



## All Saints' weekly email - Last after Trinity

Dear Friends

In Sunday's gospel Jesus is asked which is the greatest commandment and famously replies with two which are really one: love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

This was the text for my last sermon in my parish in Sheffield. It would be difficult to find a better text than this with which to leave a Christian community. I imagine that if Jesus had been told that only one saying of his would be allowed to survive, then this would have been his choice. It is said that in extreme old age St John (one of the few of the apostles and Evangelists to avoid a Technicolor death) used to get into the pulpit every week, say 'Love one another' and sit down again. 'Infuriating old coot', the congregation probably thought, but he was right.

It is significant that Jesus offers this, his best line, in response to a very churchy question - what is the most important '*commandment*'. What *rule* must we keep, what is the guaranteed minimum, the thing that will make sure that we are 'in' with God? Will it be about how to make sure we are better than our neighbours, no matter how miserable it makes us? That is how the world sees the church, judgemental bigots, and hypocrites. People outside the church still know enough about it to know that Jesus said these words and they also know that all the petty concerns of the church wouldn't interest him at all if he really said, 'all you have to do is love one another and love God'. We have some work to do.

Of course there's a difficulty: it isn't as easy as just saying 'love one another'. How do we love people who aren't impressed by us? How do we love our fellow Christians who disagree with us? How do we welcome people we think are different from us? How do we love people who argue violently with us or are rude to us? And if that is the same as loving God, do we really want to do it? I suspect that for a lot of people, including us, if we're honest, the answer to that question would be, 'not really'.

The lawyer wanted a lawyer's answer: he wanted to be told how to be safe. Law is about putting fences around things, laying things down ('law' is the noun from the verb 'lay'). And Jesus answered, but in God's way, not the neurotic and self-serving way of human beings.

He said that the more we *love*, the safer we truly are. As with so much of what Jesus said, that seems contradictory. How did he show this love? By allowing people to kill him. Easter is his promise to us that through that sort of love, through risking pain and



destruction, comes the ultimate triumph. That is what love is like, what God is like. It is unselfish risk. It isn't about having things, or other people, the way you want them.

Fullness of life, eternal life, which Jesus offers us, is found in our ability to let go of ourselves and trust in God. It is like that game where people have to let themselves fall backwards, trusting that the person behind them will catch them. That is what God is like, a completely reliable catcher, and we are supposed to believe it.

Love one another.

Fr Michael

**NB - the clocks go back an hour on Sunday!**

***Also, from Monday the weekday opening hours of the church building will be 11am to 1pm.***

Click on the following links for mass on **SUNDAY**:

[Propers for Last Sunday after Trinity](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

and for Evensong and Benediction at 3pm:

[Order of Service](#)

[YouTube link for live stream](#)

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**Sunday Sung Mass is at 11am.**

**Evensong and Benediction will be reintroduced from this Sunday, 25 October, at 3pm.**

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**Face Masks.** As you know, following new advice from the government, all worshippers should wear a mask while in the church building. The celebrant need not wear one except when administering communion; readers and cantors are not required to wear a mask as long as social distancing is observed.

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**Sunday's flowers** have been given by **Alan Kimbrough** in memory of Fr Scott May, the friend who first encouraged him to visit All Saints, who died recently.

**Donations for flowers for the All Saints Festival weekend** would be welcome: they can be sent to the parish office or made electronically on the website (if the latter, please let Fr Michael know so that the donation can be correctly applied).



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### **Prayer List**

***Prisoners and captives:*** Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, Kylie Moore-Gilbert, Ismaeil Maghrebinejad, Nasrin Satoudeh, Ahmed Almour, Mayshee Eyob .

The work of the London Prisons Mission.

### ***The sick:***

David Fettke, Joan Cooper, Vallery Tchukov, Sara Vice, Fr Ron Swan, Katherine Lee, Chris Gudgeon, Nicky Yeo, Lorna Smith, Beth Klausing, Hilary Porter, Philip Hirsch, Keith Peers, Marg Ferguson, Abe Serafinowicz, Andrew Jukes, Lyudmila Nazarbekova, Emer O'Sullivan, Bruce Ross-Smith, James Shrimpton, Paul Brady, Fr David Vincent, Tony Rodger, Rachel Pereira, Benjamin Woolf, Victor Sharp, Fr Michael Gudgeon, Audrey Williams, Chris and Carole Radley, Fr Harry Hodgetts .

### ***Those known to us recently departed:***

Aileen Ayers  
Robert Teal  
John McNamara *Pr*  
Alison SLG  
Judith Hawkins  
(Charles) Scott May *Pr*

### **Anniversaries of death:**

25th - Reginald Thompson

26th - Gwendoline Freeman, Joseph Harding

27th –

28th - Dorothy Gartside, William Lloyd Webber, Phyllis Richards, John Gaskell *Pr*

29th - Sister Dorothy Hilda, David Trendell

30th - Tharu Tharakan, John Todd

31st – Marian Ross, Frank Leeman, Dilys Thomas



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### **Supporting All Saints**

Please consider joining the **Parish Giving** scheme (details in the letter at the beginning of this email) even if you already give by Standing Order. It is a huge help administratively.

Donations for general Church purposes: To give by BACS please use the following details, advising the Administrator to collect Gift Aid:

**PCC All Saints (Charity # 1132895)**  
**Sort Code 60-09-15.**  
**A/C # 04559452**

*Parish Legacy Policy* We are always delighted to hear from anyone who wants to support us with a donation. Our PCC Legacy Policy encourages people to leave bequests specifically to one of our two related charities to be used for purposes of lasting value (rather than day to day costs):

*All Saints Choir & Music Trust (Charity # 802994) or*

*The All Saints Foundation (Charity # 273390).*