

Weekly Newsletter

Sunday 5th July 2020

14th Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 2

The Parish of the Holy Trinity,
Stroud Green



with
Holy Innocents, Hornsey



Seeking to know and serve God and our local community



Asking Questions and Learning

One of the ways children find things out and learn is by asking questions of adults whom they see as learned and clever. When, in today's gospel reading, Jesus thanks his Father "for hiding these things from the learned and clever", what actually is he talking about? What are "these things" God has hidden? Today one of the things we would all like to learn and know more about is how to bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. We may be emerging from lockdown this week end in this country, but elsewhere in the world infections are on the rise - many in countries least equipped to deal with them. Perhaps one of the questions we should ask is how we are to react to this disaster and become more like "mere children": to ask questions, to want to learn, and want to change for the better. Obviously there are scientific questions, and, God willing, a vaccine or effective treatment will be found. No doubt there will be enquiries too into how the pandemic arose, and what needs to change to prevent a similar crisis in the future. And all that is important.

Perhaps more controversially, there are questions too for us as a society as we begin to relax the initial lockdown. At this time of crisis we have seen great selflessness and generosity, especially among health care and other key workers; but we have also seen people taking advantage of the situation to assert political or economic advantage, to oppress the disadvantaged, and to exclude those who are different. We can see the stark differences in housing, sanitation, and access to health care and justice across the world and sometimes within a single society. The economic crisis which is just beginning will inevitably add further hardship. We need to keep asking, and we need to keep striving to learn and to change the world for the better, and not seek to let injustice and disaster remain hidden.

Jesus in today's gospel turns to the Father in prayer. And this should be part of the response of children of God to these events. Yes, we must ask humanitarian, medical, sociological, political and economic questions, and we must seek to change the world for the better. But it is natural too to ask questions of God. Why has God allowed this? That's a perfectly reasonable question to put to him in prayer. We shoulder his yoke in our lives and learn from him in prayer.

It must be our prayer that from this global reminder of our mortality we learn from Christ the need for humility - working together to overcome the challenges. For it is in the humility of the child who asks questions, who wants to learn, and who wants to change that war and inequality can be banished, and peace and wellbeing can reign.

Re-opening the church

Welcome to those able to be present in church today. Others are joining us on Zoom. You will notice many things are being done a bit differently to minimise the risk of transmission of infection. We do need volunteers who are under 70, and not shielding to act as welcomers and take responsibility for cleaning after the Mass. Please contact Fr. Patrick if you can help. Thank you to those people who have already put their names forward.

Tuesday Mass and Talk

This week on Tuesday we will 'Zoom' the weekday 7.30 pm Mass and follow it at 8.00 pm with a continuation of the 'Visions of God' group we started but had to abandon. We will be looking at one or two devotional works of art and seeing what they say to us about our faith.