



Sunday September 20th

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.15am
Said Eucharist
Nave
Preacher: The Vicar

Message from Fr Kevin

Today's gospel passage reminds us that God goes beyond the demands of justice to embrace love and generosity. While his ways are not our ways, we are to be perfect even as He is perfect.

A prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus

Keep us good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate
us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Notices

A reminder that we say weekday morning prayer by Zoom at 9.00am Monday to Friday. Hyper-links to join the meeting are on the weekly email. The meeting ID is: **982 1365 0148** and the password is **3GQ8s7**.

Harvest thanksgiving is 4th October. We will be having a collection in aid of the Bishop of St Alban's appeal supporting beekeeping in Nepal. Please give generously.

Please keep Luke Larner in your prayers as he is ordained deacon by the Lord Bishop of St Albans on Saturday September 26th at 2pm, at which point he will officially become our assistant curate and known as Fr. Luke. We hope the service will be live-streamed from the Abbey.

The Tuesday lunchtime recital series has re-started with a full programme scheduled until November 24th. Lunches are currently not available.

Children Society collection boxes are well overdue. Please bring your box to church and leave it in the office. The Christmas card catalogue, with samples of the cards, is now available. (*Mary Butler*)

PB Fairs resume on Saturday October 3rd. St Paul's will be selling books, cakes and preserves outside the north door. Please bring contributions to church between 12 and 2 pm during the week or bring them on the day.

Readings for Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

Old Testament

Jonah 3:10-4:11

3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. 4:1 But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. 4:2 He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing.

4:3 And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." 4:4 And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" 4:5 Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

4:6 The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. 4:7 But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.

4:8 When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." 4:9 But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

4:10 Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. 4:11 And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Psalms 145:1-8

145:1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

145:2 Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

145:4 One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

145:5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

145:6 The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.

145:7 They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness, and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

145:8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

New Testament

Philippians 1:21-30

1:21 For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 1:22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 1:23 I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 1:24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

1:25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 1:26 so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

1:27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, 1:28 and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

1:29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well--

1:30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

20:1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 20:2 After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. 20:3 When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; 20:4 and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. 20:5 When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. 20:6 And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

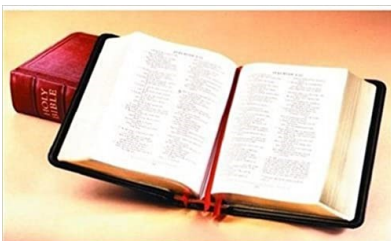
20:7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'

20:8 When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

20:9 When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.

20:10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

Cont. overleaf



20:11 And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 20:12 saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' 20:13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? 20:14 Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. 20:15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 20:16 So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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Collect for the Day

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel

That, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service:

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.

Useful links for services online and broadcast schedules

For those with access to the internet St Albans Cathedral is running regular live streaming of service found here:

<https://www.stalbanscathedral.org/live-streaming-at-st-albans-cathedral> .

For your prayers

- Daily:** Fr. Denis Desert
Simon Parker
Maurice Leusby
David Butson
John Hartup
- Mon:** Susan Middleton
Dorothy Holland
Patricia Ffolkes
Michael Bartlett
- Tue:** Andrew Fensome
Peter Snook
Margaret Brown
- Wed:** Pamela & Peter Brown
Deirdre Pearson
Ray Edwards
Tom Roy
- Thurs:** Akhmat Jan
Heike Kreuer
Yvonne Parker
- Fri:** Wendy Goss
Marion Ridgway
Sarah Chatwin
- Sat:** Frederik Arvidsson
Simon Baynes
Peter Haslett

Year's mind:

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|-------------------|------|
| Christine Toinard | 20th |
| Barbara Weller | 20th |
| Richard Champion | 21st |
| Winifred Barnwell | 23rd |
| Alfred Swanston | 25th |
| Sidney Chessum | 26th |
| Beres Beauchamp | 26th |