

6pm Julian Group on Zoom

PAUL LUNCHEON CLUB

ST PETER'S NEWLYN

E-WAVES PROJECT

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ST MARY'S SCHOOL

LENT REFLECTIONS : ENCOUNTERS IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

Through Lent 2021 we will be spending some gentle time thinking about some of Jesus Christ's encounters with people illustrated in the gospels. We use these stories to help us reflect on some of the people and places that have shaped each of us in our lives and our ongoing mysterious adventure with God.

We begin each week with a short gospel story to think about though that week.

Our hope is that we make new discoveries and connections in our own adventure with the God .

Each week there will be notes for a self guided bible reflection (in the newsletter and on line) and two thought for the day "shouts" on our web site each week. You may want to find a friend with whom you reflect with on the bible study reflection...over the phone, on zoom, going for a walk.

17th Feb : ASH WEDNESDAY : : THE SEEING OF THE HEART

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' (John 1:35-39)



QUESTION TO PONDER AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT

What are you looking or searching for as this 40day Lent period begins?

Spend some quiet time with God and let God know what's on your heart and mind.

- Jesus said those words "Come and See". What spaces and opportunities might you give yourself this Lent to "Come And See"?
- Perhaps rereading of a gospel, or a thankfulness walk where you purposefully look to see the wonders of creation, or the reading of a newspaper where you ask yourself " What does God want me to see?"

It may be that you read a Lent book. There are just so many ways to "Come And See" . But whatever you choose try to end the daily or weekly activity with a prayer.

Thought for the Week - St Theresa of Calcutta, 1910-1997:

Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty ... Spread love everywhere you go - first of all in your own house. Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

BEING INTERRUPTED: SESSION 5

The Fig Tree : Mark 11 v 12-14 ; 20-21.

12 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. **13** Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14** He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

20 In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. **21** Then Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

Questions

I wonder why Jesus cursed the fig tree ? How did the disciples responded to what they had seen Jesus do ?

Background

In between these verses Jesus goes to the temple to drive out the sellers and the buyers. In Mark's book the fig tree is a symbolic of the judgement that is coming on the Temple and Jewish leaders because the system is beyond Restoration.

But instead take the encounter seriously in its own right. From perspective of the fig tree as a living part of God's creation as we did with the Syro Phoenician Woman. Why was the fig tree fruitless ? It was the wrong time of the year!

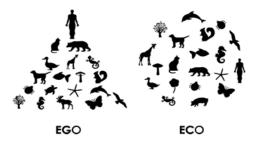
So the curse from a hungry Jesus was all about HIS needs, HIS agenda, HIS timescale.

Jesus' attitude is distinctively anthropocentric – imagining the world is here only for benefit of humans. Unlike the Woman where Jesus was open to have his agenda interrupted by another –

here Jesus refuses the disturbance presented by a non-human other. His response to the foreign woman was met by a robust challenge. But no one to challenge him here.

Many people noted that in Spring and Summer last year the lockdown forced on us by Covid led many people to a greater appreciation of nature and of God as Creator.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Question

How do we stop being anthropocentric: putting OUR needs, OUR agenda and OUR timescale before the non-human other ?

Have there been times in our lives and actions when a nonhuman other interrupted our way of thinking / acting and made us frustrated or stopped us in our tracks and to see things differently...?

Song to listen to: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivfUKd6AFXw

Journaling

I wonder as you look at this Covid Interruption time where you might see the opportunistic weeds in the world, community and your own life?

Perhaps have a go at drawing the shape of those weeds and fill them with words. Spend time quietly looking with God at what you have created.

Write a prayer of hope telling God what you see.

On Line Seminar : March 9th 1pm From Biology to Theology: How Virus-
es Challenge Our Perception Of Good And Evil
One of a series of seminars about sci- ence and faith from the Faraday Insti-
tute. This is led by virologist Dr Mirjam Schilling. There will be a talk plus a Q&A.
Tuesday 9 March, 12.pm, online, free
There is no need to register. At the specified time, click the link on this webpage:
faraday.institute/seminars
COVID-19
PRAISE SERVICE : First Monday of each month It was really refreshing to have an on line praise service after all this timealmost a year. We loved the worship and also seeing and chatting to each other via zoom whom we had not seen for so longit felt like a family reunion. Thanks to all who contributed to this worship. Sian Yates It was really refreshing to have an on line praise service after all this timealmost a year. We loved the worship and also seeing and chatting to each other via zoom whom we had not seen for so longit felt like a family reunion. Thanks to all who contributed to this worship. Sian Yates It was really refreshing to each other via zoom whom we had not seen for so longit felt like a family reunion. Thanks to all who contributed to this worship. Sian Yates

The Julian Meeting Sundays At 6pm live online via Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84734636130?pwd=NkMrMDNjTGpzbnorZEUrYVRJUTBkQT09

The meeting will follow the format of

Prayer...Phrase to reflect on for 15min.....Closing prayer Go well, Mel, Judith and Virginia. <u>Sentence</u>

'What we need is the solitude to expand in breadth and depth and to be simplified under the gaze of God, more or less the same way a plant spreads out its leaves under the sun.'