



St Philip's Come & See

Sunday 29 January 2017

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

Dear Friends

What startling words we are confronted with this week; St Augustine described the Beatitudes as the perfect standard of the Christian life. They are so counter-cultural, so counter-intuitive as to be almost offensive, outrageous! Even in Monty Python's 'Life of Brian' the people hearing the Sermon on the Mount for the first time could barely believe their ears! In our Lectionary they have been placed alongside a passage from the Book of the Prophet Micah. Micah is the most radical people's prophet in the Bible, he was a prophet of peasant origins who saw corruption in the Jerusalem Temple, the Davidic kings and the ruling elite. The prophecy of Micah is written in the form of a heavenly court. The accusations are laid out before God. The accused – the rich, the political and religious rulers etc ask what do they need to offer to atone for their misdoings – thousands of rams, rivers of oil, even their first born? The response is sensational! What does the Lord require of you: but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

It is a wonderful text to read alongside the Beatitudes, which call upon us to recognise our dependence upon God. Blessed are the poor, those that mourn, peacemakers etc. Many endeavour to put a spiritual spin on this text, alongside Micah it is given an earthiness. A reminder perhaps that in our faith in God incarnate the spiritual and the material are indeed one. Let us continue to pray for a fairer distribution of the world's resources

Blessings, Martin

News

The Parish and Rectory are now connected to the world!

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Breakfast – toast and good coffee will be served in the Lamerton Centre following the 8.00am Eucharist on Sundays. Don't forget the 10.00am Eucharist on Thursdays. This is another opportunity to place before God our needs, the needs of our parish and the world.

The Feast of Candlemas will be celebrated this Thursday 2 February, Eucharist at 10.00am in the church followed by 'Festal' morning tea in the Rectory. The celebration makes a turning point in our liturgical calendar from the birth of Jesus and the season of Epiphany towards Lent and the Passion and Cross of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday falls on 1 March. Please put this important date in your diary. If you have any ideas or preferences for a Lenten Study – times, resources etc please let me know.

Meetings of the Liturgy Group will resume on the third Sunday of each month following the 10.00am Eucharist. Clergy and liturgical assistants please make a note of the dates in your diaries. Interested folk are also welcome to attend. At our meeting in February we will plan our observances of Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

Some preliminary planning has begun to revive 'Children's Church' as a regular part of the parish's liturgical programme. More details soon.