

Living the Word

Jeremiah 20: 10-13

How often do we struggle to keep God in mind when we're in adversity? There are occasions when it almost seems as though a plaintive cry to God is our only option, often our last one. And yet as the prophet Jeremiah reminds us today, the Lord is with us. We must be honest with ourselves when we're pressed – do we only turn to the Lord in times of trouble, or has he been on our minds and hearts throughout our days? The one thing our enemy is waiting for us to do is forget God and strike out for ourselves. This is emphatically something we should not do. So why does it happen so often, that we forget God and only turn to him in trouble? Consider your own prayer life. Does your day begin and end in prayer, and is there time for prayer in the middle of your day?

Saints and Heroes

Aloysius of Gonzaga, who we celebrate on 21st June, was the son of the Marquis of Castiglione. He would have taken up a military career had he not been taken ill while he was a page at the court of the Florentine Medicis. This gave him time to meditate and he decided, much to the annoyance of his father, to be a Jesuit. He was professed in 1587 and nursed the sick in a plague hospital, where he caught the disease and never completely recovered. He developed a single-minded devotion to God and cast aside his unhelpful attitude to human affection which had been brought about by the corrupt and immoral society in which he had been brought up. He was canonized in 1726.

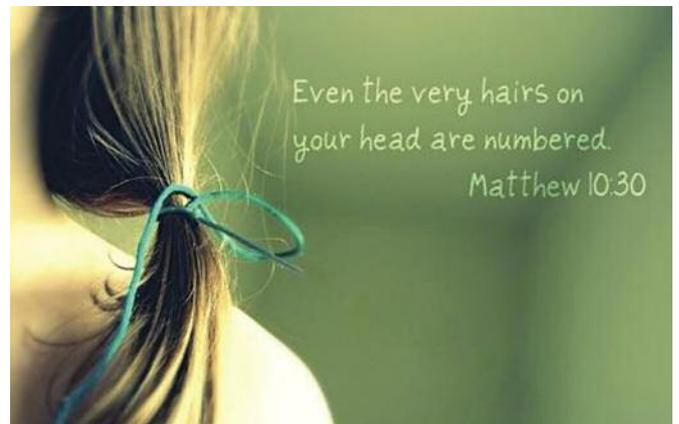
O Sing unto the Lord

One of the great hymn writers, Frederick Faber (1814-63), was initially attracted to Evangelicalism whilst at Oxford, but was increasingly drawn towards the Anglo-Catholic movement. He was ordained in 1837 but subsequently converted to Roman Catholicism. It was at this time that he began writing hymns, including such favourites as 'My God! how wonderful thou art' and 'There's a wideness in God's mercy'. Surprisingly many of his hymns are now better known in America than they are in England. 'Faith of our fathers! living still' published in 1854 is a good reminder of the conflicts and difficulties suffered by English Catholics 'living still/in spite of dungeon, fire and sword' as well as their aspirations 'Mary's prayers/shall win our country back to thee'. In our own day we may not be threatened by fire or sword, but we should remember that for many Christians, that threat is still there. Mary's prayers remain much needed for both them and us.

21st June
2020

The Second Sunday
after Trinity
12th Sunday of the
Year

Have no Fear



Jesus makes it clear that his followers should expect rejection and opposition: he was abused and reviled and he warns his disciples to expect the same. It is a sad fact that the Christian Faith is now held in disdain by many in society, and it is also true that many Christians, even in our country, experience prejudice at work and in family life. Jesus tells us not to be afraid, and he gives two reasons to live peaceably in a hostile world. The first is that in God's own time all truth will be revealed, God will expose in his Light all that is said and done in the dark. The second reason is that God's infinite and almighty Love surrounds us and He will bring goodness and healing out of any trouble; even each hair on our head counts to God. God's justice and God's mercy will prevail. Jesus believed that in the face of the cross, and we, strengthened by his victory and guided by his example, can be fearless for the Faith.

