

Living the Word

1 Thessalonians 5. 1-6

Our knowledge of the world is huge compared to the world of the Thessalonians in Paul's day. But in terms of knowing the truth of history and the cosmos, we are no different to them. The one thing we do not know is also the one thing we need least to know, the exact timing of the return of Jesus. We are to have confidence, Paul says, to face the future that in all things we are the Lord's. To those who do not believe in the return of Jesus it will be like a thief in the night, but to those who do believe he has been a guest in the house of your heart for years. The difference will be that on the great Day of the Lord we will be able at long last to see Jesus with our own eyes. Life will make sense. In the face of the return of Jesus we are not to act in a crazy way but rather to lead holy, quiet lives of simplicity, kindness, hope, and joy, all rooted in prayer that in themselves bear witness to the daylight of God's kingdom presence in which believers live every day.

Saints and Heroes

This week we celebrate the feast days of 3 very important British saints: St Hilda, St Hugh of Lincoln and St Edmund.

St Hilda, co-patron of The Society, founded the Abbey at Whitby, and was a remarkable woman of power in the 7th century. Kings, politicians, people of power as well as ordinary people sought her wisdom and advice, she was a great person of influence in the Church.

Hugh of Lincoln was a monk and Bishop of Lincoln living in the 12th century, he had a great reputation for holiness and became a very popular saint in England after his death.

St Edmund lived in the 9th century and was king of East Anglia. Tradition has it that Viking invaders demanded that Edmund renounce Jesus, but he refused and as a result he was beaten, shot with arrows and beheaded. For a long time he was regarded as the patron saint of England, until King Richard I declared St George patron saint of England.

From the Fathers

And if we would arrive at eternal life, escaping the pains of hell, then – whilst there is yet time, while we are still in the flesh, and are able to fulfil all these things by the light which is given us – we must hasten to do now what will profit us for all eternity. From, 'Rule of St Benedict', by Benedict of Nursia, Abbot, c. 480-543.

15th November
2020

The Second Sunday
before Advent
33rd Sunday
of the Year

Stewardship



This parable seems to encourage us to take risks with property that does not belong to us! But the reality is that the world is entrusted to us and one day we must give an account of what we have done with it. It is a particularly apt parable when applied to the environmental crisis confronting us. Our care for God's creation is not only a political task but a personal priority for each of us. This world is our home, the only one we have. Looking after it properly requires each of us to be responsible. Let's all be aware that God the Creator has shared His creation with us, and asks our co-operation in caring for it.

We are all given talents and skills. They can be used for our own personal benefit and/or for the good of others. If we bury our gifts or refuse to use them in the service of others we hurt both ourselves and them. We thank God when we use His gifts creatively. This helps us develop our relationship with Him, the giver of every good gift.

