

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10th May 2020

Notices:

Christian Aid Week 10 – 16 May:

Although we haven't traditionally "done" Christian Aid Week with Fundraising Events, we have supported Christian Aid's work through Emergency Appeals and our yearly Mission Giving. This year with all that's going on, we as a Church have to think about how much we can give from our yearly Mission Giving budget. So, if you are able and willing to help them out, please go to Christian Aid webpage <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> and support their important work directly by donating whatever you can.

Thy Kingdom Come 21 – 31 May:

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. – You might remember those leather prayer bands I gave to you last year to pray for 5 people. This year, I invite us to gather together for live streamed Daily prayer. So watch this space for further info.

Church Fundraising:

If you are shopping Online, please consider raising funds for our church at same time. If you would like to know more go to our church fundraising website:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/resurrectionandstbarnabas/>



Reflection: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

The psalms have taken on even greater meaning in these days of the Covid-19. Today's psalm is 31:1-3, 15-16, but it is worth to read all 24 verses. While the context in which the psalm is written it may not be the same as ours, yet it expresses many of the honest emotions of grief and lament that many of us are currently experiencing. Verse 24 alone is one that many may find helpful to meditate on in these days.

The psalmist prays, as we do now, for the refuge and fortress of God to protect us and for deliverance from that which is hidden and invisible to us, but would threaten our very lives (vv.3-4).

In these days of isolation, when we have had to retreat to the fortress of our own homes, may we gain a new understanding of God as our fortress, the place of security and safety we turn to in this time of trial. God is not a fortress that barricades but strengthens and reinforces, enabling us to look out for our most vulnerable neighbours, near and far – of course, from a safe distance or virtually.

There is something refreshingly honest about these prayers of lament which tell God how things really are, and this shows that God is interested in our physical suffering and our bodily wellbeing. And that's important to remember these days. Even Jesus turned to the psalms for strength and courage when enduring suffering. It is verse 5 of this psalm that Jesus quotes on the cross: 'Into your hand I commit my spirit'. Into the hands of God we entrust ourselves and neighbours near and far:

*God, incline your ear to us; rescue us speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us.
In your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.*

Recently Deceased:

Joyce Baker RIP
Dorothy Clewlow RIP

Years In Mind:

Birthdays:

Rev Maria 10th May

Rector: The Reverend Maria Onuigbo Mobile: 07526 035611

Email: revmariaonuigbo@outlook.com