

Reflection for 3rd Sunday of Lent

Today's Gospel gives John's account of Jesus's impassioned and violent response to finding corrupt and exploitative economic activity polluting God's temple in Jerusalem. The cattle, sheep and doves were required for certain sacrifices there, and the temple tax could not be paid in Roman currency, but the animal sellers and money-changers were clearly ripping off those attending the Passover festival and were possibly encroaching on the more sanctified inner courts of the temple; so there was a lot to object to!

The Jews asked for a sign to demonstrate that Jesus had the authority (from God) for his action. They also asked him for signs when he healed people on the Sabbath, or when he forgave a paralysed man's sins (and healed him, surely a sign itself!). The sign Jesus offers on this occasion is that of his future resurrection on the 3rd day, but it's clear that many Jews didn't accept it then or later.

Paul, in his letter to the church in Corinth, points out that many people dismiss God's saving and redeeming actions for a variety of reasons, despite the strong evidence before their very eyes that it is effective and powerful. In the case of both Jews and Greeks the sacrificial death of Jesus and his subsequent resurrection didn't fit their world-views. The Greeks objected because no-one comes back to life once they have died; and the Jews objected because the very idea of God becoming human and then dying a humiliating criminal's death was blasphemous. But Paul says that we, who have accepted it and live the benefits of it, know that the problems lie with those world-views, not with God's grace.

Many people today who do not know God have similar objections to the Gospel message. How can we demonstrate to them the truth and power of God's justice, love and mercy?

Ian Totterdell, churchwarden

WARM SPACE ST THOMAS PARISH HALL



THURSDAY 3-5PM

Free refreshments in a warm space

NEXT SUNDAY 10.03.2024 Mothering Sunday

10.30am in the Hall

READINGS: OT Exodus 2: 1-10
NT Colossians 3: 12-17
GOSPEL John 19: 25-27



CONTACT US

Fr David Nixon 01392 667192. Day off: Mondays
rev.dave@virgin.net

Revd Sarah Cumming Assistant Priest 07543604115
rev.sarahcumming@gmail.com

Revd Alison Whiting Associate Priest
rev.alisonwhiting@gmail.com

Revd Mike Clark Associate Priest
mike.clark@exeter.anglican.org

Phil Baker, Reader 07970 216740
lionelbaker@outlook.com

Revd Terry Litherland 07594633195
tlitherland36@gmail.com

Ian Totterdell Church Warden 01392 848674
07536459096 ian.totterdell@cantab.net

Liz Pioneer Community Worker
pioneerstthomas@gmail.com

Email: parishoffice@stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/sttexeter

Website: www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk

Twitter: @sttexeter

Office Tel: 01392 437486 Messages at any time.



St Thomas, Exeter

3rd March 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

10.30am in Hall

Today

10.30am in the Hall

Hymn Numbers

15 All my hope on God is founded

533 We love this place, O God

536 We sing the praise of him who died

Tuesday 5th March

7.30pm House Group. Lent Course 'Come and See'. John 1: 43-51. At Helen's house.

Wednesday 6th March

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 7th March

9.30—11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12.30pm Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 8th March

9.30am Morning Prayer

10am Staff Meeting

11.30am Stations of the Cross

Saturday 9th March

9am Men's Breakfast at the Sawyers.



Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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**

Exodus 20: 1-17

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything

that belongs to your neighbour.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2: 13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from

the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

NOTICES

Lent Reflection Activity we will be returning to the St Thomas History Time-line after the Eucharist on Sunday mornings. Please bring your memories, ideas and inspirations.

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the hall on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

House Group is using the Diocesan Lent Course 'Come and See'. The group meets weekly until Easter at Helen's house. Details from Mic, John or Ian.

Hall Committee Meeting Sunday 3rd March at 12noon.

There will be a **Sunday Evensong** from 18th February until 17th March at 5pm. Zoom codes:

Meeting ID: 863 2592 5604 Passcode: 645534

Tel Nos: 0203 481 5240, 0131 460 1196,
0203 481 5237

Parish Website when we reviewed the website to include more details about the bell ringers we noticed that the last Blog entry was in 2022. We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.