT Wright and the theology of Jonathan Edwards, though their views on church government are different than mine. I need the passion and prophetic courage of Martin Luther King, Jr., the cultural intelligence of Soong Chan Rah, and the *Confessions* of Saint Augustine, though their ethnicities are different than mine. I need the reconciliation spirit of Miroslav Volf, though his nationality is different than mine. I need the spiritual thirst and love impulse of Brennan Manning and the prophetic wit of GK Chesterton, though both were Roman Catholics and I am a Protestant.

I also need the hymns and personal holiness of John and Charles Wesley, though some of our doctrinal distinctives are different. I need the glorious weakness of Joni Eareckson Tada, the spirituality of Marva Dawn, the trusting perseverance of Elisabeth Elliott, the longsuffering of Amy Carmi-

chael, the boldness of Jackie Hill Perry, the thankfulness of Ann Voskamp, the theological precision of Kathy Keller, and the integrity of Patti Sauls, though their gender is different than mine.

In non-essentials liberty and to this we might add an open-minded receptivity. We must allow ourselves to be shaped by our “other” brothers and sisters for Jesus’ sake. We will be the richer for it.”

I would welcome any comments on the above.

God Bless,

Revd Ken

JOKE SPOT

Little Johnny and his friend were on a hike through the woods when a huge brown bear suddenly appears in the clearing about 50 feet in front of them. The bear sees the two men and begins to head toward them. Little Johnny immediately drops his backpack, digs out a pair of sneakers, and frantically begins to put them on. His friend says, ‘What are you doing? Sneakers won’t help you outrun that bear.’ ‘I don’t need to outrun the bear,’ Little Johnny says. ‘I just need to outrun you.’

NOTICES

BIBLE STUDY

A new Bible Study will start on Monday 15th May at 10.30am at St Stephen’s, if you are interested in joining this lively group then please contact me.

THINGS ON AT THE CATHEDRAL

On **Friday 5 May at 5 pm** there will be a Street Party around the Cathedral car park, in celebration for the Coronation of King Charles III. Please book a pitch at the Cathedral office, and bring your own food and drinks.

On **Sunday 7 May at 5 pm** there will be a service at St Paul’s Cathedral to give thanks for the life and service of King Charles III, followed by High Tea in the Cathedral Hall and garden. All welcome.

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