

St Francis Weekly News for NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9th August 2020



This bulletin may have come to you by email or through your letterbox, if you received it on paper but are happy to receive an email in future please email deborah.lechmere@ntlworld.com If you know anybody else who would like this delivered or emailed please contact Deborah or Revd Janet: revdjanetwyer@outlook.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ST FRANCIS CHURCH?

ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

On what must have been the hottest day of the year I had the great joy of attending the ordination of Father Tracy to the priesthood.

Even though the temperature outside was a sizzling thirty degrees plus St Matthew's Church was a sanctuary of peace and those gathered for this very special service could not fail to be touched by the feeling that God was indeed with us as we welcomed two new priests into God's service.

The service itself was profoundly beautiful and incredibly moving – with so many stand out moments I could go on at great length! I will however restrain myself and mostly leave it to the photographs to speak for themselves.

Usually ordinations take place in Norwich Cathedral amid great pomp and ceremony but this service was a triumph of grace filled simplicity.

One vast difference between this service and those held in the Cathedral was that at the point of ordination there is traditionally a great scramble for any priest known to the ordinand to get to the front to place a hand their head at the moment the Bishop calls upon the Holy Spirit in the ancient prayer of ordination: "Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant... For the office and work of a Priest in your church"

Unfortunately because of social distancing rules this lovely but riotous tradition had to be laid to one side and only two priests were allowed to take part.

It was therefore a great joy to me that Fr Tracy asked if his two priests might be Revd Patrick and me. What a privilege – and what a moment of grace!

Ordained alongside Fr Tracy was The Revd Annie Blyth; another blessing for me in that I have known Annie for a good number of years and yet this was the first time our paths had crossed since she began exploring the call to ordained ministry.

A blessed occasion indeed for all of us!



FR TRACY'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

We very much look forward to Fr Tracy's first celebration of Holy Communion here at St Francis on Sunday 9th August.

We will be welcoming The Revd Canon Andy Bryant, who is Canon for Mission and Pastoral Care at Norwich Cathedral, as our guest preacher and most of our Leadership Team will be taking part in one way or another; so it promises to be a great occasion for us all.

In order to accommodate as many people as possible the church seating has been reconfigured with extra chairs placed in the lounge area as well for an overflow area should the need arise.

Although we have done this mostly to ensure that everyone who wants to attend on Sunday 9th will have a seat – it also means that we can now also safely accommodate more people on a regular Sunday morning. No need then to hold back from attending church services in the future; we have plenty of room for everyone – all are welcome!



JIM & SUE GREEN

Last Sunday, 2nd August, as planned Jim led his first Service of the Word in St Francis as part of his Reader Training.

All went very well indeed, and all who attended were touched by the care with which Jim had prepared the service and the confident and joy filled manner in which he led us all in worship.

What Jim didn't tell us when he was up front was that particular day was also an extra special day for him and Sue – it was their fortieth wedding anniversary.

So belated congratulations to them both on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary – and also much love and every blessing from us all.



GENESIS ADVENTURE NEWS

The adventure draws to a close this coming Thursday with us reaching day seven in the story of creation.

I extend my deep thanks to the ENYP Team, especially Dominic and Kim who have helped produce and deliver the material. It has been so good to work together to offer our children and young people to chance to meet with us and take away some beautifully presented bible based resources.

A great big thank you as well to Ciaran and Ryan for turning up each week to help get everything ready.

So, we finish with the pack that tells our children and young people all about how God celebrated all that God had made.

"And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation"

[Genesis 2: 2 – 3]

The final pack is indeed a celebration of rest – and is aimed at sharing the importance of allowing ourselves proper time to slow down, enjoy life and relax. An important lesson to learn in today's pressured and busy world.

AUGUST NEWS...

And talking of rest, over the next few weeks some of us will be taking some time away from our usual duties. This may well mean that the newsletter and some of our services may have a slightly different look or feel to them – enjoy!



Revd Winnie has heard that Revd Janet may be taking some time off soon.

Looks like he's getting some practice in...

ST FRANCIS FREE FOOD

We continue to offer food parcels to those who ask for help and hope to do so for the foreseeable future.

If you or anyone you know is in need of a helping hand, please call St Francis Free Food on 01603 431259 or call at the church any weekday morning between 11am -12pm.

We would also be interested hear your thoughts on how we might take the Free Food project forward in the future. If you have any comments or ideas, please do get in touch.

PASTORAL CARE

Shielding has now come to an end and this means that the support from the National Shielding Service of free food parcels, medicine deliveries and care has stopped.

We are also hearing almost daily of changes in the government's response to the measures being taken to keep us as safe as possible from the virus.

If you are worried about any of the changes that are happening, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are very happy to talk with you if that would be helpful.

Please do not feel that you are alone - help and support is always available, whatever may be troubling you.

Revd Janet [07990 576118]

Eleanor [07840 206716]

Also, there is always someone available in the church building weekdays 11.00am – 12.00pm; please feel free to knock at the door, it will open to you.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

In these difficult times someone might just need one of them...

Childline: 0800 1111
Samaritans: 116 123

Domestic Violence Hotline: 0808 2000 247

[If you hear a neighbour in distress please do not hesitate to call this number or 999; you could save a life]

Mind: 0300 123 3393

Age UK: 0800 169 6565

St Francis Free Food: 01603 431259

A WORD FROM THE VICAR

It was a wonderful to be a part of Father Tracy's ordination to the priesthood on Friday afternoon.

It was a beautiful and blessed occasion; I was deeply conscious throughout the service the Holy Spirit was dancing among us with joy.

Joyful though it is to be ordained into God's service; it is also a deeply scary experience – hearing again the words of the ordination service took me right back to my own ordination and the awe and nervousness I felt as I stood trembling before the Bishop.

Over the next few weeks I'm sure that Fr Tracy will be sharing insights into his own journey to priesthood as he settles into the office and work of a Priest in God's Church here at St Francis. I look forward to learning all he will share with us and to working alongside him as he begins his new ministry among us.

You may have noticed that upon his priesting I am now referring to our esteemed new priest as Father Tracy. This is because Fr Tracy is an adherent of the catholic tradition of spirituality and it is a courtesy title now used for both male and female high church priests in the Church of England.

During the course of my ministry I have been called Father Janet, and I have also been addressed as Mother Janet and now I come to think of it – I've also been called Padre [something I found particularly touching]

All of these have been the result of whatever the person I was speaking with was comfortable using – it is up to the individual to decide whether to them I am Revd, Father, Mother, Padre or simply Janet.

I have never minded; and neither will Tracy - although he might draw the line at Mother...

God's blessing and peace be with you and yours.

Revd Janet

FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for those who are in acute need of prayer at this time: Maegan; Doreen F; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula; Colin; Pete; Lauren; Fr Brian; Hazel

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Rosemary, Sheila, John, Joy, Shirley.

We remember with love David B and all those who have died in recent days and pray for their family and friends.

PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Church of St Francis Heartsease

**Heavenly Father
We ask your blessing upon us.
Hold the Heartsease Community,
and all the world,
in your arms of love.
Be with us.
Give us your strength,
peace, and healing grace.
Watch over us,
protect us from harm;
and keep in safety
all those who care for the sick
and attend to our needs,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen**

PRAYERS FOR 9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of
God:
in that new world where you reveal the fullness of
your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

READINGS FOR 9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

1 Kings 19: 9 - 18



At Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was

splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

Psalm 105: 1 - 10



O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgements he has uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

He is the Lord our God; his judgements are in all the earth.

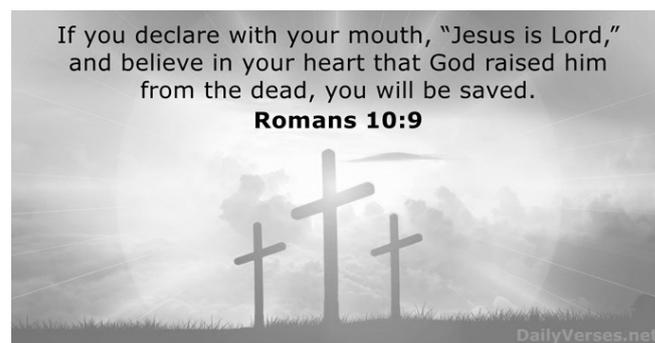
He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,

which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant,

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and shall be for ever. Amen

Romans 10:5-15



Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that 'the person who does these things will live by them.'

But the righteousness that comes from faith says, 'Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" ' (that is, to bring Christ down) 'or "Who will descend into the abyss?" ' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? 'The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For,

'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'

Matthew 14:22-33



Immediately after he had fed the Five Thousand, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'

When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

REFLECTION FOR 9TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Two amazing Bible stories - Elijah on the mountain side - fleeing for his life, desperate, frightened and ready to give up.

And Jesus, revealing himself yet again as the author of creation - walking upon the billowing waves as he seeks to draw alongside his disciples who are battling to steer their little craft safely to the other shore.

On the face of it the stories seem simple - uncomplicated messages of hope to enable us to draw strength from the knowledge that God, Jesus, is with us. All we have to do is ask for help and through faith - there it is.

That is true of course - but, there is a very slippery slope here; sometimes we can become so accustomed to the stories and what we think they mean that we run the risk of making the exceptional and wonderful Good News of God common place - we start to take it all for granted.

Over the years I have often worried about what kind of message is heard when we who believe are so confident in our faith and belief that we no longer think too much about any of it - the Bible and what we believe, or perhaps talk of our faith in a way that leaves the hearer thinking that it's not a big deal.

For example, over the years it has become fashionable in some quarters to talk about Jesus as our own personal on-call friend, and that faith is simply a matter of going to church and accepting Jesus into our hearts - nothing to it really...

Yes, I will agree that some find that to be true - but for those who find themselves grappling with what faith actually is, what it means and how it can help in times of distress and trouble - self-satisfied statements of faith can be very unhelpful indeed.

Reducing our faith to something that is seen as unexciting or ordinary is the kind of faith that can all too easily be dismissed and discarded just like any latest fashion or fad that is picked up, tried out and found to be wanting.

We reduce our faith - our wondrous God to the commonplace not only at our own peril, but at the peril of a world that is much in need of the comfort, solace and strength that is to be found in a faith that invites us into a lifelong encounter with the maker of heaven and earth.

Holy Scripture tells us of the transcendent God; the God of heaven who came to Elijah in the silence; and our incarnate God, Jesus, who stooped down

and rescued Peter when he found himself out of his depth.

These are not just 'Bible Stories' these are awesome examples of heaven touching earth and frail humankind being touched by God.

The same God who made this world and all that is in it - the universe and all that lay beyond; the God who loved us so much he sent a part of himself – his Son to tell us of that love.

Holy Scripture, The Bible, that wonderful collection of books, poems and letters that we often take for granted is a love story – the story of God's infinite and unending love for us

The Bible reveals God's purpose for the world and God's plan for each and every one of us; and it is, in a way, God's hand reaching out to touch us and rescue us – every one of us.

How could we ever view that as anything other than exciting and exceptional?

It is a miraculous and awesome thing that we have been given – this gift of the knowledge of God's love, and perhaps we need is a little nudge now and then to remind us that we should look to it with new eyes and share it - enthusiastically.

I think we're getting that nudge as we explore these lovely stories this week– and I also think we are being given a great deal of encouragement as we think about with sharing what we believe with those around us.

The reading from Romans 10 opens a window on the early Roman church who were struggling with

the question: "Is it what we believe that will bring us closer to God or is it what we do that will save us?"

St Paul tells them: Believe in Jesus and tell people about him; and God's salvation will be yours. And don't worry – Jesus is close to you; God is with us – here it is in Scripture, and he points it out to them.

In just ten short verses, Paul draws upon Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Isaiah and Joel as he attempts to help those new followers of Jesus get to grips with faith.

Look to Scripture he says to them and to us – it's all there. And then he adds a word of encouragement: "how beautiful are the feet of those who bring this good news"

There is no doubt that there are many people who need some good news right now – St Paul [and God] is looking straight at the feet of those who say they believe.

In a world where stories of violence, hatred, sadness and fear are commonplace how wonderful it is that we can point beyond this world to the something exceptional - the wonderful, mysterious, unending love that God has for us.

How exceptional too that we have The Book to prove it! Now make your feet beautiful; pass a Bible on to someone who hasn't got one. And if you haven't got a bible please just get in touch and we'll get one to you, and just like God's love – all for free.

Revd Janet

Give thanks
to the
LORD



Peter walks on water to Jesus



Straight after feeding the crowd with the fish and bread, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake. He sent the crowds home. When everyone had left, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. He stayed there on his own until evening.

Meanwhile, the boat that the disciples were in was caught in a storm – battered by the waves, far from the shore, with the wind against them. Early the next morning, Jesus came walking towards them on the water. When the disciples saw him they were absolutely terrified! They shouted out in fear, ‘It’s a ghost!’

But immediately Jesus called to them, ‘Be brave! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.’

Peter called out in reply, ‘Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come and meet you on the water.’

‘Come!’ called Jesus. So Peter climbed out of the boat and began to walk across the water to Jesus. All was going well until Peter began to notice the strong wind and got frightened.

He started to sink and cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him.

‘Why didn’t you trust me?’ he asked Peter.

When they got back into the boat and sat down the wind died down. This made everyone in the boat worship him saying, ‘Truly, you are the Son of God.’

Name



Matthew 14.22-33

Peter, the disciple, learns what it means to trust Jesus when he steps out of his boat and walks towards him on the water.



Family time

Talk What kinds of situations can you think of where we have to be brave and 'step out' in faith?

Do As a family, all think of situations where you need to trust God more. Write them on sticky notes and put them somewhere that you will see and be reminded to pray through the week.

Pray Lord, please help us to be brave like Peter. We all have times when we need to be brave and trust in you. Teach us to rely on you, and to know you are always there, strengthening us. Amen.

Activity time



Draw Peter being pulled up out of the water by Jesus after he started to sink.



Puzzle

Cross out the letters v, x, y and z to reveal a hidden message.

vPxeytvevr vsxtyeyppysz
zoyutv xozf ythvez
zbyvoxayty
tvozwzaryvdxs
yJxeyzysxuvsyZ

ROOTS children's Sheet

9-15 August 2020



Write a letter from Peter to his mother explaining what happened on that day and how it made him feel.



Name

9-15 August 2020

Colouring time

Peter is afraid to take the first step of faith, out onto the waves.

