

In Touch across North Barrow

Sunday 10th. May 2020 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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Worship during the day, alone or with household members

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, alleluia! alleluia! *John 6:40*

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Collect for today

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Readings : Acts 7:55-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14
or during the week from the daily prayer and readings.

The Gospel

14: Jesus said to his disciples: ¹ 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶ Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.' ⁸ Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"?' ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Prayers

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger;
order us in all our doings and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Conclusion

We are raised to new life with Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Just a few weeks ago Zoom was an ice lolly last enjoyed over twenty years ago, now it's an every day event for meeting after meeting and a way of keeping in touch socially and (if the video is working) visually. It has its downside. At clergy chapter this week my video wasn't showing. As I was down to lead the opening prayer and reflection I decided that it would be a good idea to be visible. 'Don't worry, I'll just disconnect and reconnect the camera.' Unfortunately pulled the wrong lead (as well as the correct one) and disconnected my audio as well as mouse! Oh dear. Restart the computer and a panicked phone call to find out if I was OK. Not the best way to begin a meeting, though I did get the camera back via a different route!

'How can we know the way?' I certainly didn't with my video stream, and most of us are uncertain of quite where we are going through the present crisis. We like Thomas and Peter don't know the way out of lock-down, scientists are still getting to grips with understanding the truth about Covid-19, and in the well worn words from Star Trekking, 'It's life Jim, but not as we know it'.

In our present uncertainties, it is comforting to hear again Jesus words, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' The rabbi's reflected on the way, the truth and the life of a pious Jew, a life based around the teaching of

the Torah. Jesus, typically, points not to actions, techniques or insights, but to himself. It is in Jesus himself that we see the way, truth and the life of God made visible in human flesh. No rabbi or religious leader could dare make such a claim and be more than a fraud. Jesus can precisely because he is the Word made flesh and God from God.

'Show us the Father.' Jesus makes it possible for each of us personally to know God as our Father. To see Jesus is to see the nature and likeness of God. In Jesus we see the perfect love of God; a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross. Jesus is the revelation of God, a God who loves us unconditionally and without reservation; unselfishly, for our sake and not his, and perfectly, without neglecting or forgetting us even for a brief moment.

'...and we will be satisfied.' It is in Jesus that we can find even in lock-down, or maybe especially in lock-down, the significance and fulfilment that our hearts really seek. Satisfaction means that like the disciples facing unknowingly the death of Jesus, we do not need to be troubled or afraid. The disciples are troubled about losing Jesus on a journey they can't grasp, but Jesus is the way both now and for eternity. As the church faces the challenge of change, and we will not be able to avoid it, we know that Jesus holds our future secure. We know he holds eternity secure and God has our room ready for us in our eternal home. Here is not home, prayer lifts us out of lock-down into the freedom of God's presence. Eternity is where we are headed, and God has our room ready for us!

Jesus holds the future and eternity in his grasp. He promises that God the Father will hear our prayers when we pray in his name. That is why Jesus teaches us to pray with confidence, Our Father who art in heaven ..give us this day our daily bread, even if finding flour in the supermarkets is more difficult than finding hen's teeth!

With love and prayers,

Fr. Jack.

Psalm 31:1-5, 14-17a, 19-20

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold;
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

4 Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

14 But my trust is in you, O Lord. I have said, 'You are my God.

15 'My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

16 'Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake.'

17 Lord, let me not be confounded for I have called upon you;

19 How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,
which you have laid up for those who fear you;
which you have prepared in the sight of all
for those who put their trust in you.

20 You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from those who slander them;
you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.

SUNDAY
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SATURDAY
Reflections during the week using Lectio Divina <i>Use the verse, or verses, for each day following the pattern on the previous page. Each colour corresponds to a day of the week. Write any reflections, or ways in which you feel God is speaking to you in the boxes above</i>

NEWS AND NOTES

The Road to a new Normal : Subject to the Government's easing of lock-down, and Diocesan direction, the House of Bishops have provided a pathway towards reopening churches - there is light at the end of the tunnel!

1. An initial phase allowing very limited access for activities such as streaming of services or private prayer by clergy, so long as the necessary hygiene and social distancing precautions are taken.

2 Subsequent access for some rites and ceremonies when allowed by law, observing appropriate physical distancing and hygiene precautions.

3.Worship services with limited congregations, meeting as and when Government restrictions allow.

Support HUB 9am - 5pm Mon to Fri. Call 01229 444407.

Drop off point for food/ essentials to make up hampers
Living well Centre, Duke Street, Barrow LA14 1XU

Hospital Chaplaincy Hearts: If anyone would like to help, then the hearts can come to Fr. Jack, Jennet (19 Carlton Ave LA13 5AT), or go straight to Debbie at the Chaplaincy department. The hearts should be up to 3 inches or 8cm across at the widest point. One pattern is <https://blog.createandcraft.tv/free-knitted-heart-pattern/>

Resources : The Sunday Worship video is available on the St. James facebook page from Sunday morning.

Radio and TV : Radio Cumbria Morning Service at 8.00am
CandoFM (106.3) Faith in Furness at 10.30am

BBC Morning Worship at 10.15 on BBC1

For those who are online, the Church of England website has daily and Sunday resources to watch, download and join in with.

The website is : churchofengland.org

Daily Hope Prayer Line - 0800 804 8044 - A Church of England resource with hymns, prayers and reflections for especially for those who are not connected to the internet. *"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are."* Archbishop Justin.

DAILY PRAYER and BIBLE READINGS

SUNDAY *We give thanks that* Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, calming our fears and anxieties whatever our circumstances.

MONDAY Acts 14:5-18, John 14:21-26
Pray for our bishops James and Emma, and for our Archdeacon, Vernon.

TUESDAY Acts 14:19-28, John 14:27-31
Pray for our local GP's and for all working in new ways or remotely from home.

WEDNESDAY Acts 15:1-6, John 15:1-8
Pray for the work of Barrow foodbank and it's outreach hubs in Millom and Ulverstone.

THURSDAY Acts 15:17-21, John 15:9-11
(St. Matthias) Pray for the work of the Well, and for all struggling with addiction in these pressured times.

FRIDAY Acts 15:22-31, John 15:12-17
Pray for all who have been bereaved during these times of lock-down, and those who have not been allowed to mourn as they would have liked.

SATURDAY Acts 16:1-10, John 15:18-21
Pray for our schools as they plan for the possibility of limited opening and for the future.

If you have prayer requests / thanksgivings, then please let Fr. Jack know either by email or 'phone.

NEXT SUNDAY

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 17:22-31, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21